



## A LEGACY OF GIVING:

Announcing the Ann Blanton  
Edwards School of Nursing  
and Health Sciences





# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Florida Southern community continues to chart a course together towards a bright future. I hope you enjoy reading about the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences, the FSC Planetarium restoration, and the naming of Berend Field. These new and remarkably engaging academic and sport facilities all support our impressive FSC trajectory of excellence.

Academically, the creative vision and shared efforts of our students and faculty continue to drive Florida Southern to new heights of distinction on the national stage.

FSC was lauded by *U.S. News & World Report* this fall for our commitment to engaged learning and the experiential leadership opportunities we offer students outside of the classroom.

The prestigious guide named FSC as the 8th Best Regional University in the South along with two other Top 10 rankings.

The guide further highlighted the national prominence of our business and nursing programs, naming them among the best in the nation.

The *Princeton Review* celebrated FSC as one among the *Best 387 Colleges* in the country, again highlighting the breathtaking beauty and architectural grandeur of our wondrous campus for the 12th consecutive year.

In a shower of accolades, *Poets&Quants*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Fortune*, and *The Princeton Review* highlighted FSC's Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise and Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences as foremost programs in the nation for business and nursing education.

Even as we celebrate our shared victories, FSC continues to invest in our students and faculty in order to meet critical needs facing our local, state, and national communities.

With the support of transformational gifts from Ann Blanton Edwards and Ward Edwards, we have expanded our newly named Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences by purchasing new property to house our rapidly growing nursing program. Our nursing faculty and students celebrated the graduation of FSC's first cohort of Doctor of Nursing Practice students this fall.

Furthermore, with the beginning of the fall semester, FSC students and faculty took up residence in the beautiful, new Carole and Marcus Weinstein Computer Sciences Center. Thanks to the generosity of Carole and Marcus Weinstein, the building now equips our computer science department with high-tech classrooms and collaborative learning spaces.

We are committed to striving forward together. With a vast community of FSC alumni and partners, our FSC family draws on a treasured legacy to guide us as we shape a better, brighter world for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne B. Kerr'.

Anne B. Kerr, Ph.D.

President



“The creative vision and shared efforts of our students and faculty continue to drive Florida Southern to new heights of distinction on the national stage.”

4



## 2 NEWS

2 Among the Stars!

## 4 COVER STORY

4 Training Heroes to Meet the Need

## 10 WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FSC

10 Meet Dr. Sara Fletcher Harding

11 Lights, Camera, PREACH!

15 FSC Welcomes New Members  
on the Board of Trustees

## 16 MOCS ON THE MOVE

Abby '03 and Jason '02 Rodda

Laura Hawley '83

Eric Osborne '98

John Adams '92

Sharlene Shillingford '96

Dr. Diana Cardona '99

Mark O'Brien '89

## 20 SPORTS

20 Fielding Dreams

Announcing Berend Field

24 A Tradition of Excellence

## 29 IN REMEMBRANCE

29 Remembering Dr. Christoverson

## 30 CAMPUS UPDATE

30 FSC Planetarium Restoration

## 33 FACULTY AND STAFF RETIREMENTS

Brenda Lewis

Sara Penny

Penny Snoke-Boyd

Steven Petrie

Gloria Thompson

Margaret Taylor

Linda Horn

## 34 CLASSNOTES

## 38 IN MEMORIAM

## 41 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

## 41 WHY I GIVE

Matt Southmayd '99

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# AMONG THE STARS!

## AS A DISTINCTIVE LIVING-LEARNING SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY

We demonstrated tenacity and commitment to garner a record number of accolades, recognitions, and top placements in prestigious college ranking guides AGAIN!

Excitement flooded campus as FSC advanced to #8 among the top 10 “Best Regional Universities in the South” in this year’s edition of **U.S. News & World Report’s** distinguished college rankings guide, up from its #9 placement last year.

**U.S. News & World Report** spotlighted FSC’s national prominence in undergraduate education, ranking the College at #8 for “**Best Undergraduate Teaching**” and #10 for “**Most Innovative**” among FSC’s peers. The new rankings also promoted the College’s outstanding business and nursing programs, naming FSC as one of the “**Best Undergraduate Business Programs**” and, for the first time this year, as one of the “**Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs**” in the nation.

“FSC’s stellar faculty and staff work together to equip and empower all of our students for success,” said FSC Provost

Dr. Brad Hollingshead. “**U.S. News & World Report’s** continued recognition of the College underscores the remarkable work of these educators and recognizes that a Florida Southern education is one that truly makes a difference in students’ lives.”

**U.S. News & World Report** utilizes academic surveys and data concerning four- and six-year graduation rates, freshman retention rates, student SAT and ACT score averages, and faculty to student ratios to produce college rankings.

**The Princeton Review’s** prestigious guide **The Best 387 Colleges** celebrates FSC for our academic excellence and breathtaking campus beauty for the 12th consecutive year. Only 15% of four-year colleges nationwide are profiled in the guidebook.

### Q&A WITH THE PRINCETON REVIEW’S ROB FRANEK

Rob Franek, Editor-in-Chief at The Princeton Review, is a nationally sourced expert on colleges and higher education. Over his 28-year career, he has been a college admissions administrator, publisher, editor, author, and lecturer. In his tenure with The Princeton Review, he has visited hundreds of high schools, colleges, and universities.



Rob Franek, Editor-in-Chief at The Princeton Review.

**Q. What sort of prestige is associated with appearing in the Princeton Review Best Colleges guide?**

**A.** First, I must say what fans we are at The Princeton Review of Florida Southern College. It offers outstanding academics, has truly dedicated administrative leaders, faculty and staff and a student body that is contagious with energy. I speak with first-hand knowledge as I have personally visited Florida Southern many times as part of our research for our book and our surveys for this project. As to the prestige of being a school we profile in our “Best Colleges” guide — I can answer that with simple math: only about 15% of the four-year colleges in America are in the guide. We profiled 387 in the current edition of the book. Of the 100 four-year colleges in Florida, Florida Southern is one of only 11 in our book. We are delighted to have recommended it to students since 2007 when we added it to our book.



**The Best 387 Colleges** guide underscores the key role that FSC’s beautiful campus environment plays in sustaining a holistic college experience, as attested to by our students.

FSC is one of just 10 Florida-based institutions featured in the **“2021-2022 Colleges of Distinction”** guide, which analyzes and constructs college rankings based on four primary factors: engaged students, great teaching, a vibrant community, and successful outcomes. The **“2021-2022 Colleges of Distinction”** guidebook praises FSC’s Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise alongside the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the College’s School of Education.

FSC is featured as **“one of the best and most interesting schools in the U.S.”** in the **Fiske Guide to Colleges 2022**, an authoritative guide to more than 300 of the best colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland. Furthermore, **Poets&Quants** has named the Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise among the **“Best Undergraduate Business Programs”** in the nation at #52, up from last year’s listing at #74.

**Intelligent.com** ranks FSC among the best schools for experiential education in the state of Florida at #14 out of 49.

FSC’s graduate programs continue the stellar record of accolades. Revered guides such as **U.S. News & World Report** and **The Princeton Review** further laud the Barney

Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise, the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and FSC’s School of Education as foremost programs in the nation for graduate-level studies.

**Fortune** named FSC among the best business programs for an online MBA in the state of Florida (#2), the South (#26), and the Nation (#63), and **CEO Magazine** listed FSC’s online MBA among the best in the world at #40. Further, **Forbes** listed Florida Southern within its “America’s Top Colleges 2021” guide.

Encouraged by the College’s high rankings and numerous praises, Dr. Anne B. Kerr continues to look to FSC’s bright future as an exemplar of higher learning and academic distinction on the national stage.

“I am elated by the flood of honors, accolades, and recognitions that have highlighted FSC’s place among the best and most innovative academic institutions in the nation,” said Dr. Anne B. Kerr. “These accolades underscore FSC’s pairing of top-tier collaborative research with creative pedagogical approaches, made possible by FSC’s world-class faculty, dedicated staff, and extraordinary students. I am immensely proud that we foster a close-knit and thriving campus community that encourages collaborative exploration of the questions and challenges facing our world today.” ■

**Q. Do potential students and their parents look to the Princeton Review’s Best Colleges guide series to choose a college?**

**A.** Yes. We are heartened by the number of people who are familiar with and trust The Princeton Review as a source for broad and timely information to find their “best fit” college. We’ve published our “Best Colleges” guide for 30 years. Millions of people have used it and checked out our profiles of the colleges we publish on our website. What distinguishes our information about schools from all other sources is our dozens of categories of ranking lists. On surveys of students at the colleges about the accuracy of our profiles of their colleges and which ranking lists their colleges make in the book, we’ve received, overall and on average, an 85% accuracy rating score over the years. We’re proud of that.

**Q. Florida Southern College has appeared in the Princeton Review’s Best Colleges guide series for the past 12 years now, what should that mean for alumni of the College?**

**A.** Actually, the leadership at Florida Southern can thank the alumni for Florida Southern’s legacy in our book. It has made our “Most Beautiful Campus” list for the past 11 years. All of the 62 “top 20” ranking lists we report in the book are based on our surveys of students at the colleges in the book whom we survey for this project. So it’s the alumni students who participated in our past surveys of Florida Southern who are responsible for these distinctions. And their views of the school are what we bring to prospective applicants perusing our profiles in our book and our ranking lists. So we also say thank you, Florida Southern alumni. ■

## The Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing & Health Sciences



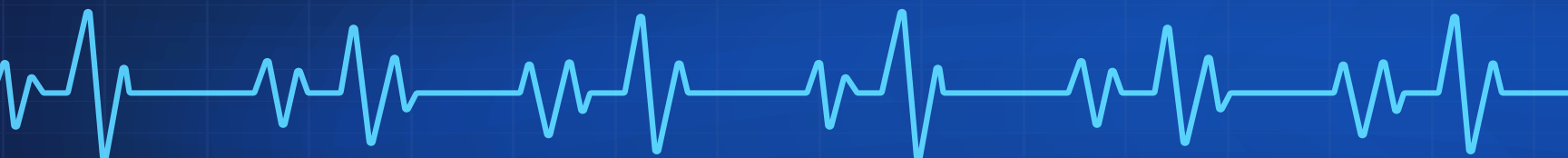
### TRAINING HEROES TO MEET THE NEED

**W**e equip heroes. Florida Southern College is rising to meet a critical need for skilled, compassionate nursing professionals by investing in our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs.

As a growing shortage of qualified healthcare professionals threatens to cripple our nation's healthcare system, Florida Southern is striving to prepare nurses and nurse practitioners using a blend of innovative teaching practices and cutting-edge simulation training technology.



*The Joe K. and Alberta Blanton Undergraduate Nursing Building.*



# THE GENEROSITY OF ANN BLANTON EDWARDS AND WARD EDWARDS CONTINUES

Ann Blanton Edwards and Ward Edwards have deep roots in Lakeland. They personify the inviting, generous spirit of Lakeland and its community. Ann has grown alongside the city and its central institutions, including Florida Southern College.

Ann is the eldest daughter of Alberta and Joe K. Blanton. Joe was a former president of Publix Supermarkets who started with Publix as a butcher before working his way up to become a chief executive and trusted friend of George W. Jenkins, Publix's founder. Alberta and Joe were cornerstone members of the Lakeland community as leaders and philanthropists. They were charter members of Parkview Baptist Church, where they both attended and served actively. Joe served as a mentor with the church's youth group. Alberta had a love for sports, golfing in particular, and she knit the community together. She was a founding member of the Lone Palm Golf Club, the Lone Palm Women's Golf Association, the Garden Club, and the LP Investment Club.

Both Joe and Alberta gave generously to meaningful and transformative organizations within Lakeland. Alberta believed in developing the community by investing in its future, and she began supporting FSC's nursing program with a vision to equip and empower talented nurses for the Lakeland area.

Ann has lived and worked in Lakeland as a nurse and an educator, while Ward enjoyed a successful career in the Publix Bakery operation. Ann has served the Lakeland area in a variety of ways, from her first job at Publix at the age of 12 to her career within the community as a nurse for the Polk County Health Department, her time as an instructor of nursing at Polk State College, or her foray into the business world as the owner of Lakeland Farmers Market. Like her mother, Ann is a passionate and avid golfer, a sports enthusiast, and a generous supporter of Florida Southern College.



*Ann Blanton Edwards.*



*Ward Edwards.*

As a former nurse, Ann supports engaging and innovative nursing education with her philanthropy. The Edwards' transformational partnership with Florida Southern's Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences over the years has enabled the program to flourish. Ann and Ward have given generously in the past to create and expand the Joe K. and Alberta Blanton Nursing Building, a beautiful, high-tech facility that features technologically advanced nursing skills labs with high-fidelity simulators, faculty offices, and student and faculty lounges. Most recently, Ann and Ward have made yet another transformative investment to purchase new property to house FSC's growing graduate nursing program.

## A FAMILY LEGACY OF GIVING BACK

"My parents, Joe and Alberta Blanton, possessed a love for giving back to our community and supporting creative, impactful visions," said Ann Blanton Edwards. "My father gave joyously, and my mother was passionate about supporting nursing education. As a nurse, I am proud to uphold my parents' legacy by supporting Florida Southern's nursing program and its focus on meeting communal and national healthcare needs."



*Alberta and Joe K. Blanton.*

Ann and Ward have long been supportive partners of Florida Southern College's athletic and academic programs, and they will forever be remembered for their ground-breaking investment to name the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences and expand the graduate nursing program with new property and equipment.

With Ann and Ward's beneficent giving, Florida Southern has been able to recruit outstanding nursing faculty, equip our students with cutting-edge patient simulation technology, and expand the School of Nursing and Health Sciences to new buildings and properties in support of the College's rapidly expanding undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. In honor of their valued leadership and transformative beneficence, Florida Southern College awarded both Ann Blanton Edwards and Ward Edwards with Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters on October 31, 2021.



*Nursing students at work in the nursing labs and practicing engaged learning with new patient simulators.*

## **NURSING CRISIS CONTINUES**

A combination of converging threats have pushed the U.S. Department of Labor and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to sound the alarm for increased enrollment and training of nursing professionals at the baccalaureate and graduate levels.

The Department of Labor predicts that at least 437,000 new jobs will be added in the field by 2026.

State-by-state analysis shows that the nursing shortage will be most intense in the American South and West. In Florida alone, the demand for registered nurses is projected to increase by 76,600 or 31%.

## **FLORIDA SOUTHERN TEAMS UP WITH ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Florida Southern has long provided a rich and dynamic environment to equip nursing students with clinical-based leadership, teaching, and research skills for excellent practice and service in the healthcare industry. To meet our country's rising need, FSC alumni, faculty, and current nursing students are joining forces with our community to train highly skilled nurses and nurse practitioners.

With an inspiring and transformative gift from Ann Blanton Edwards and Ward Edwards, Florida Southern College

**“In Florida alone, the demand for registered nurses is projected to increase by 76,600 or 31%.”**

announced the new Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences this past summer. The newly named school reflects the College's continuing investment in FSC's world-class nursing curriculum, faculty, current students, and alumni.

“At a time wherein our country faces a looming healthcare crisis, Ward and I are thrilled to join with Florida Southern's outstanding faculty, dedicated staff, and world-class



*Dr. Brad Hollingshead, FSC Provost, hooding Dr. Ann Blanton Edwards as a Doctor of Humane Letters.*



“With such forward thinking expansions and investments, Florida Southern continues to see record enrollment in its undergraduate and graduate nursing programs due to the increasingly high demand for skilled nurses in Central Florida and across our nation.”

- Dr. Anne B. Kerr



Newly acquired St. Joseph's Academy property for FSC's graduate nursing program.

students who make up the School of Nursing and Health Sciences in order to meet this overwhelming need for talented, effective nursing professionals,” said Ann Blanton Edwards, a trustee of Florida Southern College and retired nurse. “This expansion and naming of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences will benefit our local, state, and national communities by providing our nursing students with a comprehensive education in the liberal arts and sciences as they examine the latest nursing practices and gain the clinical experience needed to become expert caregivers.”

To further support the training of our graduate students, FSC recently acquired St. Joseph's Academy. The new

property will house the MSN and DNP degree programs, helping meet the demand for training spaces for our rapidly growing undergraduate nursing program.

“The strong support over time that has been evidenced by Ann Blanton Edwards and her husband Ward, has provided a strong foundation for the success of our nursing programs,” said Dean Linda Comer. “All the equipment and physical space required for nursing education is very expensive, and as a nurse herself, Ann Blanton Edwards understands the critical nature of a positive learning environment on the development of a strong nurse who can function at their professional best for their patients.”

## FACULTY AND STUDENTS WORKING SIDE-BY-SIDE

Scholar-practitioners lead our students as they train within the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The faculty team brings decades of collective expertise in a variety of nursing fields to the classroom.

Partnerships with local leaders and alumni have allowed Florida Southern to recruit and retain innovative, talented, and dedicated professors. For example, Dr. Keith Berend '92, a trustee of FSC, and his wife Cindy recently invested in FSC's first endowed chair for the nursing school, the Dr. Keith R. Berend Endowed Chair in Nursing. Dean Linda Comer has been appointed as the first recipient of the endowed chair.





Current nursing students participate in clinical practice at Lakeland Regional Hospital.

Florida Southern's graduates have risen to the top of their professions, working for the most elite hospitals in the country.

"Florida Southern College is investing heavily in the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences as we see record high enrollment numbers in our nursing programs," said Dr. Anne B. Kerr. "Our shared work in educating and equipping the future generations of America's nurses, nurse practitioners, administrative leaders, and nursing educators would not be possible without the support and patronage of alumni and community partners. The wonderful generosity of the Edwards, the Berends, and so many dedicated donors has raised Florida Southern's nursing program to new heights of distinction. I am elated that the College was able to honor Ann and Ward in October with Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters for their impactful leadership and transformative support for nursing education."

More than 2,000 alumni of our nursing programs provide quality nursing care around the country, and FSC's growing nursing programs are positioned to have a lasting and substantive impact on the future of healthcare in our nation. ■

The Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences thanks the following wonderful alumni and friends for their recent support of the Nursing Program, including the new Graduate Nursing Building.

**In grateful appreciation to Ann Blanton Edwards and Ward Edwards**

**OUR GENEROUS BENEFACTORS**

- Cindy & Keith Berend '92 and Family
- Gilda and Joe Capitano '60
- Reina and Al Garcia III '90
- Rose Lee Garcia
- Anne MacGregor Jenkins Fund at GiveWell
- Richard Jensen '59
- Brenda and Domingo Moreira '67
- Marshall and Vera Rinker Foundation, Inc.
- Sheila and John Rinker
- Susan Roberts '66
- Sally and Dr. John Verner
- Truist Foundation

For more information about naming opportunities or other ways to support the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences, please contact Heather Pharris at 863.680.4754 or [hpharris@FLSouthern.edu](mailto:hpharris@FLSouthern.edu).

# TWO EXAMPLES OF NURSING EXCELLENCE

## EQUIPPING FUTURE HEALTHCARE LEADERS

### COMER NAMED TO DR. KEITH R. BEREND ENDOWED CHAIR IN NURSING

Dean Linda Comer is an extraordinary leader who emphasizes shaping the next generation of nurses to help their patients to heal, grow, and contribute. Her vision for modern nursing education at Florida Southern College is grounded in her more than 35 years of experience as an administrator, educator, critical care nurse, and mental health counselor.



*Dean Linda Comer.*

“I believe that as a nurse educator, I can change the world just a little by empowering students with nursing knowledge and a desire for lifelong learning,” Dean Comer reflected.

Dean Comer received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She went on to complete a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on Nursing Education, a Master of Science in Community Counseling, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Curricular Foundations of Education from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dean Comer’s education and career in the field of nursing grows out of a lifelong passion for the study of medicine, patient care and advocacy, and the vocation of teaching.

“I hope that my impact will be positive in both local and national arenas,” said Dean Comer. “At Florida Southern, my goal is for our school to increase the number of exceptional nurses and nurse practitioners to meet the healthcare needs of the local area and beyond. Polk County is designated as a medically-underserved area, with a shortage of both nurses and primary care providers. I am committed to the social mission of nursing, which reflects the values of Florida Southern in terms of desire to make a substantial impact on society. An educator is always most proud of the accomplishments of their students, and that will be my legacy.”

### FIRST DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE GRADUATING CLASS

On August 24th, FSC recognized the granting of doctoral degrees to the school’s first cohort of DNP students in a hooding ceremony. The students, Doris Thornhill, Sara Bashyam, Tracie Barber, Carol Anderson, Dianna Moorer, Kristen Milinazzo, and Elizabeth Palazzi-Xirinaches, presented their capstone scholarly project posters in the Joe K. and Alberta Blanton Nursing Building on August 11, 2021.

As part of the College’s engaged learning curriculum, DNP students are required to select a real-world health issue, examine current literature, and implement evidence-based interventions to improve population health and healthcare delivery. Under the guidance of Dr. Melanie Michael, associate professor and director of the graduate nursing program, and Dr. Tracy Magee, assistant professor of pediatric nursing, the final DNP scholarly projects represent the culmination of the six-semester program.

“Our Doctor of Nursing Practice degree prepares a nurse to practice at the highest level of the profession, bringing skills in leadership, quality enhancement, and innovation to bear on the challenging issues evident in the current healthcare environment,” said Dean Comer. “Our first graduating class developed projects that positively impacted heart failure patient outcomes, infant safe sleep and potential infant mortality, telehealth service implementation, and care of chest pain patients.”



*Members of the inaugural graduating class of the Florida Southern College Doctor of Nursing Practice program. From left to right: Doris Thornhill, DNP; Sara Bashyam, DNP; Tracie Barber, DNP; Carol Anderson, DNP; Dianna Moorer, DNP; Dr. Melanie Michael, Director of the Graduate Nursing Program; Dr. Tracy Magee, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Nursing and Education Coordinator; Kristen Milinazzo, DNP; Elizabeth Palazzi-Xirinaches, DNP.*

## MEET THE DEAN!

### DR. SARA FLETCHER HARDING APPOINTED AS NEW DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

This fall, Florida Southern College appointed Dr. Sara Fletcher Harding as the new Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, the College's largest school. Dean Harding served as interim dean for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, and she holds faculty rank as a tenured Professor of Religion.

"It is an honor and a joy to be appointed as Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and to serve its students and faculty in this capacity," said Dr. Harding. "As an administrator with deep roots at FSC, I have an unwavering commitment to faculty excellence, engaged learning, and interdisciplinary student experiences that facilitate possibility and growth."

Dr. Harding joined the faculty of FSC in 1997. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan University, her M.A. in Religion from Iliff School of Theology, and her Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a concentration in New Testament from Marquette University. Dr. Harding has received numerous accolades that highlight her engaging pedagogy and classroom presence, including the Omicron Delta Kappa Teacher of the Year Award (2010), the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC Exemplary Teaching Award (2010), the Miller Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching (2015), and the Ben and Janice Wade Outstanding Teaching Award (2019).

Dr. Harding is an interdisciplinary scholar who promotes dialogue between the humanities and the sciences. She has worked as a co-editor of *Religion and Science: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies*, which resulted from her collaborations with Dr. Nancy M. Morvillo, chair of FSC's biology department. In 2011, on behalf of the College and her colleagues, Dr. Harding received a competitive International



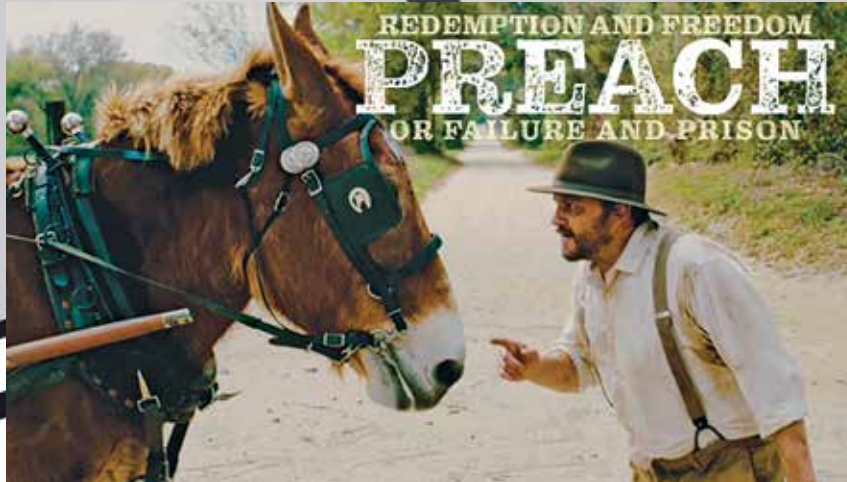
*Dr. Sara Fletcher Harding named Dean of FSC's School of Arts & Sciences.*

Society for Science and Religion Library Award. In 2012, she participated in the Jessie Ball duPont Seminar, which was sponsored by the National Humanities Center to encourage interdisciplinary connections in college-level teaching.

"Dr. Harding is an exemplary leader inside and outside the classroom, as evidenced by her numerous teaching awards and accolades from her fellow faculty and students," said Dr. Anne B. Kerr. "As a renowned interdisciplinary scholar of the sciences and religion, Dr. Harding blends the perspectives of the humanities and the sciences in her teaching and research. As dean, she draws Florida Southern's arts and sciences faculty and students together by fostering an academic environment that encourages engaged, interdisciplinary learning." ■

"I have an unwavering commitment to faculty excellence, engaged learning, and interdisciplinary student experiences that facilitate possibility and growth."

- Dr. Sara Fletcher Harding



# “LIGHTS, CAMERA, PREACH!”

FLORIDA SOUTHERN’S FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI PRODUCING SUCCESS TOGETHER

The arts are alive and thriving at Florida Southern College! Professor Tim Register, assistant professor of film at FSC, hones his practice outside of the classroom with creative projects shaped to impact our community and world. Professor Register’s most recent project, “Preach,” is set to air soon across North America.

“Preach” follows the ministry of a war-torn United Methodist minister, Carl ‘Preach’ MacNicol, who is gifted a chance to redeem himself as he seeks to control his inner demons. The series is inspired by the life story of Professor Register’s grandfather, a gambler turned revival preacher who established a congregation in Florida during the period of the Great Depression.

“Preach” unfolds as a redemption story exploring whether or not Reverend MacNicol will be able to guide his parish to love one another or instead fall prey to his anger and haunted past. Set in the fictional town of “Nineveh” in South Georgia following World War I, Reverend MacNicol embarks to lead his small congregation to practice selfless love within their community. Professor Register hopes that the series will call its audience to the same loving acceptance of their neighbors in today’s world.

## ENGAGED LEARNING

Like many academic institutions, the faculty at FSC pursue, create, and publish their own individual research and creative products. What sets FSC apart from other institutions is our faculty’s emphasis on working collaboratively with students by engaging them in the creative process of their fields.



Professor Tim Register (left) on the set of “Preach”.

“I teach my students, day one: be helpful, be collaborative, show up early and help other departments clean up at the end of the day.”

– Professor Tim Register



*Prof. Tim Register on set with the cast and production team.*

Professor Register and the rest of FSC's film faculty actively draws students and alumni into their work to teach and provide internship and early career support to Florida Southern students and graduates. "Preach" represents one such project, a collaborative joint venture among FSC faculty, students, alumni, and local business partners to launch an artistic vision while simultaneously training screenwriters, directors, producers, film crew, and creators.

Florida Southern faculty bring relevant industry experience into the classroom and training process, functioning as both knowledgeable professors and real-world mentors for FSC students. Professor Register guides his students in honing their script writing, broadcasting, and directing skills even as he walks them through the everyday life of the film industry, such as navigating the process of getting in the door and moving up the ranks.

Professor Register teaches his students that skill alone is not enough to move forward, and he draws students to focus on becoming a part of the film team with a collaborative spirit.

*"I tell them that you are never finished writing until it makes air."*

*— Professor Tim Register*

"I teach my students, day one: be helpful, be collaborative, show up early and help other departments clean up at the end of the day," said Professor Register. "Be there for your team, be pleasant, and bring the donuts every once and a while — that's day one. The individual with the best equipment who isn't a team player gets bumped down the call list compared to the individual who shows up ready to do their job and support the whole team."



*Co-Executive Producer Barney Barnett '65 and Carol Jenkins Barnett '79.*



Co-Executive Producer Wesley Barnett and Ashley B. Barnett '05 with their daughters, Raleigh and Birdie.



Co-Executive Producer Nicholas Barnett '18 and Ashley G. Barnett '13 and their daughter, Zoey.

With influential contacts across the film industry, Professor Register helps place students as interns at production companies like NFocus, Nickelodeon, National Geographic, and Disney. Yet, he repeatedly tells his students that once they are in the door, the path to getting a call back and hired for different projects lies in teamwork, collaboration, and sincerity.

Modeling the spirit of teamwork, “Preach” has truly functioned as a collaborative FSC project. The film series involved FSC film students, recent graduates, and a wide range of alumni with Professor Register at the helm. For current students and recent graduates, the film project provided practical, engaged learning and real world experience in script writing and re-writing, acting, filming techniques, production and post-production editing, and more.

### REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE, RESUME BUILDING

Taylor Tyre '19, a recent FSC graduate, served as Assistant to the Director of the series by pitching her ideas and helping Professor Register to work with the script day in and day out. Chandler Fletcher '23, a current FSC student, took on a key role across the first half of the series by acting as the warden of Reverend MacNicol’s prison. Alumni such as Jesse Larson '09, president of NFocus, Dean McGregor '19, and Ashley Barnett '13 took on various acting and

production roles on the set. Barney '65 and Carol Jenkins '79 Barnett invested in the project to make it possible, and Wesley and Nicholas Barnett '18 both served as part of the production team for the series.

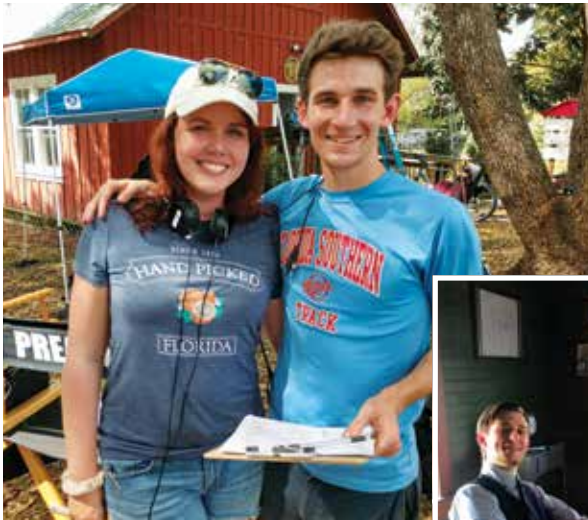


Jesse Larson '09, President of NFocus.

Professor Register also brings his professional projects into the classroom so that numerous students engage with “Preach” in hands-on classroom learning experiences. For example, students in Professor Register’s screenwriting class drew from the scripts and film reels of “Preach” to discuss a scene that Professor Register and the crew had to rewrite on the spot because of uncooperative weather when they shot it.

Professor Register uses the example and others like it to reinforce with his students that the screenwriting process is an ongoing, living work: “I tell them that you are never finished writing until it makes air. You’re not finished writing because something will happen on the set, or an actor or production assistant or member of the art department will have a better idea so that, if you’re willing to be open to it, you are never finished writing.”

Next semester, students in Professor Register's directing class will interact with original scripts, pictures from the shooting location, and raw, uncut footage so that they can practice blocking and pitching their own perspectives in class.

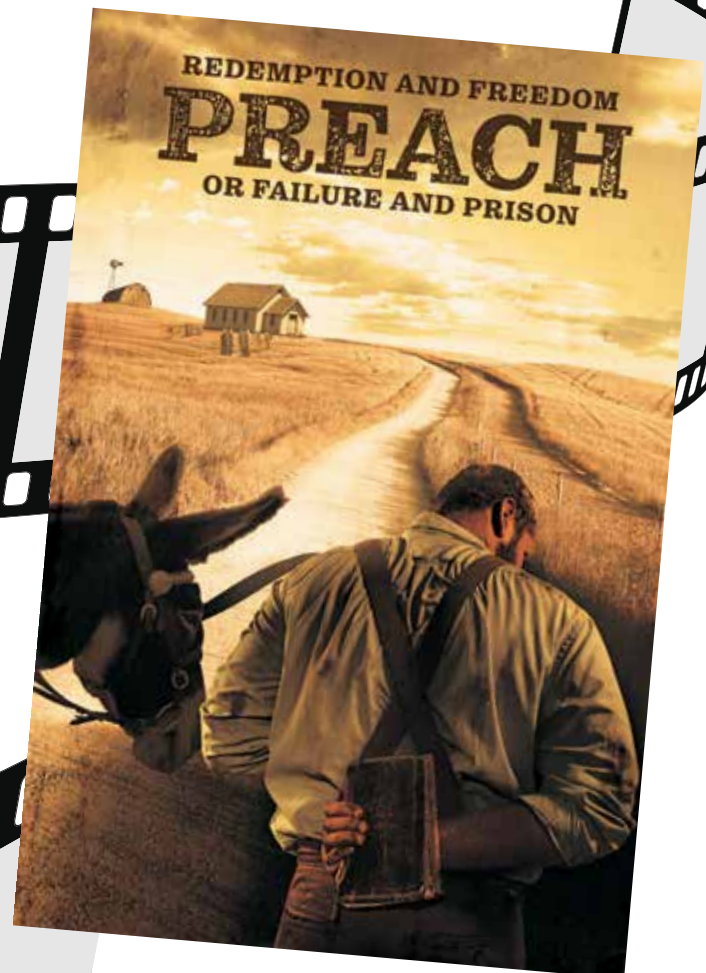


Taylor Tyre '19, Assistant to the Director, and Chandler Fletcher '23, above, and on set with Chandler in costume for his role as prison warden.



## SERIES WILL AIR ON CABLE

The series has turned out to be a huge success for Professor Register and his partners at NFocus, and none of it would have been possible without the team of FSC students, alumni, and faculty who took part in the project. A major cable network has recently purchased the series, richly returning the investment of supporters like Steve Maxwell and the Barnetts. The Preach series will touch the hearts of a vast North American audience with its message of personal transformation and love for one's neighbor. Professor Register intends to continue using the series and other film projects to build relationships with students as well as provide experiential classroom teaching moments, internship opportunities, and early career experiences for FSC film graduates: "You know, God willing, season two of 'Preach' and beyond happens, so that I am able to incorporate my students on future projects and help them hone their career skills." ■







# FSC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



*Pictured from left to right is Al Garcia, III, the late Nick Capitano and the late Al Garcia, Jr.*

## **ALFONSO GARCIA, III '90**

Since 1991, Alfonso "Al" Garcia, III, has been the owner/operator of Best Line Oil in Tampa, Florida. The company began in 1935 and is a third generation, family-owned business that specializes in wholesale lubricant and fuel distribution throughout central Florida.

Florida Southern College is a family tradition as Mr. Garcia graduated from Florida Southern in 1990 with a degree in Marketing Management and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. His late father, Alfonso Garcia, Jr., graduated in 1960 with a B.S. in Business Administration, and his daughter, Alexis Mary Garcia, is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts. His uncle, Joseph Capitano, Sr., also graduated from FSC in 1958.

Mr. Garcia has been married to Reina Isabel Garcia for more than 22 years and they also have a son, Nicholas Garcia, who is a freshman at Clemson University.

Mr. Garcia has previously served on the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association board and is a member of the Rough Riders of Tampa.

## **CAROLINE HEATH SCHICHEL**

Caroline Heath Schichtel is the Vice President for Community Service at the Heath Funeral Chapel and is the daughter of the late Foster '49 and Doris '39 Heath, founders of Heath Funeral Chapel in Lakeland, Florida.

Mrs. Schichtel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Stetson University in 1978. After working in management for seven years at Southern Bell in Ft. Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, she returned to Lakeland. She is married to William Schichtel and they have four children and three grandchildren.

The Schichtels are long-term members of First United Methodist Church. Mrs. Schichtel is a respected community leader who has been involved with PTA, Lakeland Assemblies Cotillion Club, PEO Chapter CP and a Sustainer in the Junior League of Greater Lakeland.

Mrs. Schichtel is a staunch advocate for quality higher education and has been instrumental in working with Florida Southern College on a variety of scholarship and programmatic sponsorships.



## **REMEMBER TO SUPPORT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE BEFORE THE END OF 2021 AND RECEIVE TAX BENEFITS**

As we approach the end of 2021, it is time to reflect on all that Florida Southern has been able to accomplish during this hectic and complicated year.

Thanks to your support, Florida Southern has funded new Scholarships to assist our students in reaching their dreams by earning a degree, developed and expanded academic programs to meet the needs of today's workforce, and improved our college infrastructure to meet ever-changing technology demands.

In order to keep our momentum strong, we ask that you please consider a final year-end gift by returning the enclosed gift remittance envelope or make your gift today at [FLSouthern.edu/give](https://www.flsouthern.edu/give).

# MOCS ON THE MOVE!

## ABBY '03 AND JASON '02 RODDA

Jason and Abby have grown alongside FSC and Lakeland, often driving aspects of FSC and Lakeland's growth and transformation themselves! Jason graduated summa cum laude with a double major in business administration and finance in 2002, while Abby graduated a year later as a Presidential Scholar who majored in criminology with a minor in sociology.

They are both intertwined in the cultural, business, and religious life of Florida Southern and Lakeland. With four children, their family life is the core of who they are.

As Abby puts it, "Family is where I am most grounded. My family keeps me in check and keeps me humble," or, as Jason reflected, "With six of us, we are our own traveling party at this point! In the midst of our busy lives, we make it a point to build in family time."

Both Jason and Abby have pursued impactful careers and roles here in Lakeland and beyond. After working in insurance with GEICO, Abby shifted her focus to nurturing her children. Yet, that hasn't kept her from leadership. She began attending an international Bible study group, Bible Study Fellowship, and the group soon asked her to move into a role as leader among the women's bible study groups. Within a few years, she was in charge of the Lakeland area class, and she now serves as an advisor for the entire Central Florida area. She was also recently ordained as a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland.

Jason has built a career and, in many ways, taken up his father John's mantle in the community and at FSC, where he has served as a trustee since 2018. Reflecting on the trajectory of his life, he noted times of suffering that turned out to be powerful moments of transformation.

"I played baseball at FSC, but after being hit by a line drive during the summer between my sophomore and junior years, I was told I would never be able to play again," Jason recalled. "And yet, that painful transition helped me to focus in on my studies and led me to add my second major and minors.



Abby '03 and Jason '02 Rodda with their four children: Johnny, Ila, Evelyn, and Grace.

I definitely view it as God guiding me to focus on starting my career and family."

As a senior at FSC, Jason decided to pursue finance instead of business, and then at the last minute realized that he wanted to work with his family's business. So, he put the marketing and business skills he had developed at FSC to use for Rodda Construction. Jason noted that his father's battle with cancer, another time of suffering, really pushed him and his uncle Jodie into leadership roles, baptizing them by fire in a way. Again, the experience was ultimately fruitful for Jason and for the company.

Thinking back to their time at FSC, they viewed their personal growth as something fostered by and shared with the College. "The campus has just transformed," Jason said. "It really is world class, and being able to watch the college grow alongside us by investing in the best professors, the finest facilities, and some outstanding new students has been an amazing experience."

Abby expressed similar sentiments: "I am just so glad we stayed in Lakeland. I first set foot on FSC's campus as a terrified freshman, I mean terrified, and yet every experience and leadership opportunity there just changed me and grew me a little bit more."

When asked what one thing they would accomplish magically if given the chance, both Jason and Abby were of one accord in their answer: "Our one goal is that all of our children believe in Jesus Christ; that is our one heart's desire."

## LAURA HAWLEY '83

Laura Hawley is a longtime resident and influential leader in the Lakeland Community. She is convinced that she wouldn't be where she is now without the FSC experience.

Laura grew up in Ohio as part of a large, extended Italian family. While moving to Lakeland separated her from family, the communal feel of FSC's campus provided her with a special family made up of students and faculty mentors.

Looking back on her time at FSC, Laura shared that she feels the impact of her time on campus, and the relationships formed during that time, have made a lasting impression. Although the contributions to Laura's education were many, she has noted that a few stand out when it comes to faculty members Colonel Jeff Wiley, Dr. "Buzz" O'Leary, Joan Buccino and Duane Hopkins.



Laura Hawley '83.

"There were some wonderful, wonderful people and we were surrounded by the beautiful, historical architecture," Laura reflected. "Ultimately, it was about the people. For me, at Florida Southern, it truly has always been about the people."

As the former President of Allen & Company, Laura was intimately involved in the company's recent acquisition by LPL Financial. With the acquisition's completion, Laura currently serves as a Vice President and continues her work as a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and financial advisor at Allen & Company. Reflecting on the two-year transition into being part of a larger organization, Laura noted that her passion remains steadfast, "The most important thing hasn't changed, for the past 40 years I have served my clients and they are the reason I look forward to every day in this business."

Asked if she could wave a magic wand and accomplish a single thing in an instant, Laura replied, "I really just wish I could help everyone around me see and grasp all of the wonderful aspects present in their lives. We always notice the beauty of what we have after we don't have it anymore."

## ERIC OSBORNE '98

Eric Osborne is committed to empowering the next generation.

Eric grew up in Riveria, FL with his mother, and he stepped onto FSC's campus as a basketball player, graduating in 1998 with a major in communications and marketing.

Soon after graduating, Eric moved to Los Angeles and kicked off a successful career in TV production, working on numerous shows, including the first five seasons of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. Yet, in 2008, Eric left his career and relocated to Seattle to be more present in his daughter's life. He currently works in the tech field as a Strategic Partner Manager at Avalara and lives with his partner Lisa Riley and his three children.

Eric looked back to his time at FSC as a time of camaraderie, community building, and personal and professional growth. He loved being a part of the basketball team, emphasizing the huge impact the team camaraderie had on him. Reflecting on FSC, Eric expressed, "Ultimately, FSC was about the students and everyone on campus coming together and building a real sense of community. It was just right for me."



Eric Osborne '98.

Eric called out key relationships that he developed at FSC, expressing how Dr. Tate in the English department played a transformative role in his professional life. Another meaningful relationship for Eric at FSC was formed in his freshman year. Eric had surgery that required him to stay in the infirmary for six weeks, and Eric praised Betty Calhoun and her staff for their kindness and care, noting how he remained close with the entire staff throughout his college career.

Eric is passionate about creating an equitable world, and he has taken up the work for diversity, equity, and inclusion across our country himself in recent years. In 2013, Eric founded the organization HERE Seattle with two partners. They began HERE Seattle as a non-profit focused on fostering diversity in Seattle by gathering a diverse community, consulting with companies on diversity and inclusion, and reaching out to and mentoring kids. The group grew from three to 300 members in the first year, 300 to 1,600 in the second, and currently consists of over 5,000 professionals. HERE Seattle's work is sponsored by Google, Zillow, Amazon, Microsoft, and a host of other companies.

Asked what he would do if he could magically accomplish one thing in the world, Eric answered, "I want my kids to grow up in a world where everyone is equal and taken care of. We've got the resources to make this happen, we just need the will. I want to be a part of making it happen."

## JOHN ADAMS '92

John Adams, who attended classes at Florida Southern's Orlando campus, has crafted some amazing accomplishments across numerous fields throughout his career! Married 29 years with three kids, John has forged his own career path by seizing opportunities and building new skills.



John Adams '92.

John worked in a hospital running a blood bank while he pursued a degree in accounting. Working at the hospital from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. as he attended courses in FSC's accounting major wasn't exactly easy, and John attributes part of his persistence and success to the professors who formed real relationships with him.

"Professors got to know me personally," reflected John. "They built relationships with me that extended beyond FSC and the classroom, and I feel like I got a better education because of that personal interaction with the faculty."

After working in accounting for a while, John decided he wanted a career change. As he put it, "I always joked with my wife, who is in sales, that 'sales makes history, accountants just record history.'"

He stepped into sales before shifting careers again with a move to Securicor. John then started a company in physical and electronic security, growing the company from one employee to over 5,500 employees and \$3 million in revenue. Working in the security realm, John soon realized that information security was our country's primary future threat. So, John moved into information security, first with Waratek in Ireland, before founding another company, Mission Secure, which addresses cyber-protection and cyber threats head-on.

Looking back over his career so far, John said he hopes to pass his experiences on to the next generation. As he put it, "Don't be afraid to take chances and jump on opportunities! Skills are amazingly transferable into vastly different fields."

When asked if he could magically accomplish one thing, John thought carefully before replying, "Outside of my own capabilities, well, my wife and I just started giving to St. Jude's, and I would want to keep another kid from ever going through cancer again," John said. "Within the scope of my own power, I would want to begin to heal our country and draw people back towards the shared faith that we have let fall by the wayside."

## SHARLENE SHILLINGFORD '96

Sharlene Shillingford's passion is advocacy, and she looks to FSC as the place where she first kindled her passion for advocating for others.



Sharlene Shillingford '96.

Sharlene came to FSC as an international student. After graduating with a major in English and a minor in biology, Sharlene turned down seven law school offers to pursue a M.A. in International Relations in Paris. While building a career in international development, Sharlene has traveled across the world.

In Sharlene's eyes, FSC sets a phenomenal example of diversity and inclusion by cultivating a diverse international community. For her, the diversity of people and ideas was a huge highlight of the FSC experience. From her time in the Kappa Delta house to her work in student government, Sharlene emphasized how she formed a family at FSC.

Sharlene found her voice as a student activist and helped build many of FSC's early diversity and inclusion student groups and programs. She began a student club "Shades of Color" to foster multiculturalism on campus, and she worked with the dean of students to help implement FSC's first diversity seminar for new student orientation. Sharlene underlined how such opportunities at FSC helped define and shape her, planting the seeds that would grow into a career in advocacy.

"You know, a humanities background isn't exactly common in my field of international development," said Sharlene. "And yet, the skills I practiced at FSC in the humanities — critical thinking, building an argument, open dialogue and discussion — prepared me for the field I am in now. In my opinion, critical thinking is crucial for international problem solving. To solve global issues we need critical thinkers, that is, humanities students!"

Sharlene has lived in Paris, Africa, Canada, and the Philippines, and she has embraced her journey across the globe alongside her family. For Sharlene, her four kids and her husband keep her grounded as the defining core of her life.

When asked what one thing she would accomplish if granted the ability to do so, Sharlene responded: "If I could accomplish one thing, it would be an awakening for our world. I want to give people the knowledge to advocate for themselves and become actors in their own stories."

## DR. DIANA CARDONA '99

Dr. Diana Cardona has taken the North Carolina Research Triangle by storm! Dr. Cardona landed at Duke University after obtaining her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from FSC, her M.D. from Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, and completing two subsequent fellowships in anatomic and clinical pathology and then gastrointestinal and liver pathology at the University of Florida. Diana currently lives in Durham with her fiancé, her mother, and her daughter, who is about to turn seven.

Diana is passionate about her career and how she might affect change within the world. She works as a faculty member within Duke University's School of Medicine, and the majority of her time is focused on the patients she engages with during her clinical hours as a GI, liver, and orthopedic pathologist. Diana serves as vice chair of the pathology department, and she is also the associate director of the clinical laboratories and the director of the anatomic pathology laboratories across Duke's health system.

And that's only at Duke! On the national scene, Diana is involved with the College of American Pathologists as the chair of their quality and registry committee. In addition, during all of her spare time, Diana is pursuing her MBA at Duke.

Thinking fondly of her time at FSC, Diana wryly credited her time as a member of ZTA as a source of her ability to balance a social and family life with her burgeoning career. More seriously, Diana recalled the profound, empowering roles of FSC's faculty in her life. She credited Dr. Campbell, her academic advisor, and Dr. Baum both as true mentors and sources of her success. She also noted that the student pancake and waffle nights certainly didn't hurt in keeping up moral!



*Dr. Diana Cardona '99.*

"I am just so very grateful for everything I have accomplished and am so blessed by everyone who's gotten me here," Diana reflected. She stressed that she tries her best to find the silver lining and what she might learn from every situation she meets.

When asked what she would do if she could magically accomplish one thing in the world, Diana replied, "I would wish away all of the division and hatred in our world."

## MARK O'BRIEN '89

Mark O'Brien lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla., where he loves to spend time with his wife, his six kids, and his beautiful baby granddaughter. Mark works with Gartner Consulting as a consultant for the U.S. Army, but he values investing his free time in his family and his community at Grace Family Church, where he leads a men's discipleship group.



*Mark O'Brien '89.*

Mark earned his A.A. from Polk State College before transferring to FSC, where he received a full ROTC scholarship. Mark excelled as a business major and participated actively in ROTC as a Cadet Commander in officer training. He then spent 10 years in the military as a pilot and member of the 101st Airborne Division before transferring into the corporate world. He worked with Johnson & Johnson as a sales and marketing leader for over 13 years before working in the medical device, pharmaceutical, and orthopedic fields. He then shifted to his current role as a military consultant at Gartner.

Looking back to his time at FSC, Mark highlighted the powerful role the College's ROTC program played in shaping his life. "You're learning how to be a leader at such a young age, and you're responsible for so much more than I was even in the corporate sector," said Mark. "You learn how to lead, how to inspire others to go beyond what they are capable of, and that has value across the military and corporate worlds."

One of Mark's most treasured memories of his time at FSC was his officer pinning ceremony. Mark's parents surprised him by coming down and planning for his father, a 23-year veteran, to pin him without Mark's knowledge. Mark underlined that the communal atmosphere of FSC, wherein you really get to know and relate to your classmates and the faculty, was a huge part of what made FSC so impactful for him.

Today, Mark serves as an active member of the FSC National Alumni Board of Directors.

Asked if he could wave a magic wand and accomplish a single thing, Mark replied, "I would just like more time to give back, to invest in others, and serve. As a young person, you always wish for more money, and yet, looking back I wish I had more time to pour into the people around me."

# FIELDING DREAMS

## ANNOUNCING BEREND FIELD

**D**r. Keith R. Berend, M.D., has carved out a massive resume during his surgical career.

On October 29th, Berend had his name cut into the fabric of Florida Southern College.

The lacrosse and soccer field at the Barnett Athletic Complex was officially named Berend Field from Moccasin Field in a ceremony that was attended by college dignitaries, alumni, staff, and students.

“It’s a huge honor to be able to give back to Florida Southern and continue to give back to the student-athletes in particular,” Berend said. “It’s a different kind of honor when you get to see how you can impact the students of your alma mater. It’s a real privilege to have the honor to give back.”

Berend’s generosity speaks to something he holds dear.

“It’s a different kind of honor when you get to see how you can impact the students of your alma mater.”

– Dr. Keith R. Berend, M.D.

It’s easy to see in everything that Berend has put his hands to how he wants his legacy to carry through over the years.

There’s his work in orthopedics, where he’s become one of the leading knee and hip surgeons in the world since graduating from Florida Southern College in 1992 and then obtaining his doctorate from Duke University.





*Dr. Keith R. Berend '92 speaks at the dedication of FSC's Berend Field.*

## RENOWNED ORTHOPEDIC EXPERT

Berend has published over 250 peer reviewed research articles and book chapters pertaining to hip and knee surgery. He lectures around the world and plays host to hundreds of visitors from around the globe educating on surgical techniques.

As a Trustee and Distinguished Alumnus of Florida Southern, Berend has also recently established the Dr. Keith R. Berend Endowed Chair in Nursing for the Ann Blanton Edwards School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Berend also sponsors The Berend Fellows, which gives as many as three Florida Southern College students each year an internship opportunity at Berend's practice in Ohio.

Now, Berend has his name forever linked to Florida Southern College athletics.

"Having the opportunity to give back to the College, to further the experience of our student-athletes, and to have the field named in our honor, it creates a legacy," Berend said. "We have tried to instill in our daughters a spirit of philanthropy and giving back. I want to be an example to fellow alumni in how strongly I believe how far Florida Southern College has come, and where it's going. Maybe

this will spring the next generation to want to give back to Florida Southern College. That is what makes it so special."

"The legacy of giving back ranks at the top. Some of it is humbling to think your name is on something like that. I hope that my legacy represents a spirit of philanthropy, and that others will see that as such and consider supporting the College as well."





*Dr. Anne B. Kerr speaks during the Berend Field dedication.*

Dr. Berend's name is synonymous with excellence, not only in the world of medicine, but also at Florida Southern College.

— Dr. Anne B. Kerr

## CAMPUS MEMORIES

Berend remembers when he played flag football on the field that came to bear his name when he was a freshman at Florida Southern College in 1989.

He referred to his class as a “lost generation” because he remembered that there wasn’t a ton of pride in the school, and there were no real examples of giving back.

It took conversations with Dr. Rob Tate, the now retired Vice President for Advancement at Florida Southern, to entice Berend to start giving back.

“It all changed for me when I got reacquainted with Dr. Rob Tate,” Berend said. “I had never met with Dr. Kerr, and we had started talking about opportunities to give back.”

Berend said it started slowly, first with an academic scholarship to the men’s swimming team in 2012, which is one of only two endowed scholarships that have been gifted to swimming athletes, matching one given by Hal and Marjorie Roberts for both the men’s and women’s teams.

From there Berend started to broaden his influence.

“Dr. Berend’s name is synonymous with excellence, not only in the world of medicine, but also here at Florida Southern College,” Florida Southern College President Dr. Anne B. Kerr said. “To have his name attached to ongoing academic and athletic endeavors only heightens Florida Southern College’s profile. We are excited and extremely honored to dedicate Berend Field upon which future generations can pursue championships.”

Since 2012, Berend’s hands have helped 18 Berend Fellows thus far.



*FSC athletes, alumni, and trustees celebrate the naming of Berend Field.*



In 2014, Berend's generosity was felt with a substantial gift to the Biology labs that enabled the College to add three new labs on the main floor of the Berry Citrus Building in Microbiology, Molecular Biology, and Tissue Culture.

Berend has also had success on campus with a project in collaboration with Dr. Shameka Shelby, an associate professor of chemistry at Florida Southern.

Berend and Shelby are working together with students who are performing research into post-operative infection and bleeding.

"Dr. Shelby has filed patents on some of the technology and it looks pretty interesting," Berend said. "It's about helping the College and students have an impact on the quality of life. It's been fun to develop a product that might change people's lives."

Berend has certainly already done that with his countless hip and knee surgeries, giving mobility and livelihood back to his patients.

## GENEROUS PHILANTHROPY

Dr. Berend's donations to Florida Southern have similarly imbued the College with life, and we are honored to have his name forever associated with the campus' sports legacy.

"I have no doubt that Berend Field will be a place where student-athletes will excel," Dr. Kerr said. "Friendships will be made that will last a lifetime, championships will be won, pride will flourish over Florida Southern's winning traditions, and a generation of Mocs will celebrate the excellence of Florida Southern carrying forward the legacy of excellence of Keith Berend and his family." ■



The Berend family poses with Mocsie at the Berend Field dedication. From left to right: Ben and Barbara Davis, Molly Berend, Keith Berend, Mocsie, Cindy Berend, and Robbie Davis.



# A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

## FLORIDA SOUTHERN BASEBALL'S 1971 AND 1972 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A tradition of excellence can always point back to a specific time or date when it all began. For Florida Southern College, the drive to 30 NCAA National Championships began in 1971 and 1972, as the Mocs baseball team captured the first two titles in school history. The Mocs also became the first program to repeat as Division II National Champions, posting a combined 65-10 record in those two seasons for head coach Hal Smeltzly.

"The Old Grey Fox" had assembled one of the premier programs, not just in the state of Florida, but the entire

country. While the 1971 team broke through to win the championship, the program had been one of the best in the nation for some time. Smeltzly had amassed such talent at FSC, and the pieces fit together magically in 1971.

"We were second in the region (in 1970), and that just fueled us," said Reggie Ardis, who joined the program for the 1971 season. "We were so close, that we were right there on the doorstep and we didn't push over. So when we came back, we knew what our goal was. Once we achieved that goal, it was easy to get the second one."



## THE 1971 SEASON

The 1971 team produced 34 wins against only four losses all season, including a 14-game winning streak. The Mocs topped several perennial powers along the way, including Florida, Miami, Vanderbilt, North Carolina, and Stetson. After a successful regular season, the Mocs swept through the regionals, held in Norfolk, Va., before a plane trip to



The '71 championship trophy.

## 1971 FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE BASEBALL ROSTER

Name	Position	Class	Hometown
Mike Anspaugh	Pitcher	Junior	Wawaka, Ind.
Steve Baumiller	Pitcher	Freshman	West Palm Beach, Fla.
Mike Cobb	Pitcher	Freshman	Indianapolis, Ind.
Tom Exum	Pitcher	Junior	Orlando, Fla.
Bob Georges	Pitcher	Sophomore	Staten Island, N.Y.
Phil King	Pitcher	Sophomore	Beacon Falls, Conn.
Larry Phillippe	Pitcher	Junior	Ft. Myers, Fla.
Robert Sizemore	Pitcher	Junior	Avon Park, Fla.
Jay Smith	Pitcher	Sophomore	N. Palm Beach, Fla.
Jerry Stevens	Pitcher	Freshman	Sarasota, Fla.
Randy Symonds	Pitcher	Junior	Palatka, Fla.
Jim Chapman	Catcher	Junior	St. Pete, Fla.
Frank Matusek	Catcher	Sophomore	Woodbridge, N.J.
Jack Rhine	Catcher	Sophomore	West Palm, Fla.
Rick Todaro	Catcher	Sophomore	Fanwood, N.J.
Reggie Ardis	Infield	Junior	Lakeland, Fla.
Kevin Bryant	Infield	Junior	Winter Haven, Fla.
John Carroll	Infield	Junior	Leesburg, Fla.
David Johnson	Infield	Freshman	Van Wert, Ohio
Greg Pryor	Infield	Senior	Orlando, Fla.
Tom Sims	Infield	Sophomore	Canton, Ohio
Mike Verdi	Infield	Freshman	Bayshore, N.Y.
Ron Waldron	Infield	Senior	Orlando, Fla.
John Beasley	Outfield	Senior	Winter Park, Fla.
Allen Feldman	Outfield	Sophomore	Tulsa, Okla.
Artie Gonzalez	Outfield	Junior	Miami, Fla.
Mike Groves	Outfield	Junior	Largo, Fla.
Atlas Jones	Outfield	Senior	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Dennis Visconti	Outfield	Sophomore	Fanwood, N.J.



Commemorative home plate for the 1971 baseball championship team.

## 1971



The 1971 championship baseball team.

Springfield, Mo., brought the Mocs to the national tournament. After an opening game loss to San Diego, the Mocs won four consecutive games to earn the first national championship in school history.

The team featured a cast of characters for the ages, including several FSC Hall of Famers. Greg Pryor earned All-America status, and was Co-MVP of the national tournament, with a combined 10 hits. Pryor would go on to a lengthy career in Major League Baseball, including winning a World Series with the Kansas City Royals in 1985. Kevin Bryant, also Co-MVP in 1971, was instrumental in

Florida Southern staying alive during the tournament, with a five RBI performance against Central Michigan in the penultimate game. Bryant led the team by hitting .380, with a team-high 54 hits during the season. Jay Smith threw a complete-game six-hit shutout in the title game, after pitching a complete-game four-hit shutout earlier in the tournament. On the season, Smith went 15-1, with 149 strikeouts, the third most in a single season in school history, and a 1.56 ERA. Tom Exum went 6-0 on the mound, while John Carroll was the team's Most Valuable Player. Also making the All-Tournament team at the championships were Artie Gonzalez and Atlas Jones.

## THE 1972 SEASON

A year later, the Mocs repeated as national champions, with a 31-6 overall record. Florida Southern won its first seven games, and 21 of its first 23. Again, the Mocs beat the best colleges and universities across the country, including a two-game sweep of Miami to end the regular season. After a short break in the schedule, another trip to Norfolk led to another Mocs sweep in the Regionals, sending Southern to the nationals, this time in Springfield, Ill.



*The '72 championship trophy.*



*Members of the 1972 championship team together after convocation.*

After defeating Missouri-Saint Louis in the first game, the Mocs faced Cal State-Northridge in a best-of-three scenario. The teams split the first two games, setting up a winner-take-all final. For the second consecutive year, Jay Smith was the winning pitcher in the title game, tossing a complete game, scattering four hits with 13 strikeouts. It was his second complete game win of the tournament, which earned him Most Outstanding Player honors for the national tournament.

## 1972



*The 1972 championship baseball team.*

## 1972 FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE BASEBALL ROSTER

Name	Position	Class	Hometown
Steve Baumiller	Pitcher	Sophomore	West Palm Beach, Fla.
Tom Bowen	Pitcher	Junior	Ocean City, N.J.
Mike Cobb	Pitcher	Sophomore	Indianapolis, Ind.
Tom Exum	Pitcher	Senior	Orlando, Fla.
Bruce Frankum	Pitcher	Junior	Orlando, Fla.
Bob Georges	Pitcher	Junior	Staten Island, N.Y.
Chip Gierke	Pitcher	Junior	Orlando, Fla.
Jay Smith	Pitcher	Junior	N. Palm Beach, Fla.
Terry Smith	Pitcher	Freshman	Arlington Heights, Ill.
Randy Symonds	Pitcher	Senior	Palatka, Fla.
Herb Grove	Catcher	Freshman	Yorktown Heights, N.Y.
Scott Lee	Catcher	Freshman	Fort Myers Beach, Fla.
Jack Rhine	Catcher	Junior	West Palm, Fla.
Rick Todaro	Catcher/ Outfield	Junior	Fanwood, N.J.
Reggie Ardis	Infield	Senior	Lakeland, Fla.
Kevin Bryant	Infield	Senior	Brooksville, Fla.
John Carroll	Infield	Senior	Leesburg, Fla.
Jim Chapman	Infield	Senior	St. Petersburg, Fla.
Bill Dancy	Infield	Junior	Winter Park, Fla.
Steve Nichols	Infield	Freshman	Lincoln, R.I.
Tom Parrish	Infield	Freshman	Dumont, N.J.
Tom Sims	Infield	Junior	Canton, Ohio
Dave Arnott	Outfield	Junior	Swartz Creek, Mich.
Artie Gonzalez	Outfield	Senior	Miami, Fla.
Mike Groves	Outfield	Senior	St. Petersburg, Fla.
Mike Nolen	Outfield	Junior	Winter Park, Fla.
Mike Verdi	Outfield	Sophomore	Bay Shore, N.Y.

### “THE OLD GREY FOX”

The glue that held the program together was Smeltzly. The veteran coach and administrator understood people, and knew how to get the most out of his student-athletes. “(Smeltzly) was instrumental in giving us confidence,” Ardis said. “We weren’t the best athletes, but we had more fire in our bellies to get the job done. Everybody was pulling for one another. Coach made sure of that.”

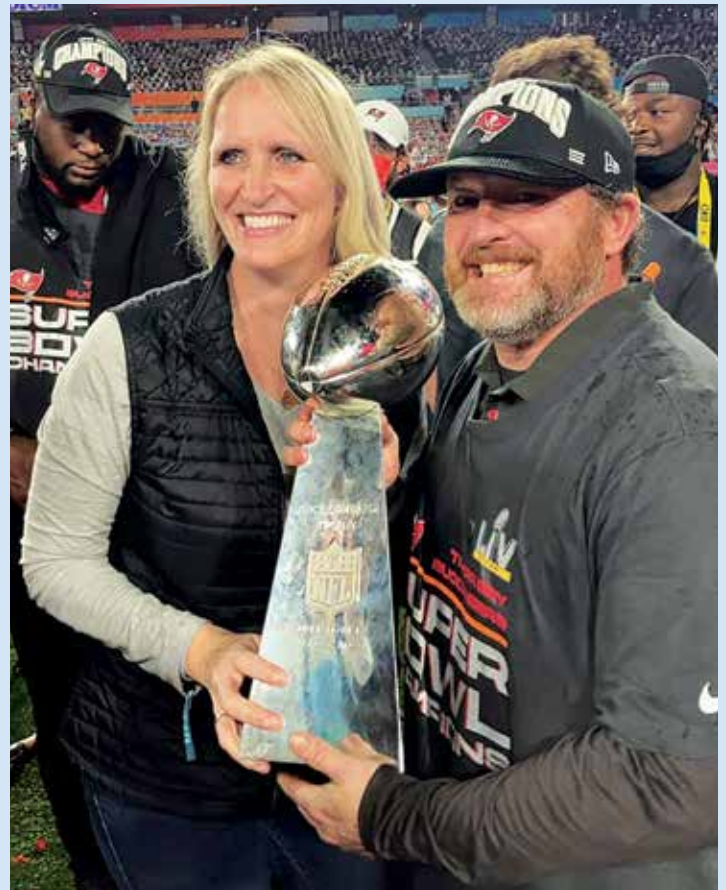
In his 18 years at the helm of the Mocs, Smeltzly won 391 games, more than 70% of his games coached. He has been inducted into several Halls of Fame, including the American Baseball Coaches Association, Florida Sports, Polk County Sports, and FSC Athletic Department.

## SUPER BOWL LV CHAMP

Former Florida Southern College baseball student-athlete Bobby Slater, class of 1994, became a Super Bowl champion on February 7 as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 31-9, in Super Bowl LV.

Slater currently serves as the head athletic trainer for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The 2020 season marked his seventh with the Bucs organization. Prior to Tampa Bay, he spent 14 years on the Chicago Bears staff.

While at Florida Southern, Slater played two seasons with the baseball program and was a senior on the Moccasins 1994 NCAA National Runner-Up team. Playing in 72 career games, he batted .332 with 61 runs scored and 22 stolen bases. His consistent performances saw him score 31 runs as a junior and 30 as a senior; post a .505 slugging percentage in 1993 and a .500 mark in 1994; record a .457 on-base percentage his first season (led team) and a .450 stat as a senior; and swipe 10 bases as a junior and 12 as a senior.



Bobby Slater '94, joined by his wife, Bridget Renyer Slater '94, and the Lombardi Trophy.

## BETH ANN BALDRY NICHOLS '02 MAKING HISTORY

While a student-athlete on the women's golf team at Florida Southern College, Beth Ann Baldry Nichols '02 also was doing some English tutoring on the side. She signed up for a sports writing class at the suggestion of her advisor, thinking that she might be able to tutor a few of the athletes who would be her classmates.

"I absolutely fell in love with it!" says Nichols. "It was the career I never knew I wanted."

### A PASSION FOR GOLF AND JOURNALISM

As a way to combine her passions for golf and journalism, Nichols applied for a job with *Golfweek* magazine and was hired to work Friday and Saturday nights during the spring semester of her senior year. She has risen through the ranks at the Orlando-based company ever since, becoming managing editor of *Golfweek.com* in 2004 and moving into her current position as senior writer in 2006.

Her success at *Golfweek* has led to a new and exciting career development: Nichols now is president of the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA). She is the first woman to be named to that position in the organization's 75-year history.

"More than six million women played golf in the U.S. last year, about half a million more than the previous year," said Nichols, citing figures from the National Golf Foundation.

“One thousand percent, I would not have this job without Mr. Black and his class. I remember so much of what he taught. His encouragement meant the world to me; he laid the foundation and gave me the confidence to pursue this career.”

- Beth Ann Baldry Nichols



Beth Ann Baldry Nichols '02.

"Golf has enjoyed an incredible boom during the pandemic. Families took up the sport — seen as one of the few things you could do together outdoors — and girls' golf is the fastest-growing segment of the golf community. That's the most exciting thing for me."

For her part, Nichols credits former FSC instructor Bob Black '51, whose sports writing course sparked her interest in the field, shaping the direction of her career and life.

"One thousand percent, I would not have this job without Mr. Black and his class," Nichols says. "I remember so much of what he taught. His encouragement meant the world to me; he laid the foundation and gave me the confidence to pursue this career."

In addition to introducing Nichols to the basics of sports journalism, Black suggested that she write for FSC's student newspaper, *The Southern*. She covered athletics and later became the paper's editor.

A native of Lakeland, who attended George Jenkins High School, Nichols has returned to FSC on several occasions to speak with writing and reporting classes, including Black's sports writing class when he was still teaching.

Upon learning of Nichols' appointment as GWAA president, Black sent her a congratulatory note and reflected on the talent he had seen in her as a newcomer to his sports writing class. "Beth Ann was writing professionally in college," Black recalls. "This is a notable win for women journalists." ■

# IN REMEMBRANCE

## REMEMBERING DR. CHRISTOVERSON

**D**r. Marcene Heisner Christoverson passed away on March 27, 2021.

Dr. Christoverson was born in Nebraska City, Neb., in 1922 and graduated from Boise (Idaho) High School in 1941.

Dr. Christoverson's sense of duty was at the forefront early, as she served as a Wave in the United States Navy from July 15, 1943 until March 1, 1946.

In 1947, she started work as an accounting assistant with The St. John Letter Company in New York City, where she quickly rose through the ranks. She was elected the company's President and CEO in 1980 before later becoming the sole owner in 1988.



The Dr. Marcene H. and Robert E. Christoverson Humanities Building was dedicated in 2010.

Our dear friend Dr. Marcene H. Christoverson through the years.



Portraits of Dr. Marcene Christoverson and her husband Robert.

Dr. Christoverson was named to the Florida Southern College Board of Trustees in 2000, where she served with distinction. In 2004, FSC awarded Dr. Christoverson an honorary Doctorate of Business for her service.

Thanks to her vision and generosity, in 2010 Florida Southern College dedicated the Marcene H. and Robert E. Christoverson Humanities Building. The College is also home to the Robert E. Christoverson Memorial Garden, given in memory of Dr. Christoverson's late husband, which graces the walkway alongside the Joseph-Reynolds and Allen Spivey residential halls.

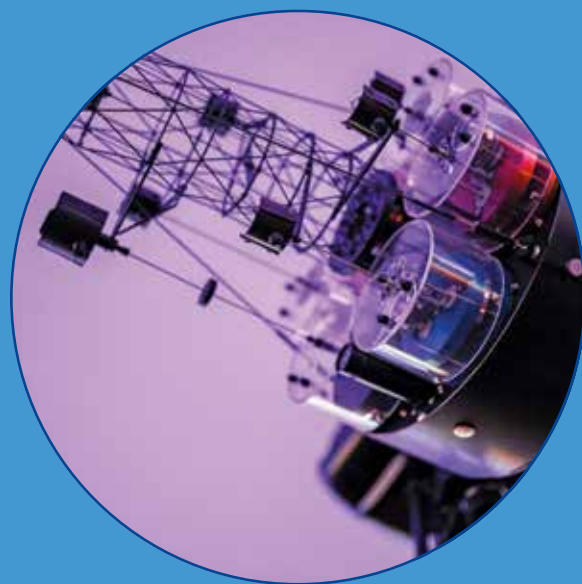
Dr. Christoverson believed that the nation's future was dependent on the effectiveness of higher education and graduates who are prepared for the future. She launched Florida Southern College's campaign with one of the first gifts to renovate the campus, and set the standard for an excellent living and learning environment for students as well as professors. Dr. Christoverson was proud that every FSC student would likely have a class in the Christoverson Building. ■

## FSC PLANETARIUM RESTORATION **OUT OF THIS WORLD!** *AND BEYOND*

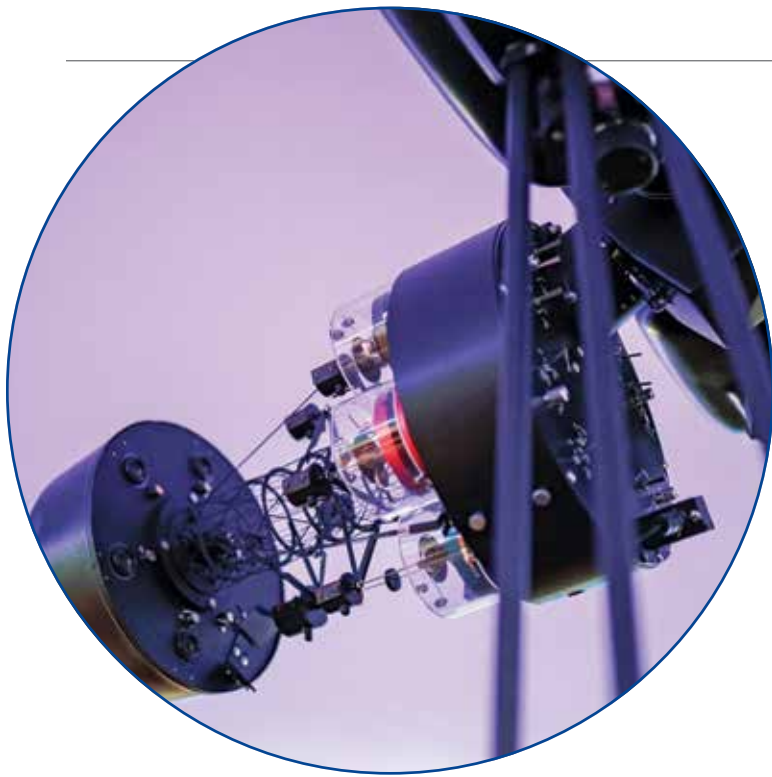
**F**lorida Southern College professor Dr. Ron Pepino wants to put the stars back in people's eyes.

Dr. Pepino, who is an Associate Professor of Physics and in charge of the FSC Planetarium, will have the chance to do that thanks to a timely and generous donation and the use of applied grants.

With more than a combined \$500,000 in grants obtained from the Florida Division of Historical Resources and the National Park Service, as well as a generous contribution from local philanthropist Gregory Fancelli, Pepino can focus on the future of the FSC Planetarium.







## PROJECT PLANETARIUM

It was to the future that Fancelli's donation was aimed.

Fancelli is a fan of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, so preserving the FSC Planetarium was something that he felt he could get behind in a big way.

"I choose my projects on uniqueness, architecture relevance, and based on what use I feel I can give to a building," Fancelli said. "The FSC Planetarium meets all the aforementioned aspects that motivate me to undertake a project, on top of the fact that its readapted use can benefit the public and future generations. It will be a space that can be enjoyed and admired as a product of a very specific time, designed by one of the most renowned architects of all time."

The Polk County Science Building, which houses the FSC Planetarium, was completed in 1958 as the final building designed by Wright to be finished on campus. The first show in the FSC Planetarium was in 1960, but over the years, the Florida weather took its toll on the building, ultimately forcing it to be closed in 2014.

The money collected funded work on several aspects of the building to bring the FSC Planetarium back to its former state of glory. The restorative work done included replacing the roof and surrounding areas of the dome, replacing the roof of lower terraces, removing and replacing stucco in the upper portions of the building, restoring and renovating windows and doors, and replacing a number of cracked blocks around the outer shell of the building and around terraces on the west side.

## A STAR IS REBORN

With the work completed on the outside, Dr. Pepino and future students look forward to using the inside again.

Dr. Pepino is planning on creating a public group called "Friends of Space" to help financially support the instructional space programs that Florida Southern will offer. This will include educational programming that will impact Polk County K-12 students.

## MEET GREGORY FANCELLI

Gregory Fancelli, born in Florence, Italy, has divided his time between Lakeland and Tuscany.

He has attended the University of Florence where he received his bachelor's degree in business administration.



*Gregory Fancelli.*

Fancelli has focused his efforts on preserving the architectural integrity and character of Lakeland for more than a decade. His vision for a new kind of community can be clearly seen in the newly preserved historic homes his company has renovated.

As the head of Worldwide Prestige Group, Fancelli has been involved in restoring 22 residential and seven commercial properties, as well as seven community art projects in Lakeland.

"Historic preservation is a way to keep alive craftsmanship of an earlier era build community and generate a sense of pride," Fancelli said. "In some cases, restoring buildings actually rebuilds the social fabric of the community."

In addition to the responsibilities associated with his ownership of Prestige Worldwide Group, Gregory continues to be involved in the Lakeland community by serving on the boards of several organizations, among them the George Jenkins Foundation, Academy Prep of Lakeland, and the Lakeland Regional Health Foundation. He is also a former board member of the Polk Museum and the Florida Polytechnic University Foundation.

Along with his passion for early 20th century architecture and restoring historic buildings, Gregory enjoys traveling, photography, skiing and water sports.

The College has recently received a separate federal grant for renovating the inside of the building, which is where Florida Southern alum Arjeet Tipirneni '21 spent a lot of time.

“When I started at FSC in the fall of 2016, I was always in awe of the fact that we had a planetarium,” said Tipirneni, who is now studying dentistry at the University of Florida. “As someone who loves astronomy and all things space, I was super excited to get involved with the FSC Planetarium somehow. Over the next few years, working with Dr. Pepino, I and my Astronomy Club team (Spencer Asperilla and John Gould) would set aside our personal time to go into the space and try to get something useful out of it.”

“It wasn’t until a year after we started going in there and messing around with the technology and consulting with other planetariums in the greater central Florida area (who said our machine belonged in a museum) that we were able to get it working enough to do one show: More Than Meets the Eyes. After doing some private viewings for friends to test it out, we knew it was ready for some primetime action and we started to host elementary school shows and movie nights for FSC students. We initially couldn’t find the script for the one show that we could do so I used my knowledge of astronomy and space exploration to ad lib the show. It wasn’t until after months of sorting through the treasure trove of projector slides, laser discs, and an old manual from



Arjeet Tipirneni '21.

the 60’s that I found the script. We were really a bunch of digital-aged kids having to teach ourselves the way of the analog world ... it was vintage!”

## FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

Since the FSC Planetarium’s reopening, the FSC Astronomy Club has already made use of the space with a movie night, and there are plans for similar events.

Dr. Pepino is focused on the future, and that includes better equipment, which will not only entice student groups from outside of Florida Southern, but also tourists and other members of the community at large to experience the wonders of the FSC Planetarium.

“With an upgrade, the room would be amazing,” Dr. Pepino said. “Some of the new equipment is phenomenal. It would be fantastic if we could find some funds or a donor or two to upgrade the equipment. For the astronomy classes, that would be a fantastic thing. The school could also use it on their tours. It would be a fantastic place to stop and get the star ball moving.”

“It’s a very rare building. It’s a really interesting classroom experience where you can do these virtual journeys through space. It makes things much more exciting than just drawing on a whiteboard. You can zoom in and have these interesting virtual things. As a tool it would be amazing for the course, and it would be amazing for other events.” ■

“It will be a space that can be enjoyed and admired as a product of a very specific time, designed by one of the most renowned architects of all time.”

— Gregory Fancelli





# FACULTY & STAFF RETIREMENTS



## **BRENDA LEWIS**

Brenda Lewis, the Director of Evett L. Simmons Center for Multicultural Appreciation, retired on June 4, 2021, after 26 years at Florida Southern College. Her dedication led to the formation of the Multicultural Student Council and the founding of the Simmons Center.



## **GLORIA THOMPSON**

Gloria Thompson retired from her position as custodian for Florida Southern College on April 16, 2021. She worked for the college for 37 years, beginning on November 2, 1984.



## **SARA PENNY '82**

Sara Penny served as the Director of Testing for Florida Southern College before retiring on July 13, 2021. Sara worked at FSC for 21 years in the director position.



## **MARGARET TAYLOR**

Before retiring in September of 2021, Margaret Taylor had a hand in enriching the minds of Florida Southern College students for 27 years as an Assistant Professor in the English Department.



## **PENNY SNOKE-BOYD**

Penny Snoke-Boyd was the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Arts and Sciences before retiring on September 30, 2021. Penny was with FSC for 12 years, starting on April 1, 2009, in the Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics Department.



## **LINDA HORN**

Linda Horn retired from her position as the Transcript Clerk in the Registrar's Office on October 1, 2021. Horn spent more than 15 years in the Registrar's Office, coming to Florida Southern in 2006.



## **STEVEN PETRIE '74**

Steven Petrie was an Associate Professor of Education and the Program Coordinator for the EdD in Educational Leadership before he retired from Florida Southern College in February 2021. Steven was with the College for eight years.

### **DON'T FORGET THE FSC ANNUAL FUND TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2021**

Please help shape the lives of our Mocs through annual gifts to scholarships, faculty innovation, undergraduate research, updating learning spaces, and so much more! Your support will truly make a difference for each and every Moc. Visit [www.FLSouthern.edu/giving](http://www.FLSouthern.edu/giving) to learn more or contact the Office of Development at 863-680-3000.

# CLASSNOTES

Share Your News! Change jobs? Moving? New addition to the family? Retiring? There are two ways to share your personal news with your classmates and the College. Use the form on our website: [www.FLSouthern.edu/alumni/info-update](http://www.FLSouthern.edu/alumni/info-update) or send an email to [Alumni@FLSouthern.edu](mailto:Alumni@FLSouthern.edu).



## 1960s

**Joseph B. McCormick, M.D. '64** and his wife, Susan Fisher-Hoch, M.D., celebrated the 20th anniversary of UTHealth School of Public Health in Brownsville, Texas, which they helped found, by establishing the Joe McCormick and Sue-Fisher-Hoch Public Health Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship will help students at the Brownsville campus gain greater knowledge and expertise of public health. Joseph has had quite the career since graduating from FSC, receiving the FSC

Humanitarian award in 2001 for his work around the globe. He has had a career in epidemiology that included investigating deadly diseases in developing countries. He is a founding Dean of the Brownsville campus and remains an active researcher and faculty member there.



After 17 years as an insurance agent, **Bill Hull '67** is living the good life. He has been retired for three years and said he has been relaxing ever since. Bill lives in Spring Branch, Texas and married Karen Gardner on June 20, 2015 in Wimberley, Texas.

Chicago White Sox and Kansas City Royals, winning a World Series with the latter in 1985. He was inducted in the FSC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002 and his jersey, No. 17, was retired.



**Olivia Kirtley '72** was added to the Board of Directors at Bexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., in February 2021. Olivia, a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Global Management Accountant, is a business consultant on strategic risk and corporate governance issues. From 2014 to 2016, she served as President and Board Chairman of the International Federation of Accountants and previously served as Chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



**Bonnie Staryk '66** has spent the past 40 years living in the Florida Keys, where she authored and illustrated the children's book, *Blinken Pete*

and *Polly Tales in Verse, with Activities*. The book published in 2013 and has sold over 2,000 copies around the world. Bonnie recently moved to Boca Raton, Fla., and is working on the illustrations for her second book, *The Magic Sea Shoes*. The books are made to be interactive for children, and Bonnie said her first book was purchased by several teachers in the Florida Keys for their classrooms.

## 1970s



Former Florida Southern College baseball standout, **Greg Pryor '72**, was featured by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in August 2021 as part of a virtual author series. Greg discussed his book, *The Day the Yankees Made Me Shave*. Greg played for FSC from 1968 to 1971. He spent 10 years in the major leagues, playing for the

# CLASSNOTES

## 1980s



After retiring with 28 years in the District School Board of Pasco County and enjoying a seven-year retirement, **Anne Cirelli '85** moved to Liberia in West Africa. Anne, who was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa at FSC, now teaches Upper School English and Foreign Language at the American International School of Monrovia.



**Alicia Stein '86** has continued her education since receiving a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Florida Southern College. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ringling College of Art and Design in 2012 and a Master of Education from Walden University in 2018. Alicia has worked as an art educator since 2012 and is currently teaching at Bay Haven School of Basics Plus in Sarasota, Fla. She loves to remain involved in the community and has been involved with Embracing Our Differences for eight years and has been an ambassador for the past three years. Embracing Our Differences is a not-for-profit organization based in Sarasota that uses the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open the heart to celebrate the diversity of the human family.

## 1990s



**Amy McQuagge '92**, Vice President and Director of Marketing at Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, has earned the certified financial marketing professional designation from the American Bankers Association. The CFMP designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence in the field of financial services marketing. Amy studied for the exam over the summer, after graduating from the ABA School of Marketing in May. Amy has been with the bank since 2018, when she joined as the first in-house Marketing Director.

After studying at Florida Southern College, **Melissa Amos '95** went on to earn her Master of Fine Arts in Film from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Calif. Melissa remained in Los Angeles where she has worked as an award-winning film and television copywriter for 15 years. She writes scripts and taglines for movie trailers and posters! Last year, after running a book club for her son for two years, Melissa launched Crate Expectations, a subscription box book club for children ages 8-12. Crate Expectations was recently voted one of the top book boxes for kids.

## 2000s



Polk State College's Board of Trustees appointed **Ashley Bell Barnett '05** Chair for the 2021-2022 academic year in September 2021. Ashley has also been appointed to serve a four-year term for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. She is an incoming Vice Chair of United Way of Central Florida and also serves community organizations, including Talbot House, LRM Foundation, GiveVisuals, Leadership Polk, Bonnet Springs Friends of the Park, Lakeland LEADS and Polk County JDRF group. Ashley is a graduate of Leadership LA class of 2013, Leadership Florida Education Class III 2018, and Leadership Polk XII 2019. She has been honored with "She Knows Where She's Going Award" in 2019. Ashley is married to Wesley Barnett and they have two daughters, 5-year-old Raleigh and 1-year-old Birdie.



**Rev. Dr. Christopher Corbin '05** recently started as the senior pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church in Oshkosh, Wis. While at FSC, he was involved in Lambda Chi Alpha, Theta Chi Beta and Phi Sigma Tau.



Director of Marketing and Business Development for Priority Marketing, **Melissa Mitchell '06**, was named a "40 Under 40" award recipient by Business Observer. The recognition honors individuals under 40 who represent the next generation of leaders along Southwest Florida's coast. Melissa has been with the Fort Myers-based firm Priority Marketing for eight years. In addition to Business Observer's recognition, Melissa has been recognized as a 40-under-40 honoree by Gulfshore Business, a Power Woman by *Florida Weekly*, and as an APEX Award finalist by the Greater Fort Myers Chamber.

## CLASSNOTES



**Stephanie Brandon '08** recently obtained her State License from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for Community Association Manager. She is also working to obtain her Teaching Certification from the Florida Department of Education, while working for Kelly Education to substitute for Orange County School District.



College sweethearts, **Yeri Lavin '09** and **Jessica Gregoire-Lavin '09**, recently celebrated 10 years of marriage! Yeri and Jessica met at Florida Southern College in 2004 and have been inseparable ever since. The two have a three-year-old son, François Xavier Lavin. Yeri and Jessica are the founders of the estate management business, Snöbird Home Watch, which is located in Palm Beach, Fla. Jessica was also recently named Director of Community Engagement for a local non-profit in Delray Beach.

**Jerid Ross '09** is currently living in Cape Canaveral, Fla. He works as a Customer Service Supervisor for Radial Inc. in Melbourne, where he

has been for a year and a half. When Jerid was studying for his Bachelor of Science in Psychology at FSC, he was involved in Lambda Chi Alpha and the IFC Judicial Committee.

### 2010s



**Nicole Dalhy '10** was recently promoted to Director of Client Management for Strategic Businesses at OptumRx, where she has been for 10 years. She also received her Master of Business Administration in 2012.



Recently featured in *Entrepreneur Magazine* as one of the “Youngest, Brightest Entrepreneurs of South Asia,” **Arpit Agrawal '11** has been very successful in his career since graduating from Florida Southern College. He was also recently featured in *Forbes India*. Arpit is the youngest director of Vishal Group, a \$1.8 billion privately held company in Nepal, that partners with companies such as Kraft, Redbull, Hershey's, and more than 40 brands in Nepal. He is a member of the World Economic Forum as well as EO South Asia Bridge.



**Leah Wolk '14** and **Jon Freda '12** met at Florida Southern College in 2010. Leah was a freshman and Jon was a junior. Now, the two have tied the knot! They got engaged in 2019 and married on October 16, 2021. Leah said it is thanks to Florida Southern College the two have been together for 11 years. They currently reside in Long Island, N.Y.



**Ashlea Abraham '14** married fellow Florida Southern College alumnus, **Nick Abraham '16**, in St. John US Virgin Islands in March 2020. Ashlea said they flew back just as the borders were being shut down because of the pandemic. Since then, they have moved from Lakeland to Charlotte, N.C.



**Megan Rector '15** has remained involved in her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, by becoming a member of the Tampa Alpha Delta Pi Alumni Association as well as the Tampa Junior League. She has been with PLM Fleet/Marubeni America Corporation since January 2019, where she is a Southeast Regional Sales Executive. Megan and her fiancé, Kelson Boje, have a son named Braylen Boje, who was born July 11, 2018. The two are in the middle of planning their wedding!



**Taylorann Benthall '17** and **Tyler Benthall '17** got married in 2018 and welcomed their first child, Lydia-Ann, in September 2019. After graduating from Florida Southern College, Taylorann started teaching first grade at R. Bruce Wagner Elementary for the past four years. In 2019, she received her Master of Education from FSC. Tyler continued his education after graduating and obtained an advanced degree in Environmental Management. He is a certified EHS specialist and currently works for TR Drum as Chief of Compliance.

**Sarah Lynn '17** is married and working as the Vice President of Marketing at Takeout Central.



**Joshua McNiven '18** recently began working on his Master of Music Theory and Doctorate of Music Performance at Michigan State University. While at Florida Southern College, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance. He currently lives in Michigan with girlfriend, **Olivia Smith '18**, who received her Master of Accounting from FSC.



**Kerry Murray '19** and **John Murray '18** got married on December 20, 2020, and everyone in their wedding party was either a Florida Southern College alumni or someone they met while at FSC! The two bought their first home together in South Lakeland in 2020. Kerry works as an Orchestra teacher for three schools in Polk County; Haines City High School, Ridge Community High School and Boone Middle School. John is co-owner of Murray Equipment Sales, along with his father, where he is also a fire protection equipment sales representative.



**Jamie De Nisco '19** has spent the last two years working in wildlife conservation — in 2020 as a naturalist intern for the City of Jacksonville, and in 2021 as a Shorebird Biologist for FWC. She has worked to protect natural lands, and species such as American oystercatchers, diamondback terrapins, loggerhead sea turtles, and more. She has carried her passions over into education and outreach, and is currently the Education Specialist for St. Johns Riverkeeper, a non-profit that defends the St. Johns River and advocates for its protection.

## 2020s

After graduating from Florida Southern College with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, **McKayla Petrie '20** moved to West Palm Beach, Fla. McKayla puts her degree to use by teaching high school science at a private school in Palm Beach County. One of her passions is to volunteer at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, where she assists with the rehabilitation of sea turtles.



Since graduating with his Master of Business Administration from Florida Southern College, **Jonathan Graham '20** has worked at GEICO in Lakeland, Fla. He has been with GEICO for two years and was recently promoted to Bodily Injury

Adjuster, where he handles injury claims with attorneys. In his free time, Jonathan plays for the Lakeland Lancers Rugby team and said they are always looking for new players.



Recent Florida Southern College graduate, **Katte Vargas '21** has been focusing on her career after moving to White Plains, N.Y. and being hired as an Office Associate at White Plains Hospital. When she isn't working, Katte is planning her wedding to her fiancé, Brian! Katte is involved in her church and loves to go on hikes and be outdoors with her future husband.

### To take advantage of the CARES Act Charitable Deductions and help Florida Southern College, your gift must be received by December 31st.

**For those who itemize their deductions:**

For cash contributions made in 2021, you can elect to deduct up to 100 percent of your Adjusted Gross Income.

**If you do not Itemize your deductions:**

The CARES Act allows for an “above-the-line” deduction for charitable gifts of up to \$300 for taxpayers who are filing single/separately.

For those who are married and are filing jointly, you can take an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600 by supporting FSC this year.

If you have any questions, please contact the FSC Office of Development at 863-680-3000.

## IN MEMORIAM

LISTINGS COMPILED FROM FEB. 4, 2021 TO PRESENT (NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN WINTER 2021 SOUTHERNNEWS)

### TRUSTEES

**Andrew H. Hines, Jr.** of St. Petersburg, who served as an FSC Trustee from 1990 until 1995, died Feb. 21, 2021.

### FACULTY & STAFF

**Jim Jarrett**, former head coach of the Florida Southern College men's basketball team, died on April 5, 2021. Jarrett coached the Mocs from 1971-77 and compiled a record of 108-51, guiding the Mocs to the NCAA Division II Tournament in his very first season.

**Lew McSwain Brandes** of Indianapolis, Ind., whose first job was as a teacher of piano and theory at Florida Southern College, died March 29, 2021.

**Chester Brinn, Jr.** died July 1, 2021.

**Donald J. Cannon** died June 25, 2021. He worked as an Adjunct Professor in Chemistry at Florida Southern College.

**Barbara Chickonowski** of Lakeland died March 4, 2021. She worked at Florida Southern College for 18 years, as assistant to the dean and as an IT specialist.

**Richard H. Dobson** of Lakeland died May 27, 2021. He worked at Florida Southern College in the Public Safety office.

**Lt. Col. Ronald E. Girard** of Akron, Ohio, died April 14, 2021. He was a member of Florida Southern's accounting faculty from 1987 until 1992.

**Debra A. "Dale" Harvey-Dixon** of Lakeland, an employee of Guest Services, died Feb. 3, 2021.

**Beverly Brown Peace** of Lake Forest, Calif., died May 12, 2021. From 1978 to 1980, she served as Assistant Dean, then Dean of Women for Florida Southern.

**Marston "B-Annie" Blackstock Lewis** of Frostproof, died June 30, 2021.

**Larry A. Powell** of Winter Haven, who worked as director of recreation and volunteerism from 1986 until 1998, died Feb. 19, 2021.

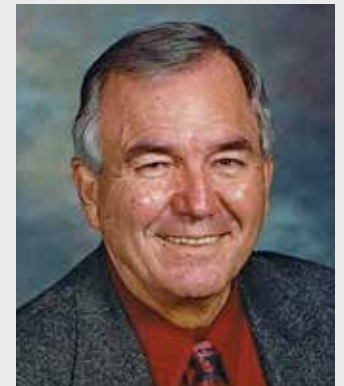
**Mary Louise Evans Spencer** of Pearland, Texas, who served as registrar for Florida Southern College from 1967 until her retirement in 1986, died April 25, 2021.

**Nancy C. Warren**, who worked as a cafeteria employee from 1997 until her retirement in 2019, died June 10, 2021.

**REVEREND DR. CHARLES W. COURTOY '59** of Lakeland died on October 3, 2021. Rev. Courtoy, upon graduation from Florida Southern College, attended Duke Divinity School where he received his Master of Divinity. He then attended Vanderbilt University Divinity School where he received his Doctor of Divinity. He was an ordained United Methodist Minister serving congregations in Lakeland, Tampa, and Dunedin. He also served as the Florida Conference Youth Director (1967-1969) and the National Youth Director of the United Methodist Church (1969-1976). In addition, he was appointed the District Superintendent in the greater Tampa Bay area and was the Executive Director of Church Development for the United Methodist Church of Florida.

Rev. Courtoy was a beloved Trustee of Florida Southern College from 1991-2002 and an Trustee Emeritus from 2002 until his death. He received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from FSC in 1992. He also received an honorary doctorate degree from Bethune Cookman University.

Doctor "C" (as he was affectionately called) is survived by, among others, his wife of 65 years, **Mildred Ann "Mitty" Ivey Courtoy '59**, daughter **Lisa Bennett '79** (husband **Brad '79**), daughter **Teri Ronk '84** (husband Doug), daughter **Melanie Guidry '88** (husband Bill), son Steve Courtoy (wife Laurie), seven (7) grandchildren including two FSC graduates, **Jacob Bennett '09** and **Holly Bennett Sutherland '12**, and seven (7) great grandchildren (with one on the way!).



**JAMES L. BAKER, JR., M.D., F.A.C.S. '58** of Winter Park died on January 11, 2021. A noted plastic surgeon and medical pioneer, he began his medical career in 1964 at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, N.J., before moving his family to Orlando in 1969. He went on to establish his own practice, where he developed an international reputation for excellence in the field of aesthetic plastic surgery, specializing in breast augmentation, facial rejuvenation, and body contouring procedures.

In 1974, he co-authored his first study, and in 1975 he developed the first grading scale to define the degree of capsular contracture some patients experienced following breast augmentation. Published in 1978, The Baker Classification Scale became the international standard which is still used to this day. In 1984, he was elected President of the Florida Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, and in 1995, he became President of The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. He published 46 scientific papers, contributed to 13 textbooks, and produced 16 films on the field of plastic surgery.

He received numerous accolades throughout his career, including being named one of the "Top Cosmetic Surgeons in the U.S." by *Town and Country* magazine.





# ALUMNI

## 1940S

**Harry P. Kurtz, Jr. '47** died March 13, 2021.

**Jessie Parrish Morland '47** died July 7, 2021.

**Jackie Key Wright '48** died Nov. 6, 2019.

**Sally Myrtle Hogarth '48** died June 16, 2021.

**Harold Richard Hayworth '48** died Aug. 6, 2021.

**Irma Packard Norman '48** died Aug. 14, 2021.

**William P. "Bill" Chapman '49** died March 14, 2021.

**William W. Beckett '49** died July 10, 2021.

## 1950S

**LaDonna McGriff Smith '50** died July 9, 2020.

**Theodora O'Dell Doyle '50** died April 29, 2021.

**Frances Powell Templon '51** died Dec. 15, 2020.

**Dr. Robert S. "Bob" Bly, Jr. '51** died Jan. 27, 2021.

**Arnold T. Aikens '51** died Feb. 21, 2021.

**Doris M. Tanner '51** died May 13, 2021.

**James C. Houser '51** died July 31, 2021.

**Dr. William H. Wakeman, Jr. '52** died March 12, 2017.

**Salvatore J. Giardina '52** died Jan. 18, 2020.

**Alva C. Pipkin '53** died June 8, 2021.

**Betty Branscomb Davis '53** died June 23, 2021.

**Charles Lester LeValley '53** died Aug. 10, 2021.

**Miriam Starnes Palmore '53** died Sept. 26, 2020.

**Charles C. Hayes, Jr. '54** died Dec. 1, 2015.

**Harry R. "Bump" Holman '54** died Jan. 17, 2021.

**Kenneth Herndon '54** died March 16, 2021.

**David H. Richards '54** died May 21, 2021.

**Robert D. Geroy '54** died Aug. 28, 2021.

**Randolph G. Owsley, Jr. '55** died May 12, 2015.

**Melba Snapp Wheeler '55** died June 13, 2021.

**Joann Adair Cortina '55** died July 14, 2021.

**Douglas W. Scott '55** died Aug. 26, 2021.

**Larry H. Poorbaugh '56** died Sept. 12, 2019.

**Eugene B. Smith '56** died May 24, 2020.

**Marilyn Glawe Smith '56** died Feb. 26, 2021.

**Marilyn Pemble Hayes '56** died July 10, 2021.

**Marlinda Phillips '56** died Aug. 15, 2021.

**Thomas W. Fussell '56** died Oct. 6, 2021.

**A. John Starp '57** died Dec. 4, 2020.

**Lt. Col. Billy B. Wood '57** died May 28, 2021.

**Rubye Gail Brooks Wilkerson '57** died July 28, 2021.

**Margaret McKinnon Brown '58** died Jan. 19, 2021.

**Othel Rochelle "Shelley" Deering II '58** died Aug. 2, 2021.

**Bryan B. Lancaster, Jr. '59** died Aug. 25, 2019.

**Patricia Daughtry Crawford '59** died Sept. 25, 2019.

**George L. Storms '59** died July 28, 2020.

**George L. Walker '59** died Jan. 25, 2021.

**Lt. Col. George D. French, Jr. '59** died Feb. 18, 2021.

**June Ruckle Hoffer Westerfield '59** died Feb. 22, 2021.

**Joseph H. Sammataro '59** died April 15, 2021.

**Peter E. Herguth '59** died Jun. 17, 2021.

**Robert C. Barnes '59** died July 6, 2021.

**Frank J. Aloia, Sr. '59** died Aug. 9, 2021.

**Carol Jenkins Cheyne '59** died Aug. 30, 2021.

## 1960S

**Dr. Chyung M. Kim '60** died Oct. 3, 2019.

**Howard K. Tyus, Sr. '60** died Jan. 15, 2021.

**Wilfred E. "Gene" Genest '60** died Feb. 6, 2021.

**Fred D. Lantz '60** died Feb. 7, 2021.

**William H. Tennyson, Jr. '60** died Feb. 26, 2021.

**Robert L. Alderman '60** died March 16, 2021.

**Ernest A. "Al" Belcher '60** died April 2, 2021.

**Harry M. Whittaker '60** died June 11, 2021.

**Nancy Cupp McAdams '60** died July 3, 2021.

**David Walters, Sr. '60** died Sept. 28, 2021.

**Hans "Jerry" Kraaz '61** died Aug. 14, 2018.

**James L. Armstrong '61** died April 11, 2020.

**Col. Robert F. Broyles '61** died Jan. 21, 2021.

**James D. Seager '61** died Feb. 21, 2021.

**George R. "Jack" Strathmeyer, Jr. '61** died April 19, 2021.

**Richard P. Engler, Sr. '61** died June 11, 2021.

**M. Lawrence Thigpen '62** died June 6, 2019.

**R. Franklin "Frank" Handy '62** died Dec. 14, 2019.

**Mary A. "Mary Ann" Reeder Franklin '62** died March 15, 2021.

**H. John Kuhnert '62** died May 3, 2021.

**Kathleen Mayer Almand '62** died May 29, 2021.

**Chris Kallas '62** died Sept. 5, 2021.

**Dr. Thomas J. Ryan '63** died June 24, 2019.

**Leonard E. "Len" Wozniak '63** died March 26, 2021.

**Evelynn Ludlow Flynn '63** died April 3, 2021.

**Ellen Rohrback Feinberg '63** died July 8, 2021.

**Jerry B. Gebhardt '63** died Oct. 14, 2021.

**Evelynn Wagner Hotz '64** died July 2, 2020.

**Sally Siebenthal Langenderfer '64** died April 7, 2021.

**Dr. James A. "Jim" Fisher, Sr. '64** died April 9, 2021.

**Dr. William A. Watkinson II '64** died May 1, 2021.

**Marvin D. Gunnells '64** died June 22, 2021.

**Barron P. Burhans '64** died Aug. 26, 2021.

**Richard B. Clarke '65** died Sept. 12, 2021.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Rev. H. Fred Johnson '66** died March 3, 2018.

**Ronnie "Ron" D. Lauderdale '66** died Dec. 8, 2020.

**Sandra Taylor Alphonse '66** died Dec. 21, 2020.

**Rev. Arthur L. Bishop, Sr. '66** died Jan. 7, 2021.

**Hope Frankel Rechtschaffer '67** died March 20, 2019.

**Helen Vandiver Yates '67** died Jan. 10, 2020.

**Marsha Tepper Hirsch '67** died Dec. 9, 2020.

**H. Lee Gregory, Jr. '67** died Feb. 20, 2021.

**Bonnie Ballard Ellis '67** died May 20, 2021.

**Paul A. Guthrie, Jr. '68** died April 5, 2021.

**James A. Ryder '68** died May 7, 2021.

**Joanne "Joanie" Dicks Connell '68** died June 4, 2021.

**Hilbert D. Kiesel '68** died Oct. 7, 2021.

**Leigh H. Loveday '69** died April 3, 2021.

### 1970S

**Robert C. Marriott '70** died July 30, 2021.

**James D. Goforth '70** died Aug. 30, 2021.

**Donald H. Barclay '71** died Feb. 17, 2021.

**Lewis W. Linton '71** died March 6, 2021.

**Lazaro "Larry" Cardenas '72** died Jan. 29, 2021.

**William "Bill" B. Stephens, Jr. '72** died June 23, 2021.

**Diana Davis Youmans '73** died Aug. 5, 2018.

**Rev. Dr. M. McCoy Gibbs '75** died July 21, 2021.

**David R. Kleis '75** died on Oct. 7, 2021.

**William M. Walters '76** died Dec. 21, 2017.

**Lawrence W. Harrell II '76** died Aug. 29, 2021.

**Ronald A. Becton '76** died Sept. 13, 2021.

**Carolyn Ritter Wheelock '76** died Sept. 19, 2021.

**Nancy J. Richards '76** died Oct. 7, 2021.

**Margie Brockman Newton '77** died April 3, 2021.

**Ann M. Rosborough '77** died April 5, 2021.

**Barbara Johnson '77** died Aug. 2, 2021.

**Harriet Matthews Jackson '78** died March 9, 2021.

**Robert E. Jacob, Jr. '78** died May 4, 2021.

**Barbara A. Gulick '78** died July 28, 2021.

**Trece M. Tisdale '78** died Aug. 14, 2021.

**Lathene Simpson Brown '79** died Dec. 16, 2018.

**William B. "Billy" Burch '79** died Feb. 25, 2021.

**Verna Lee Roberts '79** died June 13, 2021.

**Nancy Richardson Williams '79** died June 13, 2021.

**Gloria J. Durrance '79** died June 29, 2021.

**Olive Barr Byrd '79** died Aug. 8, 2021.

### 1980S

**Melvin Hill '80** died Aug. 11, 2020.

**Steven B. Hall '80** died Dec. 24, 2020.

**Ray I. McLellan '80** died April 30, 2021.

**John S. Trickett '80** died Oct. 11, 2021.

**Janet Ross Svaral '81** died Aug. 12, 2021.

**Brian D. Harrison '82** died April 12, 2021.

**Maureen Carmody Michael '82** died July 14, 2021.

**Robert L. Waldron '82** died Aug. 28, 2021.

**James Gaesser '83** died on Aug. 15, 2021.

**Esther Pettypiece '83** died Sept. 26, 2021.

**Rev. Wade A. Fahnestock '84** died May 29, 2021.

**Mary J. Faust '85** died Feb. 24, 2020.

**Evelyn J. Johnson '85** died Feb. 19, 2021.

**Gregory W. Spalding '85** died July 29, 2021.

**Lassie Duty Keene '85** died July 31, 2021.

**Joy Turner Dykes '85** died Oct. 4, 2021.

**Sabrina Kershner Evans '86** died April 9, 2021.

**Melanie Harden '86** died July 13, 2021.

**Rhonda Kaiser Zweber '88** died April 28, 2021.

**Carla Papendick Campbell '88** died May 28, 2021.

**Byron G. Pempek '88** died July 5, 2021.

**Manfred "Fred" Foge '89** died April 7, 2020.

### 1990S

**Barbra J. Nealy '90** died May 1, 2021.

**Maria Colon Mitchell '91** died Oct. 30, 2020.

**Sarah H. Brown '92 MBA '95** died June 30, 2020.

**James H. Leggett, Sr. '92** died Aug. 18, 2021.

**Susan Kangas Connor '94** died Oct. 17, 2021.

**Cathy Burdette Riddle '95 MBA '98** died Sept. 17, 2021.

**Kip G. Kimberley '96** died Aug. 31, 2021.

**Taryn Ackley Tener '99** died March 12, 2021.

**Peter C. Jackson '99** died Aug. 23, 2021.

### 2000S

**Christy L. Brinton-Perz '00** died May 21, 2021.

**Lynette H. Belford '04** died June 3, 2021.

## FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

**Roy D. (Monte) Thornton,** of Orlando, died Oct. 11, 2021.

**Stephen H. Grimes,** of Tallahassee, died Sept. 10, 2021.

## MAKING AN IMPACT BY GIVING BACK: MATT SOUTHMAYD '99

**M**att Southmayd graduated from FSC in 1999 with a B.S. in Business Administration and a concentration in Marketing Management. He currently works with senior executives as a Global Client Director at Gartner Inc., the world's largest research and advisory firm for information technology products and services, where he has been highly successful. Gartner Inc. provides expert guidance and tools to enable faster, smarter decisions and stronger performance on an organization's most critical priorities. Throughout his career, Matt has managed sales efforts,



*Matt Southmayd '99*

fostered strategic alliances, worked to develop future product offerings, and guided chief information officers across the globe to help them build skills for the digital age in order to drive business growth.

### Q&A WITH MATT

- Q. Why is it important for you to stay involved with Florida Southern College as an alum?**
- A.** Florida Southern gave me a lot and I feel strongly that I should give back, which is why I stay connected to FSC as part of the National Alumni Board of Directors, as well as through the Sigma Chi Fraternity.
- Q. What was it about an endowed scholarship that made you decide that was how you wanted to give back to Florida Southern?**
- A.** Dr. Coleman was my advisor in school, and he instilled an appreciation for the value of investing in the next generation of business leaders within me. It is incredibly important. I try to do that through the endowed scholarship program, as well as spending time mentoring undergrads.
- Q. How does it feel to know that you are making an impact in someone's life by helping pay for their Florida Southern education?**
- A.** Whether I can help financially or through my time, I always find it incredibly gratifying to be able to help and make an impact. I always encourage others to do the same.
- Q. Why did you choose to have the endowed scholarship in Business Analytics?**
- A.** In our modern economy, 90% of organizational strategies explicitly mention information as a critical enterprise asset and analytics as an essential competency. There is so much potential, but there is also a massive shortage of analytics talent. I believe that students who develop skills in business analytics will have fantastic career opportunities and be able to impact the organizations in which they work in powerful ways." ■

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RECENT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

East Long Island Area Annual Scholarship

Robert R. Rohlf '61 Endowed Scholarship in Women's Golf and Volleyball

Ashley A. Bailey, M.Ed. '16 & Nolen B. Bailey '07 / CPS Investment Advisors Endowed Scholarship in Finance

Dr. James and Marta Fenton Endowed Scholarship in Business

Dr. Randy Jones Endowed Scholarship in Men's Golf

Larry V. Falivena '90 Endowed Scholarship

Robert R. and Peggy I. Sharp Fellowship in Business, Free Enterprise, and Entrepreneurship

Matthew C. Southmayd '99 Endowed Scholarship for Business Analytics

If you are interested in endowing a scholarship, the endowed scholarships begin at \$25,000 paid over five years. Please contact the Office of Development at 863-680-3000 or [Development@FLSouthern.edu](mailto:Development@FLSouthern.edu).

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# HOMECOMING 2022

Celebrating 50th Reunions for  
**1970, 1971, and 1972**

**March 18-20, 2022**

## **SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:**

50th Reunion Dinners for our Golden Mocs,  
Founder's Day Convocation, College Update with Dr. Anne Kerr,  
Athletics Events, Frank Lloyd Wright and Campus Tours,  
and many more special events.

Please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations for more details  
at [Alumni@FLSouthern.edu](mailto:Alumni@FLSouthern.edu) or [www.FLSouthern.edu/homecoming](http://www.FLSouthern.edu/homecoming).