

FSU News & Updates

October 13, 2025
Volume 56 Number 5

Maryland Governor Wes Moore Meets with PLC Students



Maryland Governor Wes Moore made time while hosting the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) conference at Frostburg State University to meet with members of President Darlene Brannigan Smith's Leadership Council (PLC). Frostburg students had

the chance to ask the Governor questions about higher education and his plans for the Western Maryland region.



Governor Moore is pictured giving the keynote address to a packed Alice R. Manicur Assembly Hall at FSU on Oct. 6 during the Appalachian Regional Commission's 2025 Annual Conference. This year's theme was Appalachian Places: Growing Local Economies.



President Smith was also a featured speaker at the opening plenary of the conference. She spoke of Frostburg's commitment to strengthening the deep connections within the community through education, workforce development, research and community engagement.

A Community of Treasures Contest Winners



First prize was awarded to FSU's Roundabout Children's Theatre Tour. This group will receive \$500.



Second place in the parade contest was earned by FSU Cheer, who will receive \$300.



Third place was given to the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, earning them \$200.



Frostburg Homecoming Parade Success!

The revival of the Frostburg Homecoming Parade was a wonderful opportunity for our area and FSU to showcase strong and collective community partnerships. It brought pride and unity to everyone who attended!

Retired Employee & Employee Service Awards

The Retired Employee and Employee Service Awards Luncheon celebrated and honored a group of FSU retirees and alumni who have given so much of themselves in service to the University. We also celebrated several current employees for achieving milestone years of service to FSU. Their years of dedication and countless hours of mentorship, leadership and support to our Bobcats is immeasurable.



20 Years of Service: Crystal Frantz '00, Sara Wilhelm '02/M'18, Lori Bennett, Donna Briner '17, Roger Plummer, Tom Bevan '07.
(Not Pictured: Scott Thomas, Kevin Robison '93, Jamelyn Tobery-Nystrom, Mohammed Eltayeb, Mary Winters, Victoria Gearhart '12/M'15, Beverly Harrison, Amy Nazelrod '97)



25 Years of Service: Hongqi Li, Jason Litten '99, John Brewer '90, Joshua Shoemake, Wendy Wilson, Donna Yoder, Karen Kerns '87, John Ralston '92. (Not Pictured: Charles Courtney, Jerald Simon, Melanie Lombardi '98, John McMullen '88, John Lombardi, Sean Morton '98/M'13, Amy Nightengale)



30 Years of Service: Lisa Clark
(Not Pictured: Hang Deng-Luzader, Tina Nightingale)



35 Years of Service: Shakil Rahman
45 Years of Service: James Hopkins (Not Pictured)

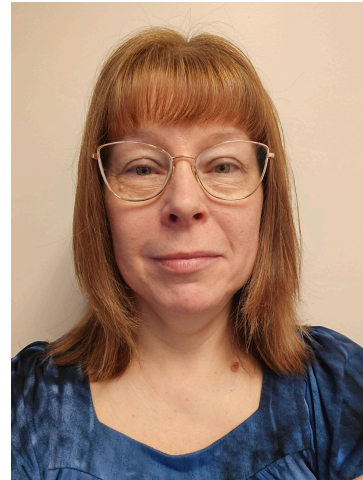


Ava Breighner Selected to 2025-2026 Phi Kappa Phi Council of Students

Ava Breighner was recently selected to serve on The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi's 2025-2026 Council of Students. The Council, comprised of seven student vice presidents from chapters across the nation, will serve as the student engagement committee for the Society. Breighner, initiated into Phi Kappa Phi in 2024, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in fine arts at FSU. She will serve a one-year term on the Council during 2025-2026.

13th Annual CLC Book Award Celebration

New Bursar Appointed



Brenda Kane M'07 has been appointed FSU's new Bursar. She has over 30 years of experience in higher education with 21 of those years at FSU. Brenda has served as the Assistant Bursar since 2004 where she gained the experience and related skills to successfully transition into her new role. As Bursar, Brenda will oversee the University & Student Billing Office and is responsible for all institutional billing, collections, student and customer refunds, return of funds, issuance of parking permits, meal plans, campus debit card deposits, tuition remission forms, wire transfers, ACH, and online transactions through our storefront and student system.

OHR Employee of the Quarter

The Office of Human Resources recognized **Jason (Jay) Howard '17**, Associate Director of Facilities, as the Employee of the Fourth



FSU's Children's Literature Centre held its 13th Annual Book Award Celebration Oct. 3. This year's winning author was Hilary Horder Hippely for her book, "I Know How to Draw an Owl," which has amassed more than seven awards and nominations. The CLC Book Award is given to a children's picture book which most embodies the attributes of compassion, love or courage.

Read More

Welcome Firehouse Subs



Frostburg State University and Elior Collegiate Dining held a ribbon-cutting for the new Firehouse Sub shop on campus, located in Sowers Hall. Representatives from FSU and Elior, as well members of the Frostburg City and Shaft fire departments attended the grand opening and stayed for a picnic of subs and chili. Firehouse Subs at FSU is open to the public.

Quarter. Jay has been a dedicated member of the campus community since 2010, consistently demonstrating excellence, leadership and a strong commitment to FSU's mission.

FSU's Children's Literature Centre, ASTAR Receive Recognition



FSU's Children's Literature Centre and ASTAR were honored with Senate and Congressional citations for their leadership, generosity, volunteerism and dedicated service in response to the flash flooding in May that affected Westernport Elementary School. Pictured is Edena Bradford (representative for Congresswoman April McClain Delaney), President Smith (FSU), Dr. Sarah O'Neal '04/M'05, and Robin Summerfield (representative for Senator Chris Van Hollen).

Visit Campus Dining



Frostburg and Hubei Form New Ski Club in China

Friends from the Frostburg State University and Hubei University of Economics celebrated the inauguration of the first Sino-US, FSU-Hubei joint Ski Club in Shanghai, China.

[Read More Here](#)



The Big Event

For decades now, it has become a Frostburg State University tradition that the Sunday after Homecoming is the Big Event – a student-run, community clean-up initiative. Once again, FSU students combed the streets of the city picking up trash and beautifying Frostburg. (Photo credit: IzzyFlicks)

[See More Photos of the Big Event](#)

Important Resources & Reminders

The FSU Shuttle will **NOT run on Monday, Oct. 13 and Tuesday, Oct. 14 during Fall Break.**

The University Police Department continues efforts to promote the safe disposal of expired or unwanted medication in the community. A free medication/drug disposal service is available 24/7/365 here at FSU. Simply bring in any expired or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications and deposit them in the green box, located in the lobby of the University Police Department. This service is available to anyone!

In addition, the Police Department will be conducting a free medication/drug take back from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Oct. 1, 2025, Nov. 5, 2025, and Dec. 3, 2025). Simply contact the police department's non-emergency number (301-

**...Got Meds?
Safely Dispose HERE**

Allegany County Sheriff's Office
8am - 4pm • Mon-Fri

Cumberland City Police Dept.
8am - 4pm • Mon-Fri

Maryland State Police Barracks
24 Hours • Every Day

Frostburg City Police Dept.
24 Hours • Every Day

Frostburg State University Police
24 Hours • Every Day

...just look for the GREEN BOX!

prescribechangeallegany.org

Sponsored by the Allegany County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services. Campaign is funded by the MD Behavioral Health Administration and SAMHSA

Like & share [facebook](#)

**PRESCRIBE
CHANGE**
allegany county



687-4223), inform us of your location, and an officer will pick up your medication for safe disposal.



PAWS Pantry

The PAWS Pantry is open and available to all students, faculty, and staff. Customers will complete a brief online intake and waiver form to register as a pantry member during their first visit. During regular hours, students may come to the pantry and shop from our selection of non-perishable foods, frozen foods, and household/hygiene products (when available).

Fall 2025 hours:

- Mondays and Fridays:
11am - 5pm
- Tuesdays: 11am - 7 pm
- Wednesdays: 11am - 3pm
- Thursdays: closed

Contact PAWS Pantry

Email: amdaniels@frostburg.edu

Phone: **301-687-7615**

Transfer and Articulation Workshop

Dr. Linda Steele '91/M'92/D'20, Transfer and Articulation Coordinator, will offer training sessions on the transfer and articulation process for faculty **TODAY, Oct. 13** at 1 p.m. in LUC 111 and again on Oct. 24 at 2 p.m. in LUC 113. These sessions will discuss the requirements of the Transfer with Success Act and other FAQs. Dr. Steele will also discuss how to initiate the process of establishing articulation agreements with community colleges. For more information, contact Dr. Steele at LSteele@frostburg.edu.

Stop the Bleed TODAY

Minutes count! Someone who is severely bleeding from an injury such as a car crash, a gunshot or accidental wound can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes.

LEARN ABOUT

Life-Saving Bleeding Control Training THROUGH



In coordination with the University of Maryland Medical System Center for Injury Prevention & Policy and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Lane University Center & Event Services will host two STOP THE BLEED classes on campus **TODAY, October 13 from 1 - 2 p.m.** and again from **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** The

classes will be held in the Atkinson Room in the Lane University Center. Pre-registration is preferred, and all pre-registered attendees will receive a FREE personal Stop the Bleed kit. Learn more and register below.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Communication Leadership Lab Events

Members of the campus community are invited to join two public discussions that will be facilitated by the students of STCO 350 Intercultural Communication this semester. Both lab events will be held in the Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center.

COMMUNICATION LEADERSHIP LAB

Frostburg State University

- Thursday, Oct. 23, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: **"Know Your Rights: A Discussion about Protecting Yourself and Others,"** with Candice Crenshaw, Education and Outreach Director from the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), invites participants to share experiences and learn about their human rights protections in Maryland concerning discrimination, hate and bias.
- Thursday, Nov. 6 at 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: **"The Empathy Exchange: Voices from Appalachia,"** with Rayelle Davis, a licensed, trauma-informed therapist and author specializing in Appalachian culture, creates an open forum for people to share stories and values, with a focus on the power of place and how it shapes our experiences and emotions.

For more information about these events, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, professor of Strategic Communication and Leadership Studies and coordinator of the Communication Leadership Lab, at elruminski@frostburg.edu.



The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is excited to announce the State of Maryland On-Site Health Benefit Fairs here on campus!

FSU has been selected to host an On-Site Open Enrollment Benefits Fair scheduled on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm in the Lane Center, Atkinson Room. All employees and retirees are invited to attend and visit with plan representatives and learn what's available in the 2026 Plan Year. Door prizes and giveaways will be available during the fair.

Additionally, there will be a collection for PAWS Pantry during the fair. Anyone bringing an item can enter their name for an additional chance to win a door prize.

[Click Here for a List of Need Items](#)

Free Financial Planning Webinars

USM is hosting **Wills (and More) Week 2025** from Monday, October 20 through Friday, October 24, with daily sessions from noon to 1 p.m. online. Recordings will be distributed to anyone who signs up for the sessions at the conclusion of the conference.

These free sessions are open to everyone affiliated with a USM school!

Estate planning is more than a will. From getting an early start on your financial plan to naming someone you trust for health care and financial decisions—plus ways to create a legacy for the people and causes you care about—this free series during National Estate Planning Awareness Week covers the essentials and beyond. Click **here** for the session descriptions.

[Register Now](#)

Important Reminder about Faculty Regalia

Commencement and other academic ceremonies will be here before you know it! If you are in need of regalia to participate in ceremonies, please review the following information. Please note that the delivery times can be as long as 8 weeks for some

items. **Regalia will no longer be available to be borrowed by faculty from the University Store.**

Regalia Purchase Options (prices subject to change):

Master package: 4-6 weeks delivery time

- Outfit (includes gown, mortarboard cap, hood, and black tassel w/o date): 94.00 +tax
- Gown w/mortarboard cap only: \$52.00 +tax
- Hood only: \$42.00 +tax

Doctoral package: 4-6 weeks delivery time

- Outfit (includes gown, tam w/attached metallic gold tassel w/o date): \$152.00 +tax
- Gown only: \$60.50 +tax
- Hood only: \$46.00 +tax
- Tam OSFM: (includes attached metallic gold tassel w/o date) \$72.00 +tax

Custom FSU fine quality purchase: 6-8 weeks delivery time (special order only) Please note: This option is only available as pick-up at the University Store; however, shipping from the University Store can be arranged for an additional shipping fee.

- Custom FSU outfit: \$619.00 + tax
- Outfit includes fine quality black gown, dark red velvet, white piping and university logo embroidered on front panels, tam with antique gold tassel and degree specific hood.
- Email inquiries to bookstore@frostburg.edu or call 301.687.4341.

The deadline to purchase the \$619 custom outfit is October 17. Late orders are not accepted due to the customization required.

Bring Your Ideas to Life



Whether you're just starting out or you're a seasoned content creator, the new 3 State Community Media Center is your go-to destination for learning, creating, and sharing impactful media.

At the Center, you'll have access to hands-on training in media content creation, rentable audio & video equipment, professional studios & editing suites

Visit www.frostburg.edu/3StateCMC or email 3StateCMC@frostburg.edu for membership forms, questions, or enquires.



Bobcat Dining

Bobcat Dining invites faculty and staff to check out the newly renovated Chesapeake Dining Hall and all the exciting selections. Open 7 days a week, Chesapeake offers an "all-you-care-to-eat" dining experience, now with freshly updated features and menu items.

Every Friday, lunch is \$8 for faculty and staff. Don't miss out! Scan the QR code for the daily menu.



FSU Athletics Updates

Be on the lookout every Monday for a Town Square update from Frostburg State Athletics to highlight home contests for the upcoming week. Please use these announcements as a personal invitation to come see our student-athletes and staff members in action.

[Visit the Athletics Website](#)



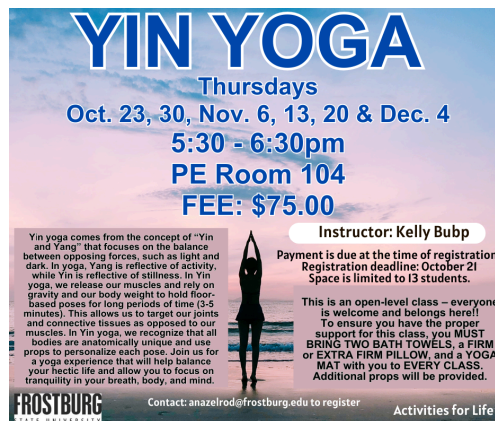
Bobcat Resilience Leadership Workshop with GRIT Adventures

The Frostburg Outdoor Recreation Economy Institute (FOREI) at FSU will present two-time National Champion Adventure Racer Jesse Tubb at the Bobcat Resilience Leadership Workshop with GRIT Adventures. The workshop will take place on Thursday, Oct. 16, with three sessions available at 9 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Lane University Center in Room 111.

[Learn More](#)



Activities for Life will host Hatha Flow Yoga on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in PE room 104 Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, and Dec. 3. The cost is \$75. Email anazelrod@frostburg.edu to register.



Activities for Life will host Yin Yoga on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in PE room 104 on Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, and Dec. 4. The cost is \$75. Email anazelrod@frostburg.edu to register.



2025 Western Maryland STEM Festival at Frostburg State University

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **FREE Admission**

Science is about to get spectacular! FSU invites you to the Western Maryland STEM Festival, a hands-on, high-energy celebration of science, technology, engineering, and math for all ages.

Don't Miss the Main Event from 10 - 11 a.m.

The one and only Steve Spangler—Emmy Award—winning STEM educator and viral science showman—will kick off the festival with his unforgettable keynote, “Best Day Ever!” Expect clouds of liquid nitrogen, jaw-dropping experiments, and science that will make you say, “WOW!” Want to see the full show? Be sure to arrive before 10 a.m.

Bonus Workshop: The Engagement Effect with Steve Spangler

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2–3 p.m. in FSU's Gira CCIT 397

Calling all STEM educators and enthusiasts! Immediately following the festival, join Steve Spangler for an exclusive, hands-on workshop: “The Engagement Effect.”

Learn how to transform ordinary lessons into unforgettable learning experiences using proven engagement strategies and take-home kits.

The workshop includes materials – but supplies are limited so be sure to RSVP now to reserve your spot!

because seating and standing room fill quickly, and you won't want to miss a single moment of this explosive kickoff. After the keynote, explore dozens of interactive exhibits, meet passionate scientists and educators, and discover how STEM is shaping our world—and your future.

RSVP Now

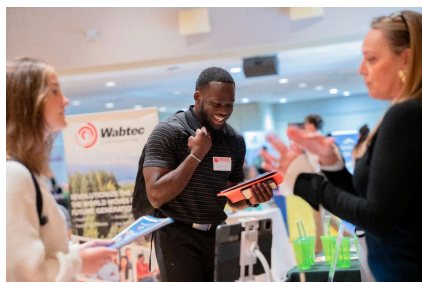
Stay Updated Here



Apply Here

FREE Advanced Leadership Retreat Oct. 24-26

Join the Department of Student Engagement for a **Leadership Retreat: Empowering Leaders Through Purpose, Connection, and Resilience**. It is open to all undergraduate students to further explore your leadership strengths. Located at Camp Allegheny, the retreat includes transportation, housing and meals for the weekend. The deadline to apply is Oct. 17 at noon.



Register Now

Career and Internship Fair

Whether you are searching for an internship or a job, be sure to attend the On-Campus Career & Internship Fair on Wed., Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Lane Center. The event is open to students of all majors and all class level and is one of the most exciting opportunities of the semester at FSU, with a variety of employers who want to connect with YOU! Find out which employers will be attending by registering in Handshake.



Allegany Farmers Market Association

Serving Allegany County, Maryland for Over 30 Years

Allegany County Farmers Markets: Great LOCAL Produce, Meats, Eggs & Flowers

- Cumberland, Canal Place - Thursdays until Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- Frostburg, City Place - Fridays until Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

- Cumberland, Canal Place Depot - Saturdays until Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- Frostburg Winter Market - Dates and Times TBD

Department of Music, Theatre and Dance



MCTA Presents Canadian Singer-Songwriter James Gordon

FSU's Mountain City Traditional Arts will host Canadian singer-songwriter James Gordon on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. at 25 E. Main St. in Frostburg. The live entertainment is open to the public through general admission with a suggested donation of \$15.

[Read More](#)



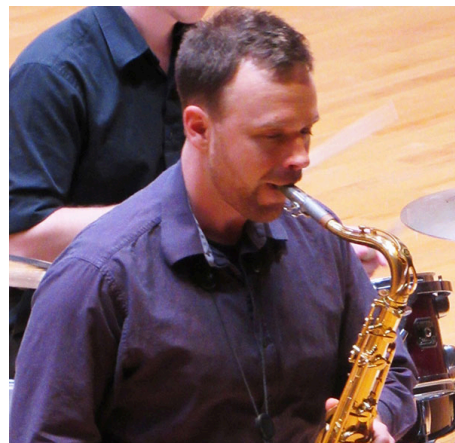
New Orleans Jazz, Blues and Ragtime with Tuba Skinny

The Cultural Events Series at FSU will present a joyful performance of New Orleans jazz, blues and ragtime from the high-spirited musicians of Tuba Skinny on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Frostburg's historic Palace Theatre, 31 E. Main Street. This engagement is made possible through the Jazz Touring Network program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

[Read More](#)



Choral Concert "A Crowded Table"



Dr. Brent Weber in Faculty Artist Series Concert

FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present its choral concert, titled "A Crowded Table," on Friday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center.

FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present saxophonist Dr. Brent Weber in a Faculty Artist Series on Friday, Oct. 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center.

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FSU's Department of Music, Theatre & Dance Presents Vocal Studios Recital

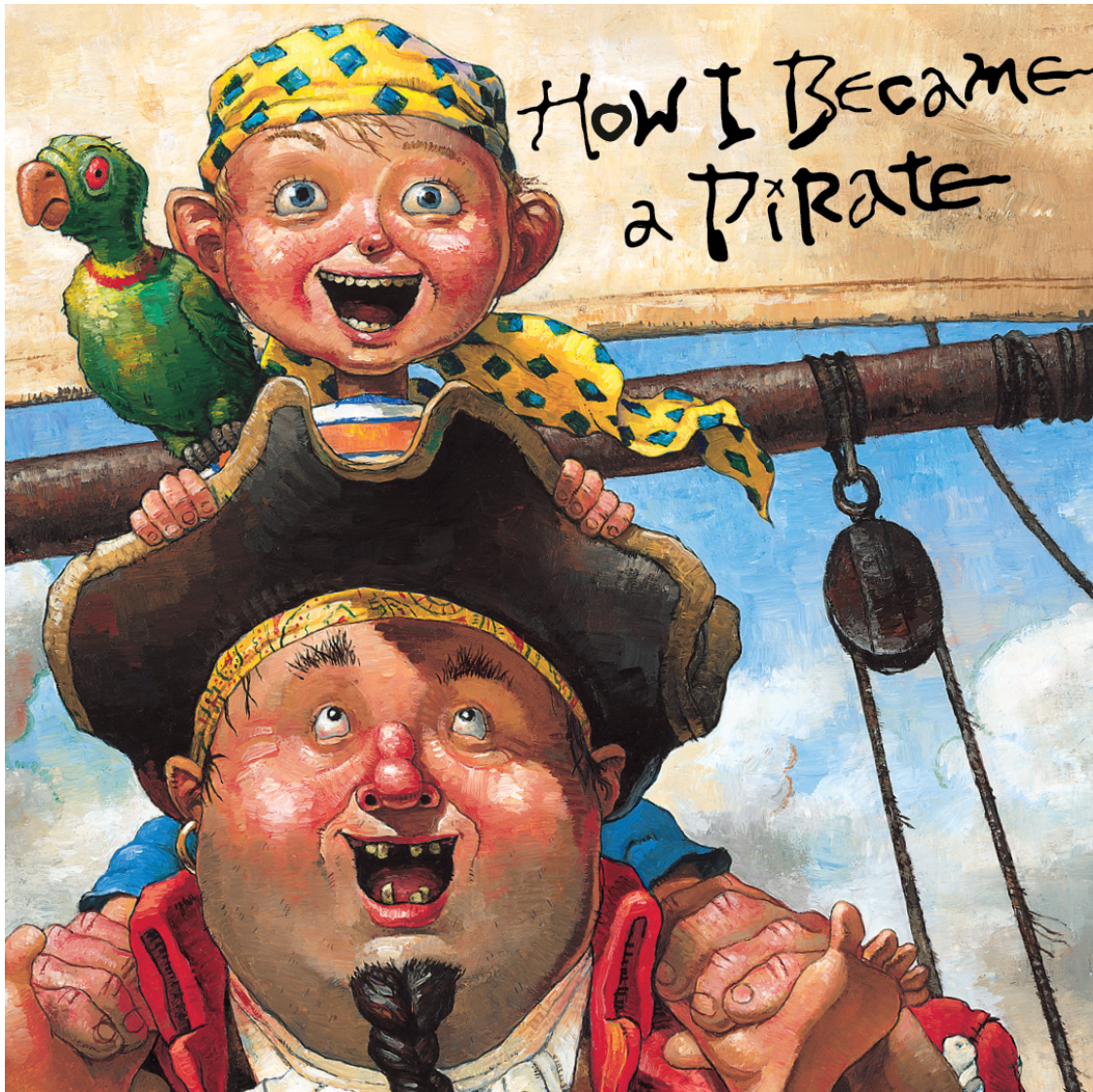
FSU's Department of Music, Theatre & Dance Presents Chamber Singers Recital

FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present the FSU Vocal Studios in a recital of art songs and selections from opera, oratorio and musical theatre on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center.

FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present its Chamber Singers, conducted by Scott Reiker, in a concert titled "Sacred Service," in the B'er Chayim Synagogue, 107 W. Union St. in Cumberland on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

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Children's Musical How I Became a Pirate Sets Sail Oct. 18

This fall FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance sets sail on a comical adventure with *How I Became a Pirate* as part of the Roundabout Children's Theatre Tour. This fun musical is based on the popular children's story written by Melinda Long and illustrated by David Shannon.

[Read More](#)

Office of Sponsored Programs Successes

- On Sept 29, 2025, project director Jason Litten '99 (W. Md Regional GIS Center) was awarded \$64,285 by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for the project, Modernizing Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory with Advanced GIS Technology.
- On Sept 17, 2025, project director Tim Malloy '75/M'79 (Upward Bound) was awarded \$492,096 by the U.S. Dept. of Education for the TRIO program,

Upward Bound (FedFY2026). The program provides participants with the academic skills and motivation required for successful completion of secondary and post-secondary education.

- On Sept 11, 2025, project director Jeffrey Simcoe (Frostburg Outdoor Recreation Economy Institute – Division of Advancement and Regional Engagement) was awarded \$500,000 by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for the project, FOREI Accelerator Initiative: Supporting Outdoor Recreation Business Growth and Regional Prosperity.
- On August 18, 2025, project director Angela Forbeck '03 (Upward Bound, Math/Science) was awarded \$375,376 by the U.S. Dept of Education for the TRIO Program, Upward Bound Math/Science (FedFY2026). The program prepares high school students for postsecondary education programs that lead to careers in the fields of math and science.

Click the button below to see more news and successes from the Office of Sponsored Programs.

See More OSP News



2026-2027 FAFSA Opened Oct. 1

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is encouraging Maryland students and families to complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early. The form will open to the public on October 1.

Learn More



Check Out the Bobcat Portal!

The Office of Information Technology is proud to announce the launch of the Bobcat Portal, a reimagined version of the former Faculty/Staff Portal.

FSU Portal Highlight

Check out the new Volunteer Work app, which will be used to streamline volunteerism documentation on campus. Whether you're volunteering for a class, an athletic event, as a member of a student organization, or a faculty, staff or student who just loves to serve, this portal app is for you!

The app will ask you to check in by providing the following details:

- Select the correct sponsoring unit



The Bobcat Portal is designed to better serve the *entire* FSU community, including faculty, staff, and now students. This expanded access creates a single, unified entry point for important tools, resources, and information across campus.

We encourage you to take advantage of this resource. Check back often to explore the new features and begin experiencing the Bobcat Portal.

- If it is for a class, enter your course title (if applicable)
- Enter the name of the service event
- Enter the location
- Select the student organization (if applicable)

When you end your service for the day, simply repeat the process of opening the Volunteer Work app and select Check Out. It's just that easy.

Once you start serving, your Bobcat Portal page will show you how much volunteering you have done. You can set a personal goal and see your progress right on your very own portal page. Need to show your coach or your instructor what you have been doing? It is all right there on your Bobcat Portal!

Check Out the Volunteer Work App



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