It is with deep sorrow that Farmingdale State College (FSC) has lost one of its own with the death of beloved professor, Patricia Ward. Pat, as her colleagues like to call her, was a devoted teacher, mother, and friend. Ward was 66 years old, and for 28 years she worked as a counselor and a professor of language arts with the Long Island Educational Opportunities Center (LIEOC) at the FSC campus.

Dr. Veronica Henry, the Executive Assistant to the President, mentioned that Ward was a calm, soft-spoken, and dedicated teacher. Henry also interviewed Ward for her position as a full-time professor for the EOC. Henry shared memories about Ward that stood out for her.

“She cared so much about her students and the importance for all students to know how to read and write. That is why she taught language arts. It was her passion. The staff and students will miss her dearly. If love could have kept her alive she would have lived forever,” said Henry.

On 28 October 2014, Ward was brutally murdered and decapitated by her son, Derek Ward, 35, who later killed himself by jumping in front of a train near the Farmingdale Long Island Railroad Station.

In less than 24 hours word had spread across campus of her untimely death. “It was shocking and unfortunate - to behead someone is the most brutal thing you can possibly do to someone. It’s a scary world we live in. We gotta pray,” said Jon Comeaux, a senior at FSC.

That is not how those at FSC want her remembered. “The media focused on the horrible manner in which Pat died. Strangers know very little about who she really was,” said Kathryn Coley, the senior director of communications at FSC.

If police must be involved, patients end up in jail and not the healthcare system. This is what Ward knew. Ward was the mother and caregiver to a mentally ill adult child. Now there is a proposed bill in the New York State Senate to respond to this problem that needs additional support.

Tragically, on October 28 she lost her life at the hands of her mentally ill son, who she swore to protect.

The Interim Director of the LIEOC, Dr. Karen Coutrier, longtime friend and colleague of Ward’s, said Ward had difficulty getting help for her son.

“But when Pat’s son would have outbursts, she would not call the police out of fear that they would potentially shoot and kill her son if he resisted arrest,” said Coutrier.

Restricted by her fear, Ward continued to take care of her son to the best of her ability. Tragically, on October 28 she lost her life at the hands of her mentally ill son, whom she always tried to protect.

HIPA and other laws, while protecting patients, can restrict a family member’s ability to advocate for a patient’s medical needs. Unable to effectively represent himself, Ward’s son did not receive the medical treatment that might have prevented such a tragedy. Ward’s story sheds light on a bigger problem that people like her, who are caregivers to adult children, are being
2014 Homecoming Was Ramtastic

By Paula Yip

The Great Lawn was the perfect stage with a crowd of nearly 400 attendees for the 2014 Homecoming celebration at FSC on Saturday, October 18. This event climaxed Spirit Week events hosted in various locations throughout the campus. Homecoming is an annual event for alumni, students, staff, and faculty to have fun in a spirit of FSC pride and camaraderie.

The annual tradition reappeared after the FCS's 100th anniversary in 2011. “Homecoming is a celebration for the entire Farmingdale family – we are able to enjoy the company of our students, faculty, staff, and, of course, our alumni – particularly those returning to celebrate their reunion milestones at the college. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, reconnect with kindred spirits, and celebrate the spirit of Farmingdale,” said Michelle Johnson, director of Alumni Relations.

This year the day was also part of the Farmingdale State College Alumni Reunion weekend in which alumni attended a series of reunion events on campus. A total of 60 alumni signed in during homecoming but many others were in attendance.

Homecoming is planned months in advance and is a collaborative coordinated event among various offices of the college including alumni, student activities, residence life, and athletics, etc. The 2014 Homecoming was primarily funded by student government, with additional contributions from institutional advancement, the Farmingdale Foundation, and the Alumni Association. Other areas like Aramark, facilities, and physical plant were essential to the event's success. Ram Nation Radio provided entertainment and music.

"Homecoming was a wonderful experience, and I am so lucky to have had the chance to be there with my fellow Rambassadors," said PCM junior, Olivia Mulligan. This is the second homecoming event she has attended, and she would not change a single thing. This was the second year that Spirit Week was instituted allowing students to be more involved and keeping the momentum for Homecoming Day ongoing with fun activities and giveaways like an iPad.

More details about the FSC Homecoming can be found on the FSC website including pictures of the event and other interesting facts about this tradition.

In addition to the Homecoming barbecue and various activities, women and men's alumni lacrosse, FSC women's soccer, men's alumni softball and alumni baseball games took place throughout the day. Planning for the 2015 Homecoming is already underway.

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Deans Promote Flexible Classrooms

By Marjory Alverton

In 2013 Farmingdale State College appointed Dr. Lou Reinisch as the new Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Lou Reinisch is a physicist who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. Dr. Reinisch has traveled the world, visiting numerous places of interest in Hungary, Germany and New Zealand, and he has also been invited to give lectures in numerous countries. Dr. Reinisch has had an impressive scientific career including investigating better ways to use lasers in surgery and optical devices in diagnosis. Impressively, Dr. Reinisch pioneered computerized control of surgical lasers. In 2001 when issues with arthritis were at a peak, he created a hand held device that could identify whether a white powder was anthrax.

Dr. Charles Adair is the Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Biology. Dr. Adair has a Bachelor of Science degree in botany from North Carolina State University, a Master of Science in plant pathology from Cornell, and a Ph.D. in mycology from the University of Hawaii. Adair started at Farmingdale State College as an associate professor of biology, and he and his wife, Steven. Dr. Reinisch has great vision for the future of the School of Arts and Sciences.

“Being the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences is a little like being a parent. You can provide opportunities, and try to show direction; however, you cannot make your children into anything that they do not want to be. The School of Arts and Sciences at Farmingdale is much the same way. I view my job as bringing new ideas and directions and providing opportunities,” said Reinisch. This shows his concern and attention for each of his students.

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“Being the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences is a little like being a parent. You can provide opportunities, and try to show direction...”

DegreeWorks: The Advisor’s Supervisor

By Briana Panetta

Farmingdale State College has access to a new web-based tool called DegreeWorks, combining both standard degree requirements of the coursework that has already been completed. It’s an efficient tool which aids in helping students progress toward completing their degree. It provides students with information regarding the classes they need to satisfy their degree requirements.

“DegreeWorks helps access every student needs to be successful at anytime and on their own time,” said Nicole LaIoannon, a freshman. However, “Students may feel less of a need to come to advisors with questions concerning academics. Easier is not always better,” said Mary Kate Lively, a junior.

“DegreeWorks Audit shows you exactly what you need to complete to degree major/minor/concentration. It shows a student’s previous and present coursework and everything in between.

Students who were enrolled from 2012-2013 and later have access to view degree audits within DegreeWorks. Students are able to save and print their audit. Advisors suggest viewing the audit before the end of the semester so that they may help students make a change their schedule.

“As of now we have about 800 students using DegreeWorks and about 200 additional students joining everyday. My goal is to get all 8,000 students using DegreeWorks because it’s easier to keep all students on track when they all use it at times they stand academically,” said Cindy McCue, college registrar.

Here are a few questions students can contact the registrar’s office at DegreeWorks@farmingdale.edu.

“Being the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences is a little like being a parent. You can provide opportunities, and try to show direction…”

Inbread, wine, and Italian oils. There was a strong aroma in the room that was intensified by Chef Bernal starting a fresh salad. He emphasized that when preparing food you should “Have all your ingredients ready,” before you start. In a large bowl he mixed roasted eggplant, lemon, salt, sugar, olive oil, onions, peppers, cherry wine, pecorino cheese, and a mixture of spices.

Chef Bernal concluded the event by regarding the bright, brilliant, and内容...
Elks Roam on Campus

By Adi Halevi

Wendy Klemperer, a well-known sculptor, displayed her work at her gallery opening in Memorial Gallery. Her work shows mostly fierce animals made of different recycled materials such as metal, iron, and wax. The exhibit displayed her watercolor paintings, wax sculptures, and a three-dimensional sculpture of elk passing through a river. The small animal sculptures came to life with her use of method wax that replaced their skin.

The materials she uses are distinctive. “There is often the material as much as the subject matter,” said Klemperer. Klemperer welded two eight-foot elk out of wrought iron recycled from torn down buildings and leaving it in its natural state. The wrought iron she used to construct the elk is unchanged, and comes in different shapes, curves, and thicknesses. This gives an abstract look to a realistic animal. The elk are on loan to the college and will be in front of Hall Hall from one to five years. The class of 2014 decided to give the college a gift of a ram sculpture. They chose Klemperer from among three artists. “I thought it was amazing because you can really see all the detail in her work,” said Irl Salgado, a Visual Communications major.

Klemperer will construct the ram from a scrap metal from a bridge in Maine. The ram will be placed in front of the student center, “Where dorms and commuters can all see it,” said Phil Simone, director of the Memorial Gallery.

Cafeteria is Closed

By Marvin Amparo Santana

Many resident students are complaining about the Aramark cafeteria at the Campus Center. Students say that the cafeteria’s new opening schedule is inconvenient, and the food quality is abysmal, especially on weekends.

“The food on weekends is terrible. This is definitely not what we pay for,” said Salomon Sokoya, a sophomore in the STS program.

Sokoya referred to the $2,375 that he and other students contributed to the cost of opening the new cafeteria. “I think that is definitely not what we pay for,” said Sokoya.

More and more students shared their concerns. Almilene Parker, a senior biochemistry major said, “This new cafeteria schedule is really unfair and inconvenient. On the weekends the food is okay. I’m not going to say that it’s always bad, although most times it is. The food on weekends is horrible.”

“If they have a specific request or dish they’d like us to cook, they should bring it to us,” said Sacco.

Dorm student Ana Chan, said, “I should not have to tell them what to cook or how to do their job. They should know what to do.”

Eating Takes Educating

By Adam J. Marcus

Some of the Food Day speakers: Inman Marghourab, Ms. RD Gardners Coordinator, Erin Theoreun, Director of Programs, August Backesbichel, Economics Development specialist Amy Engel, Sustainable Food Executive Director, Dr. Maxon E. Dutch, Distinguished Teching professor.

The Second Annual International Food Day was well attended. Many students and staff showed up to this nutrition know-how. Featured at this event was food education as well as food information.

International Food Day wasn’t just about eating food but how people eat food. Public Health and Nutrition Specialist, Dr. Zahrine Bajwa was a featured speaker about food security or access and how Americans are known to “mindlessly eat.” This is when someone who isn’t hungry just eats while watching a TV program.

Some attendees were students with a purpose. Senior student Josephine Siano said that she, “Found some facts about ‘My Plate’ fascinating because my dad has diabetes and adheres to that program.”

 Plenty of recipes were available at the event. Student Dante Colon said, “My whole family eats healthy...like the Paleo diet. In fact, my dad is going to cook the butternut squash soup from the event!”

Professional Communications Professor Christine Campana who brought her students to the event, said, “Eating healthy is about knowing where your food comes from and making good choices. That seemed to be the spirit of the conference.”

Farmingdale’s second Annual International Food Day event may have included guest speakers and recipes, but for some it was the food that was the main attraction. Jenna Macri said she came, “Because they fed me.”

Talkin’ Sports

By Steve Garett

Television personality and ground-breaker in women’s sports broadcasting, Ann Liguori paid a visit to Farmingdale to talk about her experiences in the sports world. Liguori held a presentation that took aspiring students through her journey from a new University of South Florida graduate to a woman who hosts her own TV shows on major sports networks.

“I knew I wanted to be a broadcaster since I was 11 years old,” said Liguori. “Be true to yourself. Do what you think is right.” In a time when opportunities for women were rare in sports, Liguori’s persistence drove her to where no woman had gone before.

“Her dedication to her dream, even after failing over and over again, is probably what set her apart from the rest,” said Kevin Wusumzer. “Instead of waiting for opportunities to come to her, she went out and made opportunities for herself.” said Colin Davis. “She gave us an idea of what it takes to be successful in any profession.”

Liguori began her career taking many freelance jobs until WFAN saw her work and gave her a shot at an interview with MLB pitcher, Doc Gooden. That interview eventually aired on WFAN radio. From there, she went on to host a talk show on WFAN and then a TV show on WFAN called “Sports Interview.”

She became the first woman to host a prime-time show on the Golf Channel called “Conversations with Ann Liguori” where she interviewed sports stars and big name celebrities with a love for golf.

A Dunk In the Shark Tank

By Adi Halevi

She has been playing basketball since she was a baby, and continued until her eligibility ran out. College students can only play eight semesters of a college sport while on a scholarship. She has had offers to play professionally in Ireland and Puerto Rico, and has had a tryout in Chicago. While she is known for her basketball skills, Nicky Young, 24-year-old FSC student is ready to graduate and start her business career.

Young and her partner Tina Charles, who plays basketball for the New York Liberty of the Women’s National Basketball Association, have created a product called the YC Splint.

When Young played basketball, she injured her fingers often and found that there was no finger splint that had an ice pack on it. Her solution was to create it. Her first YC Splint was sold to the USA Women’s Basketball Team. Since then she has sold over 500 splints to people.

Young and her partner recently received a patent for their product and have applied to Shark Tank. They hope to be accepted on the show and further endorse and get help with their business career with YC Splint.

Young has had a long history with basketball, but she is looking for a new perspective. “I love basketball, and to give other fellow basketball players an opportunity to get on the court faster will be a great feeling,” said Young.

Her last basketball game was played last season at FSC against Mount Saint Vincent. Young does not want to go to the games this season. “That’s when I’ll realize I’ll miss it,” said Young.

Camille Romero, a player on FSC’s women’s basketball team said, “Playing with Nicky was fun and she forces you to work hard in practice and in the games. True competitors being out the best in you and that’s what she did for me.”

Young’s family has always supported her with basketball, and is continuously supportive with her business career. While they are not close, her father played for the New York Knicks for a year. “I kind of want to make my own footprints, do my own thing,” said Young.

Young is focusing on her upcoming graduation and furthering her business career with the YC Splint.
Final Season for Senior Soccer Captain

By Derek J. Meinzinger

The FSC soccer captain Vincent Danetti finished his last season as a player and a leader. The 21-year-old captain will graduate at the end of May and has eight games left to play. Danetti played 58 games since his first debut as a freshman in 2011. He has started every game since his sophomore year. “My first year we didn’t make the play-offs. The second, we lost the first round of play-offs. Last year, we made it to the conference finals, but lost to Mount Saint Mary 2-1,” said Danetti. “As a captain, the keys to a successful team are communication, talented players, and having a solid chemistry,” said Danetti. “I cannot stress enough the importance of communication. It is crucial for success on and off the field.”

In his first year as captain, he brought in some outside help. “I asked my parents to videotape our practices and games. That way the team and I could pinpoint our weaknesses and focus on fixing them,” said Danetti.

Assistant coach and former player Joseph Lipsky pays tribute to the player who he played alongside for three years. “Vinny is always positive, he never puts anyone down, and he will only yell if he knows that you can do better,” said Lipsky. “He only wants to get the best out of everyone and will do anything to get the team to the next level.”

As the end of the season is near, he wants to be remembered as the first captain to bring home the conference title. “As well-as a good friend, an influential person, and setting the right example for others,” said Danetti.

Danetti and his team finished the regular season with a conference win on October 28, with a 6-1 victory over Yeshiva University.

Track Paves the way for Gortman

By Katerina Windrops

Jonathan Gortman is taking track in stride. He enjoys sports but he is very competitive in track. As a child he enjoyed playing baseball but later on when he made the decision and became involved with track, his parents were supportive of his choices.

His mother said, “Of course, why wouldn’t I be?” He has been running track since he was in 10th grade of high school and has had a growing love for it ever since. He didn’t grow up loving the sport; it was just a suggestion by his friend who thought that Gortman was a fast kid and should try out.

“Who knew I would end up loving the sport so much,” said Gortman. The 55 meter and 110 meter hurdles got him to make his final decision and become involved with track. As a child he enjoyed playing baseball but later on when he made the decision and became involved with track, his parents were supportive of his choices.

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