"Students First. And it Shows" the Theme of Convocation

President Keen focused on the achievements and progress of students when he hosted the Spring Convocation in the Little Theatre last month. The theme of the event — “Students First. And it Shows.” — demonstrates the College’s commitment to making student success Farmingdale’s primary goal.

To begin the program, Dr. Keen welcomed new faculty members and staff, then listed many student accomplishments including Javier Garcia (Applied Math), who placed first in the U.S. National Collegiate Mathematics Championship; Aviation’s Republic Raiders Flying Team, which placed first in a regional competition while student Michael Cinnante finished second for the Top Pilot Award at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association competition; and Jared Finkelstein, a student in Architecture/Construction Management, who has been named a National Fulbright Alumnus Ambassador.

“Our students do these wonderful things because of the support they get from all of you—our faculty and staff,” Dr. Keen said. “You deserve credit, too.”

He went on to praise students for their successful research and commended others for projects that included the planting of bioswales by Ornamental Horticulture students along Cipriani Drive and the re-design of the Gleeson Hall interior by students in Visual Communications.

In charting the College’s progress in serving students, several graphs were displayed that showed scholarships to students from the College Foundation increasing from $171,000 in 2012 to $204,000 last year; a 63 percent increase in outreach through the University in the High School program in two years; the increase in usage of student services such as Disability Services, the Career Development Center and the Tutoring Center; and increases in residence hall retention rates, first-year retention rates, and graduation rates.

Noting that enrollment continues to be robust and that construction and renovation—particularly the new Children’s Center and the refurbishment of Nold Hall—has contributed to a more positive environment on campus, Dr. Keen said, “the students benefit from all this activity.”

The event ended with the announcement of the CARES winners—Arturo Perez (Physical Plant), Joanne Lapidus-Graham (Nursing), and Vanda Bordies (Ornamental Horticulture).
LISTNet Honors FSC Grad and Professor

Farmingdale graduate Alexander Casanova and Biology Professor Robert Coleman won awards for innovative high tech work from LISTNet. As Lead Applications Developer, Alex is responsible for implementing solutions ranging from systems administration to Software Design. He has over 6 years of experience in Web Application Development, Alexander holds a BA in Information Technology from Farmingdale State and a Master’s in Information Technology from Touro College.

In addition to teaching biology and researching biofuel production at Farmingdale, Dr. Coleman is an inventor and co-founder of a company supported by the NIH that is commercializing a vaccine development platform. The platform utilizes computer-based software to construct designer vaccine viruses (see Coleman et al. 2008 Science). The pipeline includes candidates for: Influenza virus, Dengue virus, and RSV. Dr. Coleman has multiple high impact publications in the field of synthetic biology and infectious diseases, is the primary investigator on externally funded research projects and has project management skills in small business and biotechnology.

Save the Date

Alumni Award Dinner Friday, March 28, 2014 at the Crest Hollow Country Club at 6 PM. For tickets and information, please contact the Alumni Relations office at x2369.

EOP Students Aid Island Harvest

The College, as usual, responded generously to the call to donate food to the needy. This year, students in the Educational Opportunity Program assumed responsibility for the effort. In the words of Chi Alpha Epsilon President Candice George, "The campus response to Chi Alpha Epsilon’s Island Harvest food drive demonstrates the significant care and desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Whether through a monetary contribution or by bringing in various non-perishable goods, helping others in need is definitely a top priority for the Farmingdale State College community." In addition, staff and faculty donated food at the Holiday party. More than 700 lbs of food were collected through these combined efforts.

Life Saver

Melinda Murray holds an AED (automated external defibrillator) donated to Athletics through the Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness of SCA (sudden cardiac arrest).
Presentation on Veteran's Literature

Dr. Susan Sutton, English, and Eric Farina, Veterans Services, presented a paper to the American Literature Association symposium in New Orleans based on their experiences teaching a veterans’ focused literature class. The paper was titled “A Veteran’s Homecoming: Multiple Realities and Shifting Identity in Roxana Robinson’s Sparta” and it discusses the pair’s collaboration on a Title III grant for co-curricular activities received last year. In addition, Eric and Susan were invited to submit this paper for publication in War, Literature & the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities which is edited by Donald Anderson, Director of Creative Writing at the US Air Force Academy.

Veronica Henry Honored on MLK Day

Veronica Henry, Executive Assistant to the President and Chief Diversity Officer, was one of 11 honorees at the annual Martin Luther King Breakfast organized by the Hollywood Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral of Amityville last month. She was honored for her leadership in reflecting the ideals, values, and vision of Dr. King. Dr. Henry’s responsibilities include the enforcement of policies and regulations related to race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, and domestic violence victim status. In addition, she serves as the Title IX Coordinator for the campus. Dr. Henry is also a graduate of Farmingdale’s nursing program.

FSC Recognized by Melville Chamber of Commerce

Farmingdale was named a Melville Chamber Businesses of the Year for 2013. The college received this honor because of the example it sets in the community and through the partnership that has developed through FSC staff involvement, Dawn Grzan, in particular. An example of this partnership is that Mike DeLuise, president of the Chamber, was invited to speak to new faculty at orientation about business collaborations, research and other opportunities.

Architecture Students Volunteer for Fire Houses, Veterans and Seniors

Recently, about forty students of the Department of Architecture and Construction Management volunteered to prepare as-built drawings and proposed energy saving construction details for a number of fire houses on Long Island including West Sayville, East Farmingdale, Islip, and North Lindenhurst. The students prepared existing condition plans, sections, elevations and other details using AUTOCAD. In addition, the student volunteers also worked on projects for youth, community and senior centers in North Amityville Wyandanch and North Babylon.

Students previously volunteered to prepare existing condition plans, sections, elevations, and proposed energy savings details of several central Suffolk Fire Departments. They also measured and prepared as-built drawings and conducted energy audit for 11 Long Island veterans’ facilities which helped the veterans receive a $500,000 grant from the federal government to update their facilities.
People In The News

- Wendy Ladd, adjunct professional communications professor, has been named by Long Island Business News as a member of the 40 under 40 for 2014
- Dr. Dan Marrone has been published in the Fall 2013 issue of the SUNY University Faculty Senate Bulletin. His latest article, which is number 14, concerns Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer, the first licensed female physician in New York State. In addition, Dr. Marrone has been invited to present his paper titled “GENERAL NICHOLAS HERKIMER, 1726-1777: AMERICA’S FIRST ‘FIRST RESPONDER’” at the ISSS (International Society for the Social Studies) conference in February.
- Dean Lou Reinsch, arts and sciences, has published a paper titled “A Simplified Laser Treatment Planning System: Proof of Concept” in Lasers in Surgery and Medicine. The paper is co-authored with C. Gaelyn Garrett, MD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Mark Courrey, MD, University of California San Francisco Medical Center.
- Professor Orla Smyth LoPiccolo has achieved Certified Passive House Designer (CPHD) certification from the Passivhaus Institut, Darmstadt, Germany. Professor LoPiccolo’s certification shows that she has the knowledge and experience required for designing or consultancy services for Passive House building projects.
- Visual Communications alumnus Jeffrey Betts – a member of the Gleeson Hall Re-Design team, created an app called Makr, which just launched in November for the iPad! Makr is a design and creativity app for the iPad which offers a workspace to create your very own cards, labels, stickers, postcards, tags, holiday cards, invitations, and more.
- A manuscript written by Psychology Professor Dr. Michaela Porubanova, “Memory for Counter-Intuitive Concepts: The Effects of Cultural and Ontological Violations,” has been accepted for publication in Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion.
- Drs. Marya Carter-Howell, Syeddu Islam and Jennifer Gonder of the Department of Psychology are the recipients of a 2013 “Explorations in Diversity and Academic Excellence” grant from the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Irina Lee, visual communications adjunct professor, has coauthored the third edition of The Graphic Design Reference & Specification Book: Everything Graphic Designers Need to Know Every Day.
- Congratulations to: Dr. Laura Joseph, named Associate Provost; Janice Rivera, named Director of Special Academic Support Programs and School of Engineering Technology Dean Kamal Shahrabi, named executive Director of the Renewable Energy and Sustainability Center (RESC).

Black History Month

- February 11 — 3-6 p.m. Campus Center Ballroom Presentation by Suffolk County Deputy Police Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis who will speak about Racial Reconciliation, Truth-Telling and Police Legitimacy. The film, Many Roads, will be shown.
- February 18 — 3-6 p.m. Roosevelt’s Little Theatre Student Open Forum Celebration featuring the Step Team, dance groups, spoken word and singers For information, contact Dr. Elfe / TRIO Student Support Services - ASAP, at elfeb@farmingdale.edu or (631) 794-6152

FSC Golf Team Continues to Tee Off

The men’s golf team won its sixth straight Skyline Conference championship this past season, shooting a school record two-day total of 595, including a single day record of 289 in round one of the league tournament. With the victory, Farmingdale earned the conference’s automatic bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Championships at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, N.C. on May 13-16. Senior Adam Larkin was named the Skyline Conference Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference after winning his third career Skyline Title with a two-day total of 143 at Bethpage State Park’s Red Course. Sophomore Scott Sessions, junior Matt Pollock and sophomore Chris Brogi were each named First Team All-Skyline, while senior Rich Kelly earned Second Team honors.

Calendar of Events

- 2013-14 Research Colloquia Coordinated by the School of Business, the talks will be held Tuesdays from 3:05 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom.