



Save the Date:

# Spring/Summer 2018 Calendar of Events

C I I P I ' S  
D P

611 Productions presents "Dr. Johnson's Lab"  
April 24 at 8 p.m.

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From the Chair:

# A Buzzing Spring for SAC Faculty, Students

The spring 2018 semester is coming to a close across Florida Tech and especially here in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC).

The number of special events we have in the SAC and the ones we participate in around campus are statements of our energy and diversity in very meaningful ways. At times, there are so many events or functions going on that one is hard-pressed to decide which one to attend!

The music program remains a jewel of SAC, and its concerts are always special and entertaining. Our newest music faculty member, Joseph Montelione, recently conducted and performed in a memorable original concert of his own composition.

Leading an ensemble made up of student musicians and local volunteer players, Montelione made the Gleason Performing Arts Center ring with trumpets and strings. It was a night to be long remembered by all in attendance, and it laid the foundation for future concerts of this caliber.

In short order, the SAC communication program and *The Crimson* newspaper celebrated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in February with its annual Free Speech Week.

Freedom of speech and the press are bedrock American principles that must always be nurtured and defended. Panels and presentations from legal experts, local journalists and a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist showcased a wide variety of opinions and experiences for their audiences.

Among the events, the most popular, and perhaps most chilling, was the "Live Free or Eat Free" lunch giveaway held on the Crawford Building green. The activity demonstrated the real price of surrendering your First Amendment rights and the consequences of such an action. It proved to be a fun, but frightening, exercise!

SAC remains a close partner of the Florida Tech Army ROTC program.

Once again, we helped with the program's Senior Battle Analysis "stair ride" field trip this semester. Senior cadets toured the grim grounds of the infamous Civil War prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia, the major U.S. Army base at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the site of the 1864 Civil

# Education Connection: Building Motivation into the Writing Classroom

By Andy Stanfield, For *The Conversation*

Writing is a skill, and honing skills takes practice.

Using the mean is an easy way to calculate grades, but is it the best approach to encourage students to write more? With the mean, each poor performance will drag down the range of scores, affecting the final average. If at the beginning of

## Making Moves: SAC Faculty News Roundup

### **Faculty Service Recognition**

Congratulations to these SAC faculty members recently honored during the 2018 Service Awards:

**5 years:** Melissa Crofton, Elizabeth Dopira,  
Natalie Dorfeld, Debbie Lelekis,  
Keturah Mazo

**10 years:** Annie Caza

**15 years:** Anna Montoya, Angela Tenga

**40 years:** Sharon Irvin

**Andrew Aberdein's** article, "Virtuous Norms

## SEVENTH ANNUAL FREE SPEECH WEEK AT FLORIDA TECH

Edwards said the discussion about tenure was particularly timely here on Florida Tech's campus because the university is considering a tenure system.

She also said the keynote address was a compelling reminder of the power of images and the role of journalists.



The panel discussion was really awesome because it is a topic that really frustrates me—but in a good way. I think it's really important to think about free speech critically, especially in a political sense. I think it's really important that we analyze the way we communicate with others and that we have the ability to trust the press and people who are speaking freely.



*Nicole Kern, journalism major*



## COM HONOR SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUES TO 'SPREAD THE LOVE'

By Abeer Janakat, Special to *Tech*

As the spring semester nears an end, members of the Lambda Pi Eta Upsilon Xi Chapter welcomed two new members into the communication honor society: Kiayna O'Neal and Annika Sundquist.

The induction ceremony, held March 21, began with faculty advisor Keturah Mazo presenting society officers with gifts of appreciation. The event ended with the lighting of two candles for the new members as a (fric)1atNd studenting (o tXi Char)21.hon30e/elc

## Florida Tech Lives Out Loud During Annual African American Read-In

By Kat Redner, For *Tech*

Diversity took center stage in February as area poets, musicians, dancers and performers joined students and faculty in celebrating Florida Tech's third annual African American Read-In.

This year's theme, "Living Out Loud," really resonated with students like Nicholas Joy.

"It's important because it shows people elements of black history that might not have been known before," said Joy, a senior engineering student who recited the poem "I, Too" by famed poet and activist Langston Hughes.

More than 200 people packed the first floor of Evans Library on Feb. 9 for the event, which was free and open to the public.

Raghav Ringshia, a freshman from India, said the read-in brought people together and offered a chance for them to learn more about other cultures.

"When my professor mentioned this event, I came to see and understand more about the African-American culture," Ringshia said.

That culture was not only shown through poetry but also through music.

Florida Tech student Ariana Bishop sang "Dream a Little Dream of Me" by Ella Fitzgerald. As she sang, some audience members mouthed the lyrics while others nodded their heads to the music or recorded Bishop with their cell phones.

"The spirit of love that is in this room, the camaradery—you can feel that love just radiating—it's just beautiful," said Joni Oglesby, Ph.D., who served as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

A section of the library was designated Zora's Soul Food Café, named after famous Florida writer Zora Neale Hurston. Attendees were treated to foods—including fried chicken, beef stew and collard greens—highlighted in Hurston's book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Most of the food was prepared by performer Claudette King-Welcome, owner of Montego Café restaurant in Palm Bay.

The Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society provided pound cake.

The event drew a diverse group of performers and audience members ranging from toddlers to the elderly, black to white—showing how the community came together for equality.

"There's still tension in the U.S. and people don't understand the value of equality, but I think our campus is so diverse and it gives the professors and students an outlet to speak out about what they're passionate about," said sophomore Olivia McKelvey.

*Top: Florida Tech students Ebubechukwu Ubochi and Princess Noboluwaduro Akande performed "No One" by Alicia Keys at the African American Read-In. Photo credit: Kat Redner*

*Bottom: More than 200 people attended Florida Tech's 3rd Annual African American Read-In in the school's Evans Library on Feb. 9. Guests enjoyed poetry, readings, songs and a full-course soul food dinner. Photo credit: Markeema Crawford*



# Taylor Helps Bring Civil War Battles to Life

By Kevin Boodoosingh, For The Daily

Indiaella Kemm-Pineiro thought she was ready.

The senior U.S. Army ROTC cadet did her homework, researching and analyzing American Civil War-era battles in the state of Georgia, including the Battle of Pickett's Mill.

But it wasn't until she toured the expansive field where the bloody skirmish occurred that the realism of the situation began to sink in.

"Even though I did my prior research, it did not compare to actually being there and having Dr. Taylor walk us through the grounds," Kemm-Pineiro said.

Robert Taylor, Ph.D., head of the School of Arts and Communication, accompanied Florida Tech's senior ROTC cadets on their battle analysis trip in mid-March. The excursion was led by MSG John D. Stafford, senior military instructor U.S. Army ROTC, and Captain Sheiloh Carlos, assistant professor of military science, U.S. Army ROTC.

"As an Army ROTC cadet, when you're a senior, the Army requires you to do a battle analysis where you go to a battle site and walk the actual ground and explain various aspects of it and see what you can learn by physically being there," said Taylor, a history professor and an associate dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts.

The cadets visited many sites in Georgia, with each containing a different aspect to their analysis. In addition to Pickett's Mill, they also toured the Andersonville National Historic Site and Fort Benning.

Within those sites were various battlegrounds and museums that the cadets had the opportunity to interact with, including the National Prisoner of War Museum and the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

Stafford said the trip focused on the logistics not the politics of the Civil War battlegrounds.

"Each cadet talked about what happened and about what decisions were made and how they would have done it differently. Interpersonal skills were highly developed," he explained.

Carlos added that cadets studied the tactical and technical side of the battles.

"Having the cadets actually walk the grounds and feel what it means to be a leader and what an actual assault really is like, and how it feels, really gives them a new perspective and ultimately prepares them for anything the United States Army asks of them in the future," he said.

Taylor said one highlight of the trip was the group getting the opportunity to hike Pickett's Mill.

"We spent several hours going over the battle that was fought there, and I can assure you, the three-mile hike was not easy," he said.

Kemm-Pineiro said it was a cool opportunity to walk the battle field.

"It was an awesome experience also because all the cadets bonded even more," she said



## FINNEGAN INDUCTED TO PHI KAPPA PHIfy12





## NEW PHILOSOPHY CLUB TAKES STUDENTS ON THOUGHT-FILLED JOURNEY

By Aaliyah Thomas, For Tech Times

FITosophy may be the only place on campus where students can thoroughly discuss the values of argumentation, censorship, and obscenity all in one month.

Such were the topics of weekly meetings in March by Florida Tech's new philosophy club. The group, with its portmanteau name, provides students with an informal, student-friendly environment to discuss openly philosophical questions that are important to them.

FITosophy is the brainchild of Eleanor Mathers, a junior communication major who also is the first Florida Tech student to declare a philosophy minor.

"We go to a technical college where everything has a conclusion. Math has the answer, science has the answer, and that's their whole point," Mathers said.

Philosophy is all about the journey to finding an answer rather than finding the solution because sometimes there is no answer, she added.

The club meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Evans Library. All are welcome.

Discussion topics vary for each meeting.

The club's faculty advisors are Andrew Aberdein, Ph.D., and Moti Mizrahi, Ph.D., who teach philosophy courses such as Survey of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, and Philosophy of Science.

Both professors publish research on philosophical issues, such as the nature of mathematical and scientific knowledge.

"I believe philosophy is important because you learn how to think," Mizrahi said, adding that

the process of thinking is important when pursuing an academic major or career.

He said it helps with evidence and how to filter through news and information that is accessible to mass amounts of people.

Iliya Salinnyk, a chemical engineering major with a minor in nanotechnology, is a member of FITosophy. He agrees that philosophy requires individuals to think outside of their norm.

"This club is very casual. Many people consider philosophy to be very formal, but the atmosphere



## COM Student Tackles Tough Issues In New Short Film

By Aaliyah Thomas, For The Charlotte Observer

René Descartes would be proud.

Rochester grew up in a town

The French philosopher's famous quote, "I think, therefore I am" and the theory of solipsism—that only the self exists or can be proven to exist—play prominent roles in "Certainty," a new short film by Florida Tech student and basketball star Michael Milligan Jr.

Certainty is the quality or state of being certain, especially by evidence. Through the basis of solipsism, the characters in the film experience several revelations.

Milligan, a senior global strategic communication major, said it was a fitting title.

The film is loosely inspired by tragic events that happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, when a woman was killed in a hit-and-run during a protest.

"I took essences from that experience and made it into my own story," Milligan said.

Students can screen the film on April 20 in the F. W. Olin Engineering Complex Room 118.

"Certainty" centers on a black man who goes through a virtual reality experience through the perspective of a white man.

Thomas Carter Rochester, a Florida Tech alumnus and current student member, plays a character named Tyler. Tyler is a college student who is tired of his history and heritage being cast out from the forefront.

"To sum up Tyler in a word: racist. The hardest part about playing Tyler is that I am not racist, so I had to pull from negative experiences from my childhood," Rochester said.



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