Welcome back to the fall semester! I was glad to speak with so many of you during Convocation and the first week events. The energy and enthusiasm you bring is a reminder of why I am so grateful to be part of the FSW Family.

As you will read in this newsletter, FSW faculty and administrators continue to shine in the areas of scholarship and service. This publication highlights some of the many accomplishments from late spring and summer. We have a world-class faculty committed to academic excellence. Please join me in congratulating your peers for their work.

“The 411 on Academic Affairs” is also a way for the Provost’s Office to showcase what we educators do in and out of the classroom. I am always so impressed at the number of faculty, staff, and administrators leading and attending the many academic co-curricular events. Despite how busy we all are, it is clear that we support the College’s mission “to inspire learning; prepare a diverse population for creative and responsible participation in a global society; and serve as a leader for intellectual, economic, and cultural awareness in the community.”

I hope you are off to a positive start to the semester. I look forward to working with everyone to continue to realize our mission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eileen DeLuca
Acting Provost

September 2018

Photos from Honors Scholar Program Meet and Greet.
Ron Feemster, was a guest on WGCU’s show Gulf Coast Live alongside Betty Wells, Fort Myers Senior Editor for Florida Weekly; Tom Hayden, Senior Engagement Editor at the News-Press; and Kellie Burns, Evening Anchor at NBC-2 in a segment titled “SWFL News Leaders Defend #FreePress.”

Kim Hilton was featured in Michigan Technological University’s “Unscripted” Science and Engineering Research blog. She offered advice and the lessons learned over the last ten years since she graduated from the Department of Cognitive and Learning Sciences at Michigan Tech.

Dr. Julia Kroeker has been named a board member of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP). The association is dedicated to interdisciplinary research and theory construction concerning play throughout the world.

Karen Maguire completed a Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia from the University of Florida. The program provides educators with the knowledge and skills to develop individualized reading interventions for students with dyslexia.

Dr. Shawn Moore attended the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents hosted by The Association for Documentary Editing this summer as part of his continued pursuit to digitize Margaret Cavendish’s writing.

Dr. Jennifer Patterson earned her Ph.D. in Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership and Organizational Change from Walden University. Her degree was conferred in early August. Congratulations Dr. Patterson!

Dr. Tom Smith performed as Principal Trumpet with the Kansas Piano Festival and Competition Symphony Orchestra during the month of July. The competition featured internationally known artists and student performers from across the United States performing major works for piano and orchestra, including compositions by Prokofiev, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff.

ARC Research Grant Recipients Present Their Research Findings

Recipients of the 2017-18 ARC Research Grant presented their research findings through 20-minute presentations during fall professional development day. Pictured from left to right, Dr. Shawn Moore, Martha Jenner, Margaret Kruger, Dr. Michael Sauer, Dr. Michael Witty, and Dr. Gabriel Gaidos. Not pictured is Dr. Melanie Ulrich.
STEM Buccaneers Camp Is a Success

The School of Pure and Applied Sciences hosted the inaugural STEM Buccaneers Camp. Elementary-aged students were brought to FSW for two weeks and engaged in both laboratory science as well as field experiences. The camp focused on water quality testing in our local waterways. Thanks to Dr. Melanie Ulrich for leading the initiative.

Making Headlines: The FSW Compass Has Arrived

The first edition of the *FSW Compass*, “An independent voice for students” was published on Monday, August 20. A team of seven students served as reporters, photographers, designers, and a cartoonist for the first edition. Ron Feemster, professor of Journalism, is the advisor of the FSW Compass.

FSW to Provide Income Tax Assistance Training

Faculty within the School of Business and Technology are working to set up a chapter of United Way’s Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Business faculty will provide training to students and volunteers. Participants who complete the training will be certified as United Way volunteers in the income tax assistance program. The VITA Program offers free tax assistance to low-income populations.

FSW’s Collegiate High Schools Earn Top Marks

FSW’s collegiate high schools on both the Thomas Edison and Charlotte Campus earned top marks in 2017-2018 and have been named “A” schools. The school grading system focuses on student success measures, and the formula for school grades includes learning gains, achievement, graduation, acceleration success, and maintaining a focus on students who need the most support.

Expanded Opportunities Available to Dental Hygiene Students

The FSW Dental Hygiene Program (whose graduates have earned a 100% pass rate on the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination for the 23rd consecutive year) has established a partnership with the Dental Hygiene Program at St. Petersburg State College. This partnership enables Associate of Science Degree (AS) seeking students to be dual enrolled in the online Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene (BASDH) at St. Petersburg College. In the 2017-2018 academic year, four students from the Class of 2018 accepted this challenge and successfully completed two courses while enrolled at FSW. Florida SouthWestern State College’s dental hygiene students can earn a bachelor’s degree within 15 months following graduation.
The School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SoPAS) purchased over $100,000 of anatomy and physiology models to upgrade labs and expand the ability to offer additional class sections across all four FSW service locations. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) devices were purchased for all campuses. The PCR device allows students to analyze a short sequence of DNA or RNA; the PCR device can reproduce selected sections of DNA or RNA. Many thanks to Dr. Gabe Gaidos whose grant purchased the PCR equipment. SoPAS also purchased four Vitalograph ALPHA Spirometers and two EKG machines.

FSW’s music program welcomes six new Hailun upright grand pianos. You can hear students tickle the ivories in the practice rooms located in the Humanities Hall.

Several computer offerings this fall through the School of Business and Technology will benefit from the new computer forensics software Magnet. Magnet connects the field and office through a cloud-based enterprise tool. The software includes a field-to-finish feature and various CAD tools, ensuring FSW students are learning the latest technology.

The School of Business and Technology is an educational partner with the nationally acclaimed Project Management Institute (PMI). Students and faculty will be able to master new skills through webinars and events. The institute provides access to PMI publications, knowledge resources, networking, and certifications in project management, portfolio management, program management, risk management, business analysis, and scheduling.

FSW students can take advantage of the Emerging Initiatives Grant. Employers in Southwest Florida have identified a gap in existing workforce knowledge; the grant provides $500,000 for technology training and industry certification exams. SWFL businesses identified security, cloud computing, application software, network & telecom, web & digital, enterprise architecture, and data warehouse & analytics as current and future workforce needs. Students must complete the desired certificate before June 30, 2019. Students interested in taking advantage of the grant should contact a School of Business and Technology Academic Advisor for more information.
FSW in Italy

In the summer of 2018, FSW sent an inaugural cohort of ten students to study abroad in Florence, Italy at Lorenzo de’ Medici. Students took classes focused on Italian language, art history, marketing, the ancient roots of Florence, architecture, and Italian cuisine.

Students taking Politics, People, and Power: Living in the Developing World spent their spring break studying abroad in Nicaragua. FSW students explored how political systems affect their citizenry around the world.

Students taking the Marine Ecology Research class this summer spent their third week of class in Belize learning how life under the sea interacts to share entire ecosystems. Students conducted independent research in the field on lionfish, dolphins, and coral reef ecosystems while abroad.

Twelve FSW students surveyed Greek literature across a variety of genres, historical periods, and culture through a LIT 2000 class entitled Introduction to Literature through Greek Authors and Themed Works. Students in the class traveled to Greece to further examine the important role literary works played in shaping Greek culture and ideology.
Dr. Deborah Teed, Dean, School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science will kick off FSW’s Critical Thinking Lecture Series Thursday, Sept. 6 at 11:00 a.m. with her presentation “Voices in America: Diversity, Inclusion, and Democracy.” The lecture will be live on the Thomas Edison Campus in AA-177 and available via Polycom on Collier M-201, Charlotte O-117, and H/G: A-106.

Sociologist Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor Emerita at the University of Toronto and fellow at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will discuss her anthropological work “Life Histories of the Dobe !Kung” on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 4:30 p.m. in the Rush Auditorium, J-103.

Richard Keelan of Lee Health will discuss relevant issues in mental health focusing on feelings that many students will experience during their time in college. The presentation will share information, strategies, and resources specifically for college students. “Mental Health Matters” is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. The presentation can be livestreamed at www.fsw.edu/livestream and will be available at each FSW service location: Thomas Edison: AA-177, Collier: J-103/104, Charlotte: O-124, H/G: A-106.

Global Director of New Client Engagement at Gartner Inc. (NYSE:IT) Wil Schmidt will present “Critical Thinking in the Digital Business Age” on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6:00 p.m. The presentation will be available on each FSW service location: Thomas Edison: AA-177, Collier: G-109, Charlotte: E-105, H/G: A-106.

The Honorable Mary Evans of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court will present “Applied Critical Thinking: A View from the Bench” on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 6:00 p.m. The lecture will be live on the Thomas Edison Campus in U-102 and available via Polycom on Collier: A-103, Charlotte: O-117, H/G: A-114.

FSW President Dr. Jeff Allbritten will present “Critical Thinking in Higher Education” on Monday, September 24 at 11:00 a.m. The lecture will be live on the Thomas Edison in U-102 and will be available via Polycom on Collier: G-109, Charlotte: O-117, Hendry/Glades: A-114

Banned Books Week started by the American Library Association in 1982, is a celebration of the right to read and raises awareness of issues surrounding censorship, book bans, and the freedom to read. Banned Books Week is Sept. 24-28. Each campus library will offer programming that includes lectures and a display of frequently banned or challenged books with an accompanying trivia challenge.