

SPYGLASS

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

The magazine of Florida SouthWestern State College



How 20,089 Days Flew By

{ PAGE 36 }

Time Really Does Fly



CHANGE IS INEVITABLE. IN OUR 55 YEARS, WE HAVE UNDERGONE change both large and small. It's part of our process of staying with and looking ahead of the times so we can educate and train the professionals our region needs.

Is change a little scary? Of course, but we should be bold and continue evolving. The ultimate benefactors are the students we serve. The year 2017 is another milestone for this college – we're celebrating 55 years! We've had our ups and downs through the decades, and that's a natural process of making weaknesses a strength, and taking our strengths to the next level.

In this issue, we'll take a stroll along memory lane with milestone highlights, and you'll read stories of inspiration about students, faculty and alumni. You'll see new educational high points that give you a look into the path we're making for 2017 and beyond. It's an exciting time at FSW. 🍷



Dr. Jeff Allbritten, President, FSW



SPYGLASS

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inside.



Signed

Bucs baseball players make the grade.

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See who was up to what around campus.

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A history

55 years of education—
a timeline.

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Rios Signs With Baltimore

BY MICHAEL J. HILL



FORMER FSW PITCHER WILLIE RIOS OFFICIALLY SIGNED a contract with the Baltimore Orioles in July 2016, after being selected in the 16th round (481st overall) of the 2016 MLB Draft in June.

Rios, who also was a 26th-round draft selection by the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2014, is the 27th player in program history (including Edison Community College) to be drafted to the MLB.

The 6-foot lefty signed a National Letter of Intent to play at the University of Miami in November 2015 before pitching for FSW during the 2016 season. He went 3-7 with a 5.56 ERA in 14 appearances, including 11 starts for the Bucs in 2016. In 56.2 innings he tallied 69 strikeouts and averaged 10.96 strikeouts per contest.

Rios, named the New England Collegiate Baseball League's (NECBL) Top Pro Prospect for the 2015 season in August, enjoyed an excellent summer (2015) on the mound for the Mystic Schooners, finishing the regular season undefeated with a sub-2.00 ERA. He headlined the league's best pitching staff (2.61 team ERA) and helped the Schooners franchise reach the NECBL Championship Series for the first time in over 20 years. 🍀

▼
Below: Future Liberty Flame John O'Connor high-fives former teammate Hayden Platt.



FSW Quartet Signs D1 NLLs

- Redshirt freshman Davie Inman - 2016 NCAA National Champions Coastal Carolina
- Sophomore Enrique Ferrer - Georgia State
- Sophomore JD Dutka - USF
- Sophomore John O'Connor - Liberty

▲ Above from Top to Bottom: Redshirt-freshman and Coastal Carolina bound pitcher Davie Inman, outfielder and Georgia State signee Enrique Ferrer and future USF Bull JD Dutka





Former FSW pitcher Willie Rios signed with the Baltimore Orioles.



Sophomore Criza Bulanadi finished third in the country with 61 stolen bases last season.

FSW Softball Makes National, Global Headlines

BY MICHAEL J. HILL

FSW SOFTBALL TOOK THEIR INAUGURAL SEASON TO GLOBAL heights, starting with conference accolades and continuing in the national tournament. For one player, the honors continued to her homeland of New Zealand.

FSW sophomore Courtney Gettins was named Softball New Zealand's (SNZ) Women's Pitcher of the Year at the 79th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Softball Association on Saturday, September 3rd.

Gettins, the 2016 recipient of the Dudley® NJCAA DI Softball Pitcher of the Year award, was outstanding all season long and was huge in FSW's run to the NJCAA National Tournament. She pitched every inning in Suncoast Conference play, all but one game at the FCSAA State Tournament and every inning of the national tournament, including the 15 inning loss to eventual national champion Butler. The Fastpitch News NJCAA Division I and Suncoast Conference Pitcher of the Year finished the season 39-6 with three saves and a 1.45 ERA, while limiting the opposition to a .202 batting average. Gettins' performance during her rookie season ranked her among the nation's best in multiple categories. She led the nation in innings pitched (303.1), wins (39), complete games (37) and games started (44), while ranking third in strikeouts (289) and 13th in ERA (1.45). In conference play, the Hawkes Bay, New Zealand native went 19-1 with a 0.62 ERA, while holding opponents to a .162 batting average.

This summer, the FSW ace represented New Zealand at the World Cup of Softball XI (July 5-10) at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Okla. and also at the 2016 Women's Softball World Championship in Surrey, B.C. At the World Softball Championship, she finished the event with a 1-1 record. Her lone win was a one-hit victory over Kenya (July 15), in which she pitched 3.0 innings and struck out seven batters. She earned a no-decision in a nine inning win (8-7) over Italy (July 17). In her third start, she pitched 2.1 innings and took the loss as New Zealand fell to the Netherlands 8-2 in the Championship Playoff (July 22). Overall, Gettins pitched 13.0 innings, surrendered 12 hits and 11 runs (six earned), recorded 10 strikeouts and had a 3.23 ERA in three starts during the tournament. 🍀



The FSW softball team taking pictures during their banner ceremony at the November 29, 2017 Suncoast Credit Union Arena basketball home openers.

FSW Duo Signs D1 NLIs

- Sophomore Criza Bulanadi – George Washington
- Sophomore Marta Fuentes – George Washington

FSW Softball Honored at Basketball Game

- The No. 11 FSW Softball team finished the 2016 season with a 53-16 overall record, secured the program's first-ever Suncoast Conference Championship with a 19-1 mark in conference play, won the District H Championship and locked up the program's first berth to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Tournament by finishing as the runner-ups at the FCSAA State Tournament.
- For their special season, banners that will be displayed permanently, were unveiled at the November 29 basketball home openers at Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

◀ FSW sophomore pitcher Courtney Gettins added to her impressive resume when she was tabbed as a Fastpitch News (FPN) National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Preseason All-American in January 2017.





▲ Sophomore guard Nych Smith locking up the Broward player on defense.

FSW Basketball



FSW women's basketball head coach Kristie Ward gives instructions to the team during the home opener at Suncoast Credit Union Arena on November 29, 2016.

BY MICHAEL J. HILL

THE FSW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S basketball teams began their inaugural season on the road, before returning November 29, 2016 to play in their new home, Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

#FSWWBB Impresses In Home Opening Win Over Hillsborough

The FSW women's basketball team opened Suncoast Credit Union Arena

with an impressive 80-64 win over Hillsborough CC on Tuesday, November 29 in front of a sellout crowd (3,300).

The Bucs were led by Dajsha Hall, who finished with 17 points and a game-high 14 board. Erna Normil chipped in with 16 points and seven rebounds, while LaToya Ashman added 13 points and eight rebounds. Kiarra Meeks tallied 12 points, six boards, five assists and five steals, while Elizabeth Spencer finished with nine points and four rebounds.



#FSWMBB Puts On A Show In Home Opening Win Over Broward

The FSW men's basketball team opened Suncoast Credit Union Arena with a bang, defeating Broward College, 76-66, in front of a sellout crowd on Tuesday night (Nov. 29).

The Buccaneers, who were ranked No. 3 in this week's Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) NJCAA Region 8 Men's Basketball Coaches' Poll, improve to 8-0 on the season and are one of three undefeated teams in the state (Palm Beach State, Tallahassee CC), while Broward College falls to 5-3 on the year.

Sophomore Nych Smith finished with a game-high 18 points and eight assists. Smith shot 6-of-12 from the floor and knocked down 4-of-7 attempts from long range. Shanquan Hemphill added 12 points, eight rebounds and four steals, while Ed Porter chipped in with 12 points and five boards. Anthony Murphy finished with eight points, which included a spectacular lob dunk that got the fans out of their seats in the opening minutes of the game. Jermar Perkins and Russell Daniels added six points each. 🐉



At left, FSW's men's head coach Marty Richter. Above, Kiarra Meeks drives by the Hillsborough CC defender at Suncoast Credit Union Arena.



▲ Shanquan Hemphill concentrating at the free-throw line during the home opener.

FSW School of Education grads score

BY JOE TURNER

THE FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE College School of Education recently boasted a 100% hire rate for their most recent class of graduates, and not only are these new teachers succeeding in their first classrooms, they're being recognized for their achievements.

"Since we graduated our first cohort of teachers in 2010, we have placed over 400 graduates in teaching positions in the region," said Dr. Larry Miller, Dean of the FSW School of Education. "In the Southwest Florida community, demand for our graduates continues to outstrip supply."

"There are principals in our community who check resumes for FSW and consistently grant our graduates interviews based on the quality of teachers we are educating," said Dr. Joycellen Rollins, Department Chair and Professor. "Every semester I have about seven principals who reach out to me asking for the best of our best."

One of the major accolades in the field

◀ FSW Alumna Anne Marie Torres receives 2014 Apple Blossom Award.





(l to r): School of Education Alumni Alyssa Snyder ('15), Paige Engh ('15), Brittany Decker ('15), and Dr. Joyce Rollins.

high marks



SoE Lea Vozzella 15, Kristne Robinson 15.

of teaching in the Southwest Florida community is the Golden Apple Award, an honor recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching. In the last few years, several FSW alumni have been nominated for the award, including Jennifer Kellams who credits her time at FSW for her successes in her own classroom.

“One thing I can say about FSW is that I feel like I received an education from a University with a small classroom setting,” she said. “I LOVED that about FSW. I had superior professors too, a few of which I still have contact with today.”

Last year, Leslie Cornwell and Karen Kuzer

were finalists in Lee County. Currently, Maria LaRocca and Joe Merrill are finalists in Collier County. All have been named Teachers of Distinction.

Collier County also presents the Apple Blossom Award which honors early childhood teachers who make a unique contribution to the lives of young children and their families. In 2014, FSW graduate Anne Marie Torres ('14) was presented the award. She currently is a teacher at Golden Gate Elementary School.

In Hendry County, the last three Teacher of the Year Awards at Edward A. Upthegrove Elementary in LaBelle have been FSW graduates: Kandice Corbitt, Emily Figured and Lori Whited.

FSW graduates are receiving other recognition as well, including Team Leader, Curriculum Lead Teacher, Department Lead and Subject Area Teacher of the Year. Just this year, Bobby Straka from Rayma C. Page Elementary in Fort Myers, was named Lee County’s Math Teacher of the Year.

“We are not just supplying teachers to the workforce; we are supplying highly effective teachers who are transforming education in Southwest Florida,” said Dr. Miller. 🍀

“Since we graduated our first cohort of teachers in 2010, we have placed over 400 graduates in teaching positions in the region. In the Southwest Florida community, demand for our graduates continues to outstrip supply.”

— **Dr. Larry Miller,**
Dean, FSW School of
Education



Simulation

BY JENNIFER R. YOUNG

FOR STUDENTS TRAINING TO BE healthcare professionals, the first time working with a patient can be an intimidating experience. To better prepare them for patient care, FSW's School of Health Professions incorporates simulation education in many of their programs, and simulation centers are located on the Thomas Edison, Charlotte, and Collier campuses.

"Simulation education is a form of clinical training that is highly effective and ensures that all students receive the same experiences in their training," said Dr. Marie Collins, Dean, FSW School of Health Professions. "We use state-of-the-art technology and focus on the three C's – consistency, competency, and correction."

FSW uses a variety of simulation tools, including an endovascular simulator in



*Cardiovascular Technology Program
Endovascular Simulator*



education

its Cardiovascular Technology program, a non-energized x-ray unit in its Radiologic Technology program, a bronchoscope simulator in its Respiratory Care program, and low fidelity, mid-fidelity and high-fidelity mannequins in its Emergency Medical Services and Nursing programs.

Some of the most impressive of these tools are the high-fidelity mannequins, which can perform many of the same functions human patients would. They can talk, blink their eyes and react to light, register blood pressure, create heart and lung sounds, bleed, and even give birth. Faculty can control the mannequins and scenarios, allowing a variety of complications to occur that require quick critical thinking by the student.

“We treat our high-fidelity mannequins with the same respect we would human patients,” Dr. Collins said. “Students take the training seriously but with the understanding that mistakes on the



Respiratory Care simulation scenario

simulators are learning experiences that can be corrected, and they might not have the option of correction with human patients.”

Another aspect of simulation education involves family members in patient care experiences so students understand the perspective of the family while working on the patient. These perspectives can include a

Above: Collier Campus Simulation Center Respiratory Care Program Patient Simulation Scenario

parent whose child is having an emergency or a husband accompanying his wife in a difficult delivery.

Each scenario is recorded and at the end of the simulation, students are debriefed, receiving immediate feedback and correction. They then repeat the scenario until competency is reached. This gives students more confidence, prepares them for emergencies and complications, and allows them to encounter certain complications more often than they might in the field.

“Florida statute now allows 50 percent of clinical nursing education to be performed using simulation,” Dr. Collins said. “That’s how much they trust and value simulation education.” 🐾

Barracuda and Jellyfish and Sharks, Oh, My!

BY JENNIFER R. YOUNG

IF THE THEME FROM JAWS RINGS THROUGH YOUR HEAD AT JUST the sight of the ocean, Professor Tina Ottman's Biology II lab may be just what you need to overcome your fear and explore the world that exists beneath the surface.

Every fall and spring term, Professor Ottman's students spend two days at MarineLab, a marine science education center in Key Largo, Fla. There they study the ecology of Florida's various habitats, including mangroves, sea grass, and coral reefs. They also research various ocean life in the MarineLab laboratory, identify various species of fish, and snorkel among barracuda in the MarineLab lagoon, manatees in the sea grass, and the abundant marine life that makes its home among the coral reefs.

"Science is better when you can experience it first-hand," Ottman said. "These habitats are disappearing for a variety of reasons. I want students to experience these places before they are gone, and hopefully, become stewards for these habitats."

"Snorkeling over the reefs and in the mangroves really opened my eyes to all the beautiful creatures that are out in the waters," said FSW student Lindsay Brubaker. "From jellyfish and squid, to barracuda, manatees, and even a nurse





Inset: Tina Ottman (on right, back row) and her Biology II class. Below: Lindsay Brubaker

shark, going just five miles out will give you some perspective on how small we as humans really are in the scheme of things.”

“Even students who are non-swimmers can participate in the activities,” Ottman said. “It encourages them to overcome their fears. And students always come back from the trip not only with a better respect for our oceans and ecology, but as great friends. Many form study groups for the remainder of the class and some even continue on together in other classes as well.”

“While I was initially terrified to go on this trip, I believe every student should have this experience for two reasons,” Brubaker said. “To be educated on how

“The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever.”

— Jacques Cousteau

important it is to protect the reefs, mangroves, sea grasses, and all sea-related organisms, and to have the experience of doing something they may never get to do later on in life.”

The field trip was partly sponsored through a faculty mini-grant provided by the FSW Foundation. 📷



►
FSW Students
star in the
theatrical
production
of "Paragon
Springs".



A Crisis, A Hero

BY TERESA M. ARAQUE

THERE'S DRAMA TO BE FOUND IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, Humanities and Social Sciences. And the crisis that surrounds it resonates from Flint, Michigan to Southwest Florida. And maybe beyond.

FSW Theater program produced the play, "Paragon Springs," which is based on Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People." The play tells the story of a small town that relies on the restorative waters of its hot springs to support the town's economy, and what happens when the town's doctor discovers that the water has become contaminated.

"The issues explored in this play inspired us to invite Dr. Marc Edwards, the hero of the Flint, Michigan water crisis, to speak about his experience exposing contaminated tap water in Flint and Washington, DC," said Professor Stuart Brown, who leads the FSW theater program. "Marc's story shares some amazing parallels with the hero of the play. It is every bit as relevant in Florida today as it was in Norway in 1882." Dr. Edwards, whose visit coincided with the

opening of Paragon Springs, spent three days on campus interacting with students and the public.

The FSW theater students are more than actors in the play. Our students use their skills in set design, carpentry, costume, lighting, and sound design as well as marketing and management.

"Our students learn all aspects of creating a product and taking it to market. Many of the lessons learned here will serve them in business as well as in art," said Brown. "Our stage is a great starting point for students that choose to continue in theatre related careers. We have graduates training and working all over the country, including students at the University of Michigan, Ole Miss, the University of North Georgia, and FSU, all of whom are on full scholarship." 📍



Dr. Marc Edwards

Photographed
on Campus

Follett Hospitality Pavilion

A large scoreboard and video screen at the top of the arena. The scoreboard displays the following information:

Team	Score	Time	Other Info
35	23	3:43	35 23 3:43

The video screen shows a live broadcast of the basketball game in progress.



CROWNE PLAZA

8	FOULS	35	3:43	23	FOULS 9
5	FOULS		1ST		FOUL 4



FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN
BUCCANEERS







Digital



Dr. John Meyer, right, Dean, School of Business & Technology, explains the digital forensic technology with a student who was mapping the interior of the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

In the Worlds of Finance, Technology, and Forensics

BY TERESA M. ARAQUE

IT TAKES SPECIAL SKILLS TO FIND AND FOLLOW digital trails. The clues are there, if you know how to find and follow them. In a year, you can earn your College Credit Certificate in Digital Forensics, where you'll gain the skills you'll need to help solve computer crime, and find the evidence in digital trails.

"It's a high-demand area. What makes this attractive to professionals is that it works for those who are on their way to earning an associate's or bachelor's degree, or already have one and need that specialization to advance in their career," said Dr. John Meyer, Dean, School of Business & Technology. "Digital Forensics can be incorporated into FSW's computer networking degree, so it gives that extra focus that businesses and law enforcement are finding necessary to have."

Salaries can start at over \$46,000 and rise sharply from there.

Financial Services Management

You like working with numbers and helping people. With the College Credit Certificate in Financial Services Management, an advanced career path in banking is yours to follow.

"This certification is ideal for bank tellers or those in similar financial services positions who want to move into mid- and higher-level management positions," said Meyer. "Again, this certificate works well for those who are earning their associate's or bachelor's degree, or already have one and need this specialization. The average starting salary for a teller is around \$26,000, but with this certification, the salary could easily reach \$50,000."

The 27-credit certification can also apply towards the credits needed for an associate's or bachelor's degree.

"In the end, this option gets you where you want to be in a quicker, more efficient manner," said Meyer. 🍀

Career Advice

- The School of Business & Technology now provides its student advising "in-house" to help students can maximize their college and career goals.
- For more information: (239) 489-9270
www.FSW.edu/sobt

"This certification is ideal for bank tellers or those in similar financial services positions who want to move into mid- and higher-level management positions."

— **Dr. John Meyer**, Dean,
School of Business & Technology

FSW Foundation Core Mission

Making a Lasting Impact

BY REBA SINGLETON

THE FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE College Foundation is a direct support organization for FSW with a core mission dedicated to making a lasting impact in FSW's five key service regions of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties. Behind every initiative and activity, the Foundation supports FSW's mission to inspire learning; prepare a diverse population for creative and responsible participation in a global society; as well as serve as a leader for intellectual, economic, and cultural awareness in the community.

In an effort to accomplish these goals and objectives, the Foundation creates partnerships and builds relationships with individuals and organizations throughout the Southwest Florida community and beyond to forward the FSW mission. Charitable gifts from Foundation donors for the benefit of scholarships, program support, as well as matching gifts and gifts-in-kind, are just a few Foundation gift opportunities that provide FSW with vital resources to offer quality educational experiences for students that reach far beyond their graduation and job placement.

Over the years, countless FSW students have achieved their education and career goals as a result of the critical support provided by generous Foundation donors. Overall student success and enrichment, the FSW Impact, is made possible in large part due to donor support through charitable giving.

FSW Impact

- "Every single contribution to my education has pushed me and encouraged me to reach my goals. FSW is 100% invested in my success!"

– *Carolyn Aho, Collier Campus*

- "This school is a stepping stone to my future that I want to have. I want to be successful, and with the help of scholarships, I will graduate debt free. I am very grateful for that."

– *Bryan Martinez, Charlotte Campus*

- "Your donations allowed me to be a role model for my two sons to show them the value of hard work and giving back to their community."

– *Lisa Upright, Charlotte Campus*

- "I was inspired to go to college through the scholarships I received to further my education."

– *Katherine Donges, Hendry/Glades Curtis Center*



- "I am very grateful for your contribution in allowing my dreams to come true. You have shown me that no matter what life brings, as long as you keep your head up, you can achieve ANYTHING!"

– *Traci Carwana, Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus*

While the motivating factors behind each student story may be different, the value of the FSW Impact for each student remains the same.

Each gift counts. Each gift makes a lasting impact. 🎁

Make Your Impact Today!

- For more information on how you can make an impact in the lives of FSW students and critical program areas, note the key Ways to Give and Give Now options on the Foundation website: www.fsw.edu/foundation



Focusing on FSW Student Success in the Heartland

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

DR. DUKE DiPOFI HAS BEEN teaching at FSW's Hendry/Glades Curtis Center for a decade with the desire to see students succeed.

"I want to let students know they can make it," he explained. "They just have to persevere and work hard."

Years earlier his own high school counselor told him he wasn't college material, but today Dr. DiPofi teaches both Student Life Skills, part of FSW's First Year Experience program, and World Religions. He considers himself a teacher, a motivator and a coach, drawing a sense of accomplishment from hearing student success stories.

"Nothing thrills me more than seeing our students believe that they can be all that they've dreamed and desired to be with a little encouragement," he said. "Many of my current students feel like underdogs. I want them to know that if I can do it, they can do it."

The Hendry/Glades Curtis Center in LaBelle is the college's smallest location but includes some of its hardest working students. Multiple students from the center have been accepted to the prestigious U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. The center is growing, but remains the most closely knit.

"There is a great hometown feel here," he said. "Even though I am a city guy living in Ft. Myers, I have thrived in this environment. The folks out here are genuine." 🍷



"There is a great hometown feel here ... Even though I am a city guy living in Ft. Myers, I have thrived in this environment. The folks out here are genuine."

— **Dr. Duke DiPofi**, Professor, Hendry/Glades Curtis Center

Slam dunk

*Opening
a day to
remember*





BY MICHAEL J. HILL

MASTERPIECE. BREATHTAKING. BEAUTIFUL. Amazing. Magnificent. Gorgeous.

Those were among some of the words that were used to describe the new home of FSW Athletics (Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball) at Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

At 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, a pregame tailgate was held in the parking lot, leading to the first game inside the \$28 million arena at 6 p.m. against Hillsborough Community College.

The men's team followed with a contest against Broward College at 8 p.m. in the back end of the doubleheader.

SEE **OPENER, 30** ►



The FSW Pep Band adds energy to the gameday atmosphere at Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

OPENER

From page 29

The arena's opening marks a near-culmination of the school's rebuilt athletic programs from the late 1990s, when the school was known as Edison Community College.

Suncoast Credit Union Arena, located on the Lee Campus, is approximately 75,000 square feet and hosts FSW Buccaneers' basketball, and a student athletic center. The arena seats approximately 3,500 fans and includes six skyboxes, a hospitality event center, competition courts that convert into recreational courts, athletic office space, student, faculty and staff wellness, and an athletic center with a fitness pavilion, men's



Above: Sadie Desroches pushing the ball in transition against Hillsborough. At right: Captain Blackbeard.

and women's locker rooms and a weight training area.

In addition the arena will host concerts, and local, regional and national events – a perfect complement to the offerings of the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. 🏴‍☠️



Who Will You Meet at FSW?

BY JENNIFER R. YOUNG

E DUCATION DOESN'T ALWAYS COME from a textbook. Recently, FSW has hosted a slew of special guests and events, offering new perspectives and experiences to students.

From local celebrities like chocolatier Norman Love, best-selling author Garth Stein, and investigative journalist Edwin Black, to the Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery, all have offered motivation for students to think outside of the box, to embrace their creativity, to welcome a variety of opinions, and to not be afraid to fight against injustice.

Many of these guests have even gone above and beyond in their interactions with students. When Virginia Tech Civil Engineering Professor Dr. Marc Edwards visited FSW to speak about his experiences exposing the Washington D.C. and Flint, Mich. water crises, he also attended opening night of Professor Stuart Brown's Theater Program's fall production, "Paragon Springs," and held a talkback with the performers and audience following the show.

"We are training the scientists of the future at FSW, and we owe it to them to have the difficult discussions here in a safe environment so that they are prepared to face the challenges ahead with an ethical framework already in place," Brown said.

Previous FSW events have also included the Black Maria Film Festival, the Education for a New Humanity Symposium, Art as Activism: Emerging Writer's Symposium, and Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week. 🐾



From top and left to right: The Kuumba Dancers & Drummers; Author Garth Stein; Investigative Journalist Edwin Black; The Tibetan Monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery; Dr. Marc Edwards



FSW Student
Leaders Shape
Policy at

‘Rally in



BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT Association (SGA) at FSW isn’t shy about getting involved in issues that matter to them.

Each spring, the SGA’s Executive Board of nine students go to the state capital for “Rally in Tally.” They join hundreds of others from the Florida College System Student Government

Association (FCSSGA) to lobby for four major areas of concern: campus safety, student tuition, decisions on curriculum, and issues affecting the LGBTQ community.

SGA President Korey Lanier explained that the executive board books as many appointments as possible with state representatives. They also monitor what bills are introduced in sessions with the help of FCSSGA’s legislative liaison.

“Being an election year, not a lot of



n Tally'

representatives are pushing bills," said Lanier. "We are on alert with those four main issues. When the bills come down, the executive board will work with the state SGA."

The college's SGA have attended the rally every year. In past years students from FSW have served on the state board as well.

"This is an experience for them,"

explained Linda Johnsen, Assistant Director of Campus Student Engagement. "Last year they had about 15 appointments and met with each state representative or state senator for 15 minutes."

Students from all 28 Florida colleges vote on the official FCSSGA Issues Platform, a document outlining what state and federal issues they will support. Find this year's platform at www.fcssga.org.





Charlotte County business and community leaders added their good wishes to a sign celebrating the WMU-FSW Alliance.

WMU + FSW = WIN

BY TERESA M. ARAQUE

THEY SHARE A VESTED INTEREST IN educating students to become the professionals that communities need. They even share the letter “W” in their names. And when they worked together with Charlotte County, the result is a WIN for everyone. Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) and Western Michigan University (WMU) announced an alliance that will bring more educational opportunities to FSW’s Charlotte Campus.

“By creating a seamless education path, all of our students can train for careers that meet the needs of the Southwest Florida region. Ultimately, the community benefits by having these professionals fill jobs in areas that are needed by those who live and visit here,” said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, FSW President. “We anticipate continued collaboration for years to come as



(l-r) FSW Trustee Eric Loche, FSW President Jeff Allbritten, Rev. Sammie Brooks, WMU President John Dunn.

together we make a positive difference. It’s an exciting time as we welcome WMU to FSW and to Florida.”

The partnership means that more healthcare programs will be offered on

the FSW Charlotte Campus, in addition to WMU’s aviation program. Students will have a seamless path to pursue their undergraduate studies through FSW and continue with WMU. 🐦

FSW ‘Sets the Stage’ for Alumna’s Career in Theatre

BY MCKENZIE CASSIDY

BEFORE FORT MYERS NATIVE Ali Hooks ('13) was hired as stage supervisor for the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, she studied theatre at FSW.

Ali graduated with an A.A. in Technical Theatre. Her plan had been to study acting until she met FSW Professor Stuart Brown. He suggested she explore the technical side of theatre – lighting, sound, set design, and wardrobe– and she was instantly taken by it.

“I owe most of my career to Professor Brown. Learning from him was such a privilege and if anyone else going to the program hasn’t realized it yet, they are in the midst of someone who could totally change their lives,” she said.

Like her famous aunt, Saturday Night Live-cast member Jan Hooks, Ali attended both Cypress Lake High School and FSW. She was too young to know her aunt very well, but said Jan’s success affirmed her own aspirations.

After FSW she transferred to the Gainesville Theatre Alliance (GTA), a unique collaboration between the University of North Georgia and Brenau University, earning a BFA in Technical Direction. Over one season at the Utah Shakespeare Festival she has worked on eight shows in three separate theatre spaces, supervising the crew and stage materials. 🦋



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— **Ali Hooks**, *Fort Myers native*

How 20,089 Days

BY TERESA M. ARAQUE

In 1962, the Yankees won the World Series, Ed McMahon said “Heeere’s Johnny!” and audiences watched The Andy Griffith Show and danced to Chubby Checker’s “Twist” Fifty-five years later, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, the Summer Olympics captured our hearts and audiences loved “Downton Abbey” and danced to Adele and Lady Gaga. Movie fans awaited the opening of “Star Wars’ Rogue One”.



1962

The Andrew Gwynne Institute in downtown Fort Myers became the first home for Edison Junior College.

1980s

The University of South Florida partnered with ECC for several alliances on the Fort Myers campus.

1986

The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall debuted.

1991

Construction started on a 50-acre site within Lely Resort for the Collier Campus in Naples.

1992

The Collier Campus opened.

2000

The Florida legislature granted colleges the authority to offer bachelor’s degrees.



1962

The college named its first president, Dr. Charles E. Rollins

1965

An 80-acre site off Cypress Lake Drive became the first campus for the college. The college named its second president, Dr. David G. Robinson

1984

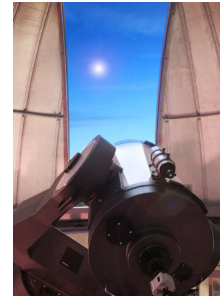
The Edmund Kulakowski Observatory opens on the Fort Myers Campus.

1990

The Charlotte County government donated 80 acres on a long-term lease for the construction of a permanent campus.

1992

The college named its third president, Dr. Kenneth P. Walker



Flew By

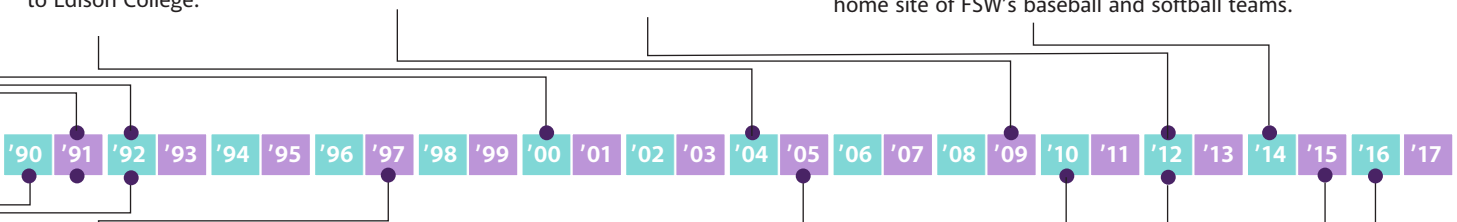


2004
The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery was named and Florida legislature changed Edison Community College to Edison College.

2009
The college opened its first charter high school on the Charlotte Campus.

2012
The college named its fourth president, Dr. Jeff Allbritten.

2014
Florida Legislature approved a name change from Edison State College to Florida SouthWestern State College. FSW launches collegiate athletics and signs a 10-year lease agreement with Lee County for the City of Palms Park, home site of FSW's baseball and softball teams.



1997
The Charlotte Campus opened in Punta Gorda.

2005
The college was accredited to award bachelor's degrees.

2010
A second charter school opened on the Lee Campus and the college began offering intramurals, club sports and fitness programs.

2012
Several key buildings opened: LightHouse Commons, the first dormitory, the Lee Campus U Building for the School of Education, and two new buildings on the Collier Campus: the Allen & Marla Weiss Health Sciences Hall and the Student Services Building.

2015
The college broke ground on the Suncoast Credit Union Arena, home to the college's men's and women's basketball teams, and the future women's volleyball team.

2016
The Suncoast Credit Union Arena opened to great fanfare on November 29.



Looking ahead in 2017?

The opening of the Education Hall building on the Hendry/Glades Curtis Center in LaBelle, the launch of additional degrees and certifications, and more research and study abroad opportunities for faculty and students.



All in the Family

BY TERESA M. ARAQUE

FOR FSW STUDENT DELBERT MILLER, whether it's his Army family or his FSW family, a sense of community is important. He spent 10 years serving, with a tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I see FSW as a friendly environment and I enjoy the smaller class sizes," he said. "The faculty and staff here bend over backwards to help, to empower you. Adaptive Services' Miss Angie actively seeks students in order to assist in their educational needs. Here at FSW the professors know your name. Being in the Army and being involved with FSW is the similar in that both are a community and you feel part of team."

Miller is active at FSW; as president of the Veterans Club and vice president of Student Government Association. He's also 2nd Vice commander of the American Legion Post 38, and helps plan the college's Memorial Day, 9-11 and Veterans Day events.

He plans to graduate from FSW in 2017 with his AA degree before going to Florida Gulf Coast University for his bachelor's degree in economics. From there he wants to go to the University of South Florida for his doctorate in philosophy with a focus on economics.

"I see myself working for a Fortune 500 company, being involved with the post-secondary education system, and helping other veterans take full advantage of their education benefits," he said. "They've earned it." 🐾



Delbert Miller, second from right, joins fellow veteran students in placing a wreath at the Iraq War Heroes monument in Cape Coral.



Delbert Miller, second from left, is vice president of FSW's Student Government Association.



During his 10 years of service, Delbert Miller served tours for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Making a Lasting IMPACT



Let's make a lasting impact together on the career aspirations of future leaders. Our students today will be the professionals of tomorrow. Their real-world training, skilled hands and sharp minds are exactly what help make Southwest Florida a great place to live and to play.

Join the FSW Foundation in our quest to make a lasting impact for generations to come. *Your moment is now.*

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