

CLAS News

MAY 2020

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 22

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CLAS Adapts Spring Classes and Programming in Light of Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty and staff in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have risen to the challenge, trying to find innovative ways to continue to offer classes and other programming online.

Thomas Cadenazzi, adjunct lecturer, was nominated by several of his students as a Caring Bobcat for his commitment to making the online format work for his ENES 102 Statics class. Cadenazzi is “putting forth his best effort in teaching classes,” providing a discussion board where he will answer questions “at an insanely fast rate.” He’s produced video lectures and has been very fair in grading while keeping to the original syllabus.

Shoshana Brassfield, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, has led in supporting faculty in the transition to remote instruction, offering resources through Canvas ranging from general advice to specific strategies for each discipline. During spring break, she created a discussion board focused on the transition, especially to inform faculty about the many free textbook and content resources available.

In addition to ensuring that their classes are offered, several faculty within CLAS have continued to work to offer co-curricular programming for the campus community.

On April 22, led by Kara Rogers Thomas, Focus Frostburg events were held through Zoom in observance of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The innovative format included open readings of poetry, prose, and songs exploring environmental themes; talks by faculty and community members; take-home activities; a recycling poster contest; and an online screening of six films with environmental themes.

The FSU Chamber Singers were even able to put together a virtual choir performance of “Adon Olam,” a Jewish choral hymn. The process to create this involved **Dr. Scott Rieker**, director of Choral Activities and Choral Music Education and a lecturer in FSU’s Department of Music, recording himself conducting the piece in an empty classroom. Then, pianist **Dr. Joseph Yungen**, a lecturer in the department, provided a pitch-reference recording while watching the video. Rieker combined these into one video and shared them with all of the students in the ensemble. Over the following three weeks, the students (who were all at home) sang their parts along with Rieker’s conducting and then filmed themselves on their cell phones, performing their part. Once all had submitted their videos (17 students at different locations), choir member and music industry student **Arran Mills** mixed all of the vocal tracks together to create a choir sound. Finally, using Adobe Premiere, Rieker created the video to correspond with the mixed audio track. To see the video, visit <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1V498uptqVOE-Ey2XRpteesyWuXPkWNt>.

The Dean’s Office has also been committed to continuing with online operations in support of departments. Dean Hixson has been holding biweekly small group meetings through Microsoft Teams to troubleshoot any problems and maintain open communication with department chairs. In an effort to recognize student achievements, a virtual Dean’s Colloquium was hosted with students nominated by their departments for outstanding projects.

“I want to commend all of our faculty on an outstanding job during this challenging time,” said Hixson. “We have had very few complaints from students and classes seem to be carrying on effectively online.”

Four CLAS Faculty Members Set to Retire

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be losing three of its faculty this spring, with the retirements of Dustin Davis (Visual Arts), Lance Revenaugh (Mathematics), and Bill Southerly (Psychology). A third faculty member, Bud Precht (Geography) will be retiring on July 1.



Dustin Davis is retiring from the Department of Visual Arts after serving for 48 years as a valued colleague and mentor to generations of Frostburg students. He has taught sculpture and senior capstone courses in the department. He has served as Director of the Roper Gallery since his arrival in 1972, and as Chair of the Department of Visual Arts for terms from 1982-89 and 1993-2004. Through his teaching and guidance of BFA candidates during their capstone experiences, Dustin facilitated the success and quality of innumerable Senior Exhibitions. He has guided the department's scholarship process, and overseen biannual all-campus student shows. His creative career is highlighted by numerous exhibitions of and awards for his work in sculpture. He will be missed particularly for the generous and supportive mentoring relationships he developed with visual arts students and his active role in the vibrant life of the Department of Visual Arts.



Francis (Bud) Precht has been teaching in the Department of Geography since 1989. In the early 1990s, he fostered a close and productive relationship with Tri-County Council for Western Maryland in the development of GIS expertise in the region and co-founded the Western Maryland Regional GIS Center that is part of the Department of Geography. Over the years, Dr. Precht was responsible for securing a number of grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, including funding that brought a Global Positioning Systems lab facility to the department. He has served as an advisor the Geography Club and FSU's chapter of GTU, the student geography honor society. For over two decades, Precht has served in an organizing role with Towson University's annual GIS conference for Maryland professionals.



Lance Revenaugh has served FSU for 38 years, including nine years as chair of the Department of Mathematics. Lance has served several times as Faculty Marshal for FSU's commencement ceremony. In 2013, he was the first recipient of the Exemplary Service to Students with Disabilities Award. In 2018, Lance led the department's participation in the statewide pilot for Adaptive Learning in Statistics (ALiS) project. Dr. Revenaugh has never stopped seeking to improve the craft of teaching. By being our lead participant on the ALiS project, he learned to teach classes using a flipped pedagogy. He was also the first one in the department to adopt an innovative approach to teaching statistics through simulation-based pedagogy. Accomplishments aside, Dr. Revenaugh is regularly the first person in the office, and will always greet you with a smile. Polite to a fault, Dr. Revenaugh is always optimistic about students' ability to succeed, and tirelessly supportive of our students. He will be greatly missed by both his students and colleagues.



Bill Southerly has accomplished a great many things in his 32 years at FSU. In many ways he put FSU on the map when he created TIPS (Teaching in the Psychological Sciences) Listserv in 1992, which at one point accounted for 80% of the email that flowed through FSU. Bill received letters of support for him and TIPS from psychologists all over the world, spanning six continents (apparently TIPS was not popular with the penguins of Antarctica). He was also a pioneer of the Maryland Course Redesign. Along with two colleagues he redesigned how General Psychology was taught at FSU resulting in higher test scores as well as tremendous financial savings. Bill was an excellent teacher and tremendous advisor (with typically over 40 advisees). His advisees always spoke glowingly of him, and he was the advisor you would want your child to have if they came to FSU.

These accomplishments, and many more, certainly make him worthy of our respect and admiration. It has been his being such an amazing colleague and friend, however, that will cause him to live on in our hearts forever. He will be extraordinarily missed for his humor, support, leadership, decency, and most of all, his love of his fellow department members. So we wish him well as he retires with sadness in our hearts, but excitement for him as he transitions to full-time spoiling of his granddaughters, driving his lovely bride Sheila crazy, helping out his sons and daughter-in-law, and finally watching all the sci-fi he has recorded on his DVR!

Engineering Students Develop Solution for Icy Frostburg Sidwalks

Anyone who's been to Frostburg knows that it's not just a name, it's a weather statement. So when Frostburg State University engineering students chose a project for their senior capstone class, it seemed fitting to create modular heated tiles to melt snow and ice on sidewalks, driveways and potentially roadways.

"The idea started in our pre-capstone class," said senior Ryan Miller '19, one of the six-member team. "We asked ourselves, what are some problems that society or Frostburg specifically has and what are some solutions?"

From filters for second-hand smoke to corrosion-resistant paint for ships, they began the arduous process of brainstorming, researching and planning. Eventually, one product came to the forefront.

"Of the 10 or so ideas, we narrowed it down to a blanket-heated driveway," explained Robert Burns '19, another member of the student team. "But a heated blanket isn't sturdy enough to drive on, so we mashed up ideas until we came up with the concept for the heated modular tiles."

After a great deal of research and collaborating with professionals in the pre-capstone class, the team of students resumed work in the 2019 fall semester as they began the design and construction of the 8-inch x 8-inch octagonal tile system, which they named MelTech.

"We didn't want consumers to tear up existing driveways and sidewalks, so the tile system is meant to lay on top of an existing surface," said Burns. "They link together to cover the surface area needed, whether it's a sidewalk or a bridge. And if one malfunctions or breaks, you just replace that one tile."

Because the students were limited to the materials available to the classroom setting, the concept for the modular tile was constructed on a 3-D printer on campus. In the case of a real-life manufacturing situation, the team proposed injection molding, which is impact-resistant and can withstand the compression of vehicles driving over it.

Once the structure was printed, the team inserted the electrical heating components. Some assembly required machines offsite, including drilling performed at Phenix Technology, a regional manufacturer of high-voltage test

systems and components.

The MelTech tile differs from current snow-melting products in a number of ways. In addition to being sturdy enough to drive over, depending on the process, MelTech tiles could be manufactured in a way that reduced costs for the average consumer. In addition, MelTech tiles are environmentally friendly.

"Salt can be a big problem. Salt increases the rust on cars, it kills grass, it harms wildlife and it deteriorates bridges," Miller said. "Then the snow thaws and you're still left with salt everywhere."

The students provided a concept of design, but they also have ideas for future upgrades if a manufacturer chose to mass-produce their tile.

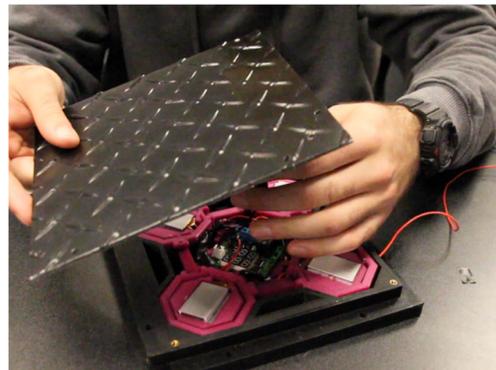
"We'd really like to see either an app as part of the product, so that it can be turned on remotely, or have the system connected to a weather service, so it would come on according to forecasts," said Burns. "That way you wouldn't have to worry about moderating it to stay at temp. It would just take care of itself. It could even have precipitation sensors to detect when it was snowing or have solar panels to help recharge."

The capstone project even garnered sufficient attention that the students were invited to present at the national Materials Science & Technology conference in Portland, Ore.

"There was a very diverse group of projects and presentations; most were outside the collegiate level, so we were presenting our work right beside people who were out there doing this stuff in real life," said Miller. "It was a pretty big conference for materials engineers."

As for the overall capstone experience, Burns and Miller agreed that the challenges and successes of the class helped prepare them for life after graduation.

"I'd only ever done bookwork, so I wasn't sure where to begin, but the combination of my internship and capstone made everything flow together and make sense," explained Burns. "Doing this hands-on project helps you see what engineering really is."



Above: A diamond plate is secured to the top of a tile housing the MelTech heating system

Miller agreed that the capstone class taught students valuable lessons about life after graduation.

"At first the capstone was frustrating because of doing paperwork, getting permission, a lot of waiting," said Miller. "But looking back at both my Navy internship and this class, it's more similar than I realized. In the real world, you do have to get permission. You can't just spend money and build stuff. You have to go through the steps."

Burns and Miller have plans for after graduation. Burns will begin a job with the U.S. Navy, and Miller has an internship to full-time position at the Naval Warfare Center in Indianhead, Md.

"It turned out a lot better than we thought it would and was pretty cool. Kind of like, 'Hey, we did this,'" said Miller.

The six-member student team included Emmanuel Benyella '19, Jaren Bohn, Burns, Christian Healey '19, Miller and Lane Mosser '19. The capstone project was led by Dr. Zhen Liu, materials engineering professor, national leader in composites engineering materials who is serving session chair for American Institute of Chemical Engineers. The project is co-advised by Physics and Engineering faculty members Dr. Oguz Soysal (electrical engineering), Dr. Julie Wang (mechanical engineering), Dr. Eric Moore '00 (physics), with technical support from in FSU's Additive Manufacturing Lab from lab manager Duane Miller and student Katelyn Hamilton; and from the manufacturing department of Phenix Technologies in Accident, Md.. Financial support came from the FSU Undergraduate Research Travel Award and the Provost's Experiential Learning Enhancement Fund.

History Professor Presents in Paris

Alem Abbay, Department of History, presented "Quo vadis Ethiopia?" in "The Rise of Asia" annual conference held jointly in the Universite Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and Universite Le Havre Normandie, February 12-13. The presentation was one of the four papers cited in Raphael Orange-Leroy's "Nous avons bien besoin des non-alignes," *Development Gouvernance*, 13 Mars 2020.



Life-Cycle Facilities Management Program Approved by University Governance

The Faculty Senate recently approved a proposal for FSU to develop a new Life-Cycle Facilities Management degree program focused on climate-change and emergency preparedness. The proposal has been sent to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for review. If approved, courses would begin in fall 2020.

The interdisciplinary program requires 105 credit hours, including courses in Geography, Business, and Life-Cycle Facilities Management. The following themes will be infused into the curriculum: sustainable site development; water savings; energy efficiency; materials selection; and indoor environmental quality. In keeping with the university's emphasis on experiential learning, the program will require two summer internships for a total of 12 credits and will allow prior learning credits to be awarded for individuals with experience.

Life-cycle facilities management is field that is rapidly evolving from construction management. Graduates will be well-prepared for a variety of employment opportunities that include not only Construction Manager but also Project Manager, Cost Estimator, Product Life-Cycle Specialist/Manager, Fleet Life-Cycle Manager, Building and Systems Analyst, and Facility Manager

The program will be housed within CLAS and report directly to the Dean's Office. The university was awarded Maryland Workforce Development Initiative funds to support the hiring of two full-time faculty, pending MHEC approval of the program.

Department of Communication Hosts Events on Social Distancing Civility, Resilience

On April 23, as part of the annual Day of Civility events in Allegany County, the Department of Communication hosted a Facebook and Zoom event entitled, "Social Distancing Civility: Strategies for Civil Communication at a Distance." Participants were invited to share approaches to communicating during this global social distancing effort, including with digital devices and social media, in socially and professionally appropriate, cooperative and respectful ways. To highlight various experiences and views on how to navigate social distancing communication, students in MCOM 205 Mobile Media Production shared short videos about these topics to share online. FSU's Communication Leadership Lab assistants, who are interning with the Communication Studies program, helped to facilitate the discussion.

The Department of Communication also organized two events on April 28 to highlight the theme of resilience. Heather Mizeur, former Maryland legislator and candidate for governor, was the featured "leader in virtual residence" for FSU's annual leadership residency program. Now the CEO of

the nonprofit organization Soul Force Politics (<https://www.soulforcepolitics.org>) and the host its popular podcast, Mizeur shared her insights on "Cultivating Soulful, Resilient Leadership to Create Social Change," a brief presentation followed by a facilitated discussion to help attendees reflect and integrate ideas and practices.

Additionally, Dr. Judy Stone, author of "Resilience: One Family's Story of Hope and Triumph Over

Evil" (2019), was the featured speaker for an interactive online event titled "Resilience and Resistance: Family Memories of the Holocaust and Their Relevance Today." Stone, a local author and infectious disease specialist who is a senior contributor for Forbes, shared the story of her family's experience in Hungary during World War II from the perspective of a daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Audience members were invited to discuss cross-generational traumatic challenges, as well as strategies for resilience and resistance.



Wildlife and Fisheries Major Featured by Trout Unlimited

FSU Wildlife and Fisheries major Morgan Stum was recently featured in the We Are TU blog of Trout Unlimited. Morgan's nomination called her a "bright young leader" pursuing a career in wildlife and fisheries management. She serves as the president of the TU 5Rivers college program at Frostburg State University.

A native of Landisburg, Pennsylvania, Morgan has been interested in the outdoors and protecting wildlife since a young age. She became involved with conservation in high school, taking environmental science classes and participating in events like Envirothon and trash clean ups. While at FSU, Morgan has participated in a number of projects, including tree planting with the TU Embrace a Stream project, installing monofilament fishing line recycling bins at local fishing areas through a university-funded sustainability grant, and actively

taking scientific data on stream restoration projects. A passionate fly fisher, she was introduced to the sport through the TU 5 Rivers college program at FSU. Since learning to fly fish, she has fished at locations across the east coast and in the Bahamas, but her primary experience is in the Appalachian trout streams.

Trout Unlimited is a national non-profit organization with 300,000 members and supporters dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Through their Diversity and Inclusion initiative, their blog highlights members such as Morgan from diverse communities across the continent.

To read Morgan's full interview, visit <http://www.tu.org/blog/we-are-tu-meet-morgan-stum/>.



Theatre and Dance Tech Team Wins at Regional Festival

This past January, a team of four Theatre majors attending the Kennedy Center's Region II American College Theatre Festival at the University of Maryland College Park won the Stage Crew Showdown/Tech Olympics. Competing against regional colleges and universities, Grace Easterday, Andrew Geier, Frank Bowles, and Nick Partonen demonstrated their technical theatre skills in a series of challenging events. During closing ceremonies, the team was awarded the coveted "golden hand truck," which is now on display in the Theatre and Dance office. As the champions of this event, the FSU team will return to the 2021

festival to lead the challenge. This marks the second time an FSU Theatre and Dance tech team won the Tech Olympics.

In addition to winning the Tech Olympics, Junior Grace Easterday went on to receive an Honorable Mention award for her scenic design of the fall Theatre and Dance production, *Alabama Story*. She was also awarded the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas award, which allows her to attend the institute free of charge over the summer.



Pictured (left to right): Andrew Geier, Nicholas Partonen, Grace Easterday, Frank Bowles

Physics and Engineering Uses 3D Print Lab to Support COVID-19 Faceshield Production

Physics and Engineering Lab Manager Duane Miller and Machinist Kevin Fearon have been working with Bishop Walsh School to support the production of faceshields for local health care workers. Miller and Fearon have been printing the headband pieces of the PRUSA created COVID-19 faceshields, with Bishop Walsh then assembling the masks. FSU's Physics and Engineering

Department has two of the PRUSA printers in its Manufacturing Center, along with a Makerbot printer to support the effort. The printers are set up to print overnight, with staff in the Manufacturing Center at FSU reloading and troubleshooting for about an hour each day. Mechanical engineering junior Nick Harris has also been assisting with troubleshooting

from a remote location as problems arise. The group has produced over 200 shields to date. They have been delivered to local nursing homes, physicians, social service organizations, and the hospital, as well as University Police. They are now working on supplying Frostburg City Police.



Shown above is the winning poster of the 2020 Earth Day recycling poster contest. It was designed by ART 207 student McKenzie Holland.

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Have any interesting news items about faculty, staff, or students in your department? Submit them to Linda Steele (lstele@frostburg.edu) for the next issue.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Digital Generalist Credentialing to be Available for Non-Computing Majors

The University System of Maryland is partnering with Capital CoLAB to begin offering a Digital Generalist credential for undergraduate students in non-technical majors. Students will complete a series of modules that will cover: 1) the role of data and analytics; 2) probability and descriptive and inferential statistics; 3) data manipulation; 4) data visualization and communication; 5) data ethics; and 6) data security. The credential will incorporate the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by

industry for entry-level positions in a wide variety of occupations.

Mike Flinn, Computer Science and Information Technologies, is serving as the faculty lead on the project. It is anticipated that the credentialing will be available for students in fall 2020.

Nine CLAS Faculty Receive Promotions

CLAS is pleased to announce that nine faculty were recently promoted to the rank of Professor: Mike Mathias (Philosophy/Provost's Office); Jennifer Flinn and Erica Kennedy (Psychology); Nicole Mattis and Darrell Rushton (Theatre and Dance), Michael Flinn and Xinliang Zheng (Computer Science and Information Technologies), Skott Brill (Philosophy), and Elesha Ruminski (Communication). Congratulations to all!

FSU Selected to Offer Virus Discovery Course

The FSU Biology Department was recently selected as one of a handful of institutions across the country to begin offering the SEA-PHAGES (Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Science) Program in fall 2020. SEA-PHAGES is a two semester, discovery based undergraduate research course, developed and supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The course involves the discovery, isolation, genome sequencing and annotation, and microscopy of new bacteriophages. Bacteriophages are naturally occurring viruses that only infect bacteria, and are currently being tested for clinical use as an alternative to antibiotics.

Biology faculty Rebekah Taylor and David Puthoff developed and submitted FSU's application for the program, and both will receive in-depth training over the summer to prepare for the course. To begin, the course will be offered to students in the FSU Honors Program.

"Students will discover and name new viruses and publish their results through this exciting program," said Taylor.

According to the program website, the goal is to increase undergraduate interest

and retention in the biological sciences through immediate immersion in authentic, valuable, yet accessible research. By finding and naming their own bacteriophages, students develop a sense of project ownership and have a ready-made personal research project.

For more information, visit seaphages.org.

