

THE MAGAZINE OF FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

# FSC NOW<sup>2021</sup>

## A HOLLYWOOD ENDING

William Fichtner first auditioned at Farmingdale. Now he's one of the silver screen's leading character actors.



### **Murray Pasternack's Gift Unwrapped**

Murray Pasternack's \$500K scholarship fund helps give students the resources they need to succeed.

### **Justice Is Served**

A new Criminal Justice Studies Center takes an innovative approach in examining issues of law and the courts.



## A LETTER FROM **President Nader**

This is our fourth edition of *FSCNow*. When we first decided to create an annual campus magazine, I had no idea how it would be received. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. *FSCNow* is a source of pride for our alumni, faculty, and staff. It's proven an ideal way to celebrate our achievements and outline the College's road ahead. Last year it served as a vehicle to recognize members of our campus community who did so much to assist local hospitals and community organizations in their efforts to combat COVID in its early days.

When I arrived at Farmingdale, I pledged to be the College's storyteller in chief. This issue includes stories, both serious and amusing, that underscore Farmingdale's mission and success. There are over a dozen interesting stories that help us appreciate some of the people who help make Farmingdale a special place. Some spotlight our faculty; others feature notable alumni. As you would expect, many articles are focused on our students.

Students are at the heart of all we do, and it shows. The College continues to thrive, even in a challenging environment. Our enrollment remains strong, and we celebrate a student body that is highly diverse. The success of our graduates is remarkable: their earnings rank among the very highest of recent SUNY alums. In addition, Farmingdale's recent alums are stemming the region's brain drain. Over 90 percent of graduates are employed or in graduate programs within six months of graduation. Three-quarters of those employed are working on Long Island. In 2020, the Carnegie Foundation named Farmingdale State College as one of a select group of colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.

Our position as one of the very best values in higher education is nearly unrivaled. Farmingdale remains a true engine of opportunity for our students.

Our vision remains consistent: new academic programs that build on our success, enhancing student engagement, supporting faculty achievement, upgrading our buildings and grounds, and a more ambitious fundraising program that matches the needs of our students and our aspirational goals.

I know that you will enjoy this newest edition of *FSCNow*. The magazine has proven to be a great way to annually profile the achievements of a college that is selective, inclusive, and thriving. Happy reading!

John S. Nader, PhD  
*President, Farmingdale State College*

**Farmingdale**  
**State College**  
State University of New York



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# COLD BROOK



*Two ordinary guys  
One extraordinary adventure*

ROADRUNNER FILMS AND ANAMORPHIC MEDIA PRESENTS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH TRILIGHT ENTERTAINMENT A WILLIAM FICHTNER FILM "COLD BROOK"  
WILLIAM FICHTNER KIM COATES ROBIN WEIGERT MARY LYNN RAJSKIE WITH BRAD HENKE AND HAROLD FERRINEAU  
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roadrunner films

Anamorphic

TRILIGHT



## A HOLLYWOOD ENDING

William Fichtner first auditioned at Farmingdale. Now he's one of the silver screen's leading character actors.

Award-winning film and television actor **William Fichtner '76** clearly remembers his first day as a student at Farmingdale State College. He had just moved to Long Island from upstate New York and enjoyed the initial vibe that set the tone for his two years at FSC.

"I loved the campus from the first day," Fichtner recalls. "I remember thinking 'I'd better do well because I don't want this to end.'"

Fichtner still has fond memories of FSC, because it's the place where people began recognizing his acting potential. An admissions counselor by the name of Don Harvey befriended him, and one day, out of the blue, Harvey suggested that Fichtner audition for a school play. He resisted, but eventually gave in. Ironically, he got the part — but the show never ran.

Harvey then took Fichtner to his first Broadway show, which helped determine the course of the rest of Fichtner's life. "It was mind-blowing. A real pivotal event," he says.

Fichtner graduated with an Associate degree in Criminal Justice, then headed to SUNY Brockport to get his BS. He needed a fine arts course in his junior year and took an improv class. There he was influenced by a professor who echoed Harvey's sentiment that Fichtner should act.

"She said, 'Listen, I don't say this often, but I really think you should do this.'"

Soon after, Fichtner was accepted to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts — but his confidence still hadn't reached the level of his talent.

"I was the one getting there at 21 years old, and had never done acting outside of taking a few classes at Brockport. I always felt a half-step behind everybody around me.

"The odds are stacked against the fact that you're ever gonna work."

But Fichtner persisted, and hired an agent who told him he'd need 10 years to develop his craft. He worked hard, and his doggedness finally paid off — when he was 36 years old. From stage roles and TV soap operas to his first film took 15 years.

Today Fichtner is known as one of Hollywood's most versatile actors, with more than 50 films to his credit, numerous stage appearances, and a current role as Adam Janikowski, a wheelchair-bound ex-stuntman, in the CBS comedy *Mom*. His film credits include *Armageddon*, *Black Hawk Down*, *The Dark Knight*, *The Perfect Storm*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. He won a Screen Actors Guild award for his outstanding performance in *Crash*. Fichtner is a character actor of the highest caliber.

"I never felt like I was in a particular category. I always gravitate to odd characters to play, and because of that I think I'll work forever." He added: "Soon I'll be playing father and grandfather roles."

Fichtner's portfolio now includes a film of his own, titled *Cold Brook*, which was more than a decade in the making. He co-wrote, produced, directed, and stars in the film, which he has been showing at film festivals to great acclaim, including the Woodstock Film Festival, where *Cold Brook* won the Carpe Diem Andretta Award. Fichtner describes the film, shot in Buffalo and Cortland, New York, as a story of "finding friendship, doing the right thing, and learning how far you will go to help a stranger."

Fichtner co-wrote his buddy movie with friend Cain DeVore and co-stars with his Hollywood "brother," Kim Coates, whom he met while filming *Black Hawk Down*. Coates is best known for his role in *Sons of Anarchy*, a gritty TV drama about a California motorcycle gang.

"The one thing all the people I know in the business have said is, 'You did it!' Not many people can say that," Fichtner says about his cinematic achievement. "I hope this is the beginning of the rest of my life. I can't wait to make another one."

Fichtner not only recalled his first day at Farmingdale State College; he mused about his final day, too, knowing that without his FSC experience he wouldn't be acting or making films.

"It was an awareness that something remarkable had just taken place," he says. "I thought the rest of my life had better be as good as those two years were. It was a place of mind, body, and heart expansion." ▶



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I hope this is the beginning of the rest of my life. I can't wait to make another one.



# MURRAY PASTERNAK'S GIFT UNWRAPPED

His \$500K scholarship fund will give students the resources they need to succeed.

Even before enrolling at FSC, **Murray Pasternack '60** had developed a keen interest in radio frequency (RF) components — the modules that transmit signals and are most often used in everyday consumer products such as microwaves, garage door openers, and wireless alarm systems. That passion propelled him to spectacular success in the RF industry and, most recently, to the status of one of Farmingdale's largest alumni benefactors.

Pasternack has donated \$500,000 to support the Murray Pasternack Endowed Scholarship in Engineering as part of the College's anticipated Honors Program. The gift will provide 20 annual scholarships to Engineering Technology honors students. Separate from and in addition to their need-based financial aid and other scholarships, it affords these students the ability to devote more time to co-curricular pursuits and the applied learning opportunities that define the Farmingdale experience.

"I strongly believe that the Agricultural and Technical Institute at Farmingdale — now known as FSC — provided me with the depth of knowledge I needed to succeed in my first chosen field, the electronics industry," Pasternack says. "Now that I am finally transitioning to retirement, I am looking to say 'thank you' to those who helped me in my long journey."

Originally from Franklin Square, Pasternack received his AAS degree in Electrical Technology at a time when the landscape of the College was literally different, and the RF and microwave industry was in its infancy. But just as FSC grew and transformed itself, so did RF technology.

As Founder and CEO of Pasternack Enterprises in Irvine, California, from 1972 to 1992, Pasternack fundamentally changed the way RF components were sold throughout the industry. His signature catalog greatly simplified the ordering process and became the industry standard.

Pasternack's gift will provide funds for research opportunities, intercollegiate academic competitions, attendance at professional conferences, and travel expenses to participate in competitive and prestigious internships.

"The College seeks ways to recognize academic excellence among students who demonstrate financial need," President Nader says. "Mr. Pasternack's gift will help the College establish a long-planned Honors Program that will set FSC apart from our peer institutions in the region."

In fact, Pasternack was just the kind of student he seeks to assist now. He worked nearly full time while attending classes — a familiar story among FSC alumni, who still come largely from middle-income and underrepresented populations. FSC continues to provide that kind of opportunity, expanding academic programs, equipping students with critical thinking skills that lead to excellent career paths, and now extending the Pasternack scholarship fund.

"The Farmingdale Foundation is dedicated to changing lives and building futures, and Mr. Pasternack's gift will do just that," says Matthew Colson, Vice President for Development & Alumni Engagement. "We're grateful for Murray's leadership and generosity and look forward to more of his fellow alumni coming forward to join him in this special way."

“

Now that I am finally transitioning to retirement, I am looking to say ‘thank you’ to those who helped me in my long journey.



# FARMINGDALE RISING

## MOVIE NIGHTS

**COVID-19** forced most classes for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 into a remote or online environment, but that didn't stop the College from engaging students in campus socialization and some fun activities.

Drive-in screenings of films like *Hocus Pocus* and *Black Panther* were held in a parking lot, with students remaining in their vehicles for safety reasons. Snacks and treats were distributed as cars arrived.



## HOLIDAY CHEER

**AHRC Suffolk** received help from Farmingdale, too. The men's lacrosse team and coaching staff made their annual visit to the children at the Saul and Elaine Seiff Educare Center in Bohemia. The visit marked the 14th consecutive year that head coach Sean Chamberlain and the team brought gifts and spread holiday cheer to the children there.



**COVID-19 PRESENTED LOTS OF CHALLENGES FOR THE CAMPUS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. FSC WORKED HARD TO MEET THEM.**

## **DAY OF SERVICE**

**The Nexus Center for Applied Learning** teamed up with Island Harvest and AHRC Nassau to provide food aid to families in need throughout Nassau County during a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Day of Service.”

Nexus Center staff also hosted a virtual applied learning community service event in partnership with Campus Mental Health Services and the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk. The event, “Managing Your Mental Health During a Pandemic and Moving Forward,” provided therapeutic advice and tips on how to cope with stress during the pandemic.



## **FSC COMMUNITY**

**Resident Assistant Sana Tariq** organized Virtual Trivia Nights with holiday themes and a Thanksgiving food drive, with all the donations sent to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless. Another **Resident Assistant, Justin Cohen**, hosted a “Do It Yourself” COVID mask program for resident hall students, who decorated their own masks provided by Residence Life.

“Individuals rely on a sense of community to feel supported and understood,” says Dr. Kevin Jordan, Vice President for Student Affairs. “FSC recognized the adversity created by the pandemic and worked to overcome it and provide a fulfilling student experience despite the challenges.”

# Poetry in Motion

A Nursing grad and author uses verse and song to shed light on the scourge of child bullying.

**Cheryl Williams '08** is a poet, school nurse, singer/songwriter, and advocate for bullied children — using all of those disciplines to heal.

Williams, an alumna of the Nursing program and a Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence winner, is the author of *A Collection of Poems: A Journey Through Life* — an award-winning collection of poetry containing several poems about the plague of bullying. She knows about it first hand, having suffered as a child when kids at school and in the neighborhood taunted her as she was forced to care for her sick mother and raise her siblings. Medical bills drained the family's finances and turned Williams into an outcast.

"Sometimes we would hardly have enough money for food. I would have to wear sneakers to school with holes in the soles. I was bullied and treated as less-than."

But in her hardship, Williams found solace in the arts.

"Poetry, music, and writing were my lifeline as a child," she says. "I started singing and reciting poems at age 11. At times, when all seemed hopeless, my only source of encouragement was reading the *Book of Psalms*, singing, or reciting poems.

"Poems have impacted my life since my childhood, and brought me so much joy, hope, and fulfillment. I felt that writing in this genre can also help someone who has lost hope, with no sense of direction."

Published in 2018, *A Collection of Poems* earned Williams the 2019 Top Female Author award in the poetry category from TheAuthorsShow.com. Poems such as "Direction" and "Human" address bullying and support for the emotionally abused.

"My book takes us through life's journey, showing us the good, the bad, and the ugly," Williams says. "Helping us find positive ways to cope with life's hardships...helping us find hope. I want anyone faced with bullying to know that we are all uniquely different. I want them to embrace who they are, loving and appreciating their unique self,

realizing that no one can make them feel less-than without their permission."

Williams is also a school nurse at an elementary school in North Babylon. Her interest in nursing goes back to when she was caring for her mother.

"Our next-door neighbor, who was a registered nurse, taught me how to use the blood pressure monitor. During those stressful years of being a nurse to my ailing mother, I developed an interest in nursing.

"School nursing is the best move I've made. I feel like I have made, and will continue to make, a difference in the lives of these precious children."

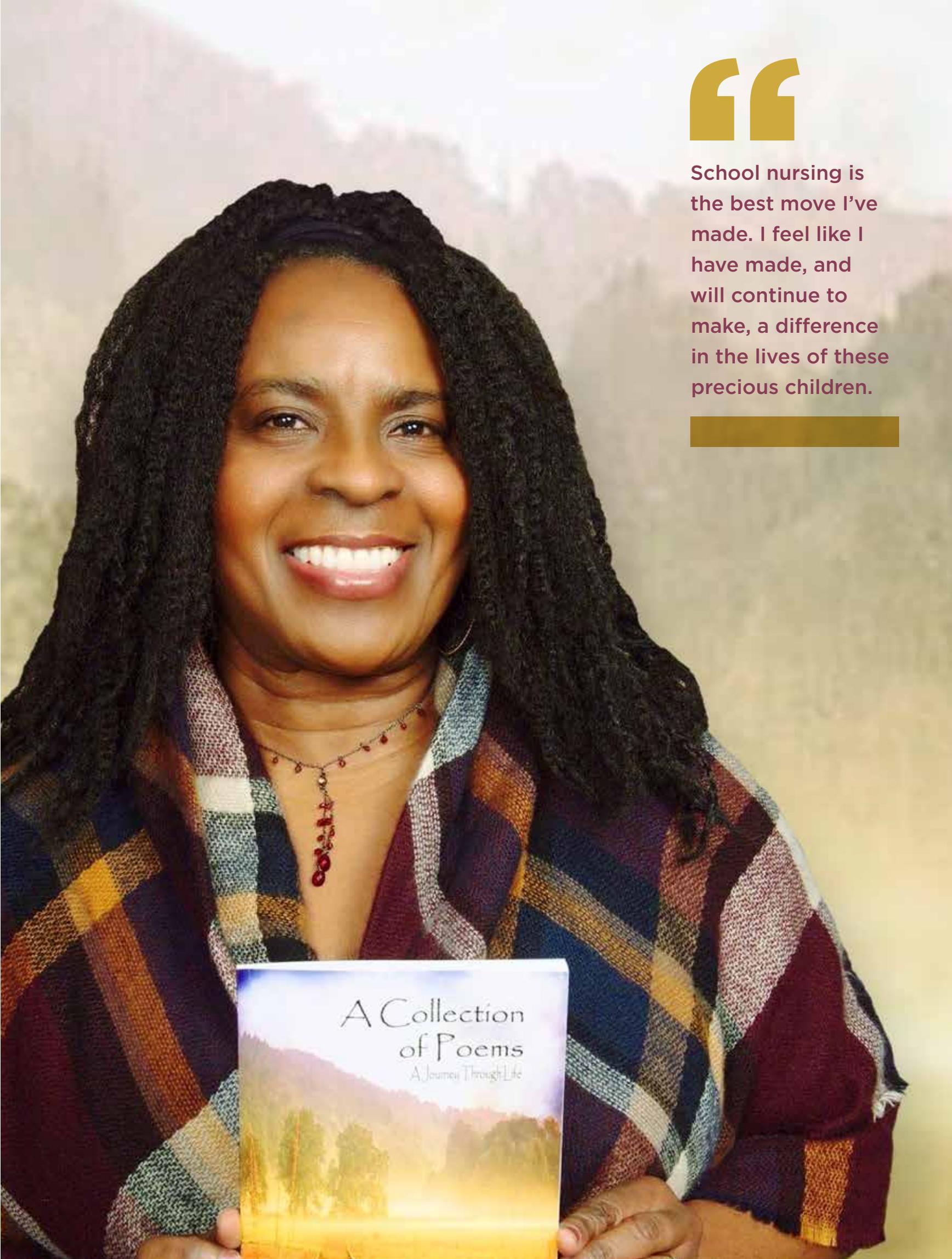
Williams made a difference during last spring's COVID-19 pandemic. She taught students the proper way to wash their hands, the most healthy foods to eat, how to escape the virus and avoid passing it on. She posted videos on YouTube and even wrote a poem — "Healthy Soldiers" — to help rally kids to the cause.

*We are healthy soldiers  
We have a part to play  
To keep our bodies healthy  
And keep the germs away  
We must always sneeze in our sleeves  
Do you know what that means?  
It means we close our elbows tight  
And give our face a squeeze!*

The poem concludes with: *Together we can build a fort to keep the germs outside!*

Williams is grateful to FSC for enabling her to excel at all she does and teaching her the value of giving back to the community.

"The Nursing program taught me time management, critical-thinking skills, discipline, courage, and resilience, which spilled over into my career as an author/poet. FSC set me on a journey of service, allowing me the opportunity and the means to fulfill my dreams."



“

School nursing is the best move I've made. I feel like I have made, and will continue to make, a difference in the lives of these precious children.



## Building a Relationship

A leading construction executive and alumnus keeps his connection to campus through the students he employs.

**Howard Rowland '76**, president of EW Howell Construction Group and member of the Farmingdale College Foundation Board of Directors, has had brick and mortar in his blood since childhood.

“As a kid I would sit there for hours watching construction sites,” Rowland says. “It always fascinated me. Then I took some drafting classes in high school and I got hooked.”

It was that fascination for building that brought Rowland to the College in 1974, when it was still an associate degree institution. He studied Construction Technology, and though he later transferred to obtain his architecture degree, he says it was what he learned at FSC that helped propel him into a career in construction.

“I got a lot out of Farmingdale. I enjoyed the nuts and bolts aspect of Farmingdale. It laid the foundation for my career.”

Now EW Howell, the company, is getting a lot out of Farmingdale, too. Several members of the executive and management teams are graduates of the School of Engineering Technology, and former students dot the ranks of the company up and down the food chain.

“We really look to Farmingdale as a solid force for employees,” says Rowland. “Now that it’s a four-year school, Farmingdale gets these guys to a point where they’re prepared to come in and expand their education through some hands-on stuff here.

“It’s worked out great. I can’t think of one person that’s disappointed us.”

Neither has EW Howell disappointed FSC. According to Architecture and Construction

Management Department Chair Orla Lo Piccolo, the company — and Rowland in particular — have extended a helping hand to FSC students in the program.

“Howard was appreciative that I reconnected with EW Howell for field trip visits to their building sites. They have been most gracious hosts — giving excellent tours, having question-and-answer sessions, offering students advice, and providing lunch.”

“I know that if that was available when I was in school, I would have done backflips,” says Rowland, who became president of EW Howell in 1997.

The company, with a 200-member workforce, is one of the most versatile in the New York area, where it regularly ranks in the Top 12 among commercial contractors. It is also the largest builder of its kind on Long Island. EW Howell has done work on the FSC campus, including Broad Hollow Bioscience Park and a 2011 complete renovation of Hale Hall.

The work was done through its Education Division, one of five divisions that also include Arts & Culture, Healthcare, Retail, and Special Projects.

“Our diversity is the thing that separates us from everybody else,” Rowland says.

Another thing that helps the company stand apart is its philosophy of growing from within.

“That’s why Farmingdale works for us,” says Rowland. “We get the students indoctrinated into the way we do things, and without exception most of them grow up in the firm.”

“

I got a lot out of Farmingdale. I enjoyed the nuts and bolts aspect of Farmingdale. It laid the foundation for my career.



## Programmed for Success

Juan Vides arrived in America as a child, came to Farmingdale, and built a successful career around computers.

“Giving Back” — this people-driven personal and professional trait may define FSC alum and web technology entrepreneur **Juan Vides '03** more than anything else in his life — just ask him.

“Yes. When you give back to the universe you get back good stuff. ‘Givers gain’ has always been my motto,” Vides says.

One way Vides (Computer Programming and Information Systems) gives back is through his company, TechACS Corp., which provides web design, web development, and promotional services. He regularly offers his expertise pro bono or at significant discounts to Long Island non-profits. He is a former board member of the American Heart Association of Long Island and donates to the Red Cross. Vides has served the Latino community through the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and received an award as Top Advocate for Latino Empowerment from the Hispanic Network.

Vides spectacularly defied the odds — in a way many could never dream of — to become a tech-savvy business owner. He was born in El Salvador at a time when the country was being devastated by civil war. His family fled to America when Vides was four years old. The conflict still weighs on his psyche.

“War is something you cannot forget,” Vides says. “It is the most evil a person can see. That is why I am set to do what is right in this world. I do this by my actions.

“I am grateful and count my blessings every day. I appreciate everyone and everything in life. Life is too short to let evil win.”

Vides’ parents arrived in the States with a seventh-grade education, speaking no English. That didn’t stop them, though, from immediately entering the workforce — his mother as a self-employed domestic and his father as a maintenance man at a golf course clubhouse.

When his father lost his job after Hurricane Sandy, the family started a carpet-cleaning service that today serves hundreds of clients. Vides does marketing and advertising for the business.

Having that as a model, it is no surprise that Vides took an entrepreneurial path, which had its roots in his boyhood passion for video games and computers. His father bought him an Atari, and soon after Vides invested \$3,000 in his first computer. Those twin interests were why Vides majored in Computer Programming and Information Systems.

“Computers were a hobby for me, so when you enjoy something it is easy to do,” Vides says. “You don’t think about it. Almost like riding a bicycle. I also loved anything with technology. From *Star Wars* to *Star Trek*, anything tech fascinated me. I always was curious about how things worked.”

In 2001, after earning an associate degree at a local community college, Vides enrolled at Farmingdale. He was 25 years old. Concurrent with his studies, he fixed friends’ computers. He was so busy he began charging \$35 an hour for his services. At the same time, he became president of the campus computer club.

TechACS, which grew from an ad Vides placed on Craigslist pitching web design, has developed more than 1,000 websites over the last 17 years. A more recent niche is creating sites accessible to users with disabilities. Vides credits FSC with giving him the tech tools to become a high achiever. An article in *Newsday* and a segment on FOX 5 Latino have trumpeted his achievements.

“Farmingdale taught me the basics and fundamentals of understanding how technology and programming work. I now have the confidence to know how things work because of my Farmingdale education,” Vides says.

“Farmingdale gave me confidence in my passion. Confidence plus passion equals success.”

“

Farmingdale gave  
me confidence  
in my passion.  
Confidence plus  
passion equals  
success.



## The Art of the Squeal

It's a dark and frightening world that is revealed through the explicit imagery of Amanda Reilly.

"My time at Farmingdale State College was incredible. The Visual Communications program and its professors helped shape my career as a designer and illustrator," says artist **Amanda Reilly '13**. "Without them I certainly wouldn't be where I am today."

Today, Reilly has a reputation as a quirky fixture on the Long Island art scene, noted for work that embraces the bold, bizarre, and grotesque. She is a self-described "lover of twisted imagery" who has made a career outside the studio, visiting cabarets, burlesque houses, and sideshows to capture performers in action and hosting themed costume events for anyone with a paint brush and easel. She is multiskilled, excelling in illustration, large-scale mural painting, graphic design, and embroidery.

Last year she mounted her first solo show titled *Human Nature* at the Muñeca Arthouse in Patchogue. She approached it from the dark side.

"Nobody is perfect," Reilly says. "We act on our emotional inhibitions. It's what makes us grounded as humans, but also makes us monsters capable of ruin."

"When you're covering such harsh topics as opportunism, two-faced jealousy, hatred, and more, it's important to me to tackle these subjects with loud, bold colors, forms filled with suspense, and

sharp vibrating lines. I feel it is a tactful way of displaying such mayhem."

Reilly's work is — at the very least — alarming and disconcerting. She challenges her audience to engage in deep-dive introspection and react honestly to what they see.

In Reilly's art, it is mostly women who take on the forms of predators such as scorpions, and whose pincers and horns threaten havoc on human flesh. Nude women are chased by angry unicorns. Guilt, anger, and narcissism become tangible and pour out of mouths, ears, and eye sockets. Tongues, with legs, dance on a woman's dinner plate. Perversion and grotesque images are presented in a trio of mixed media, including paintings, ink drawings, and moving images.

This is not Art 101.



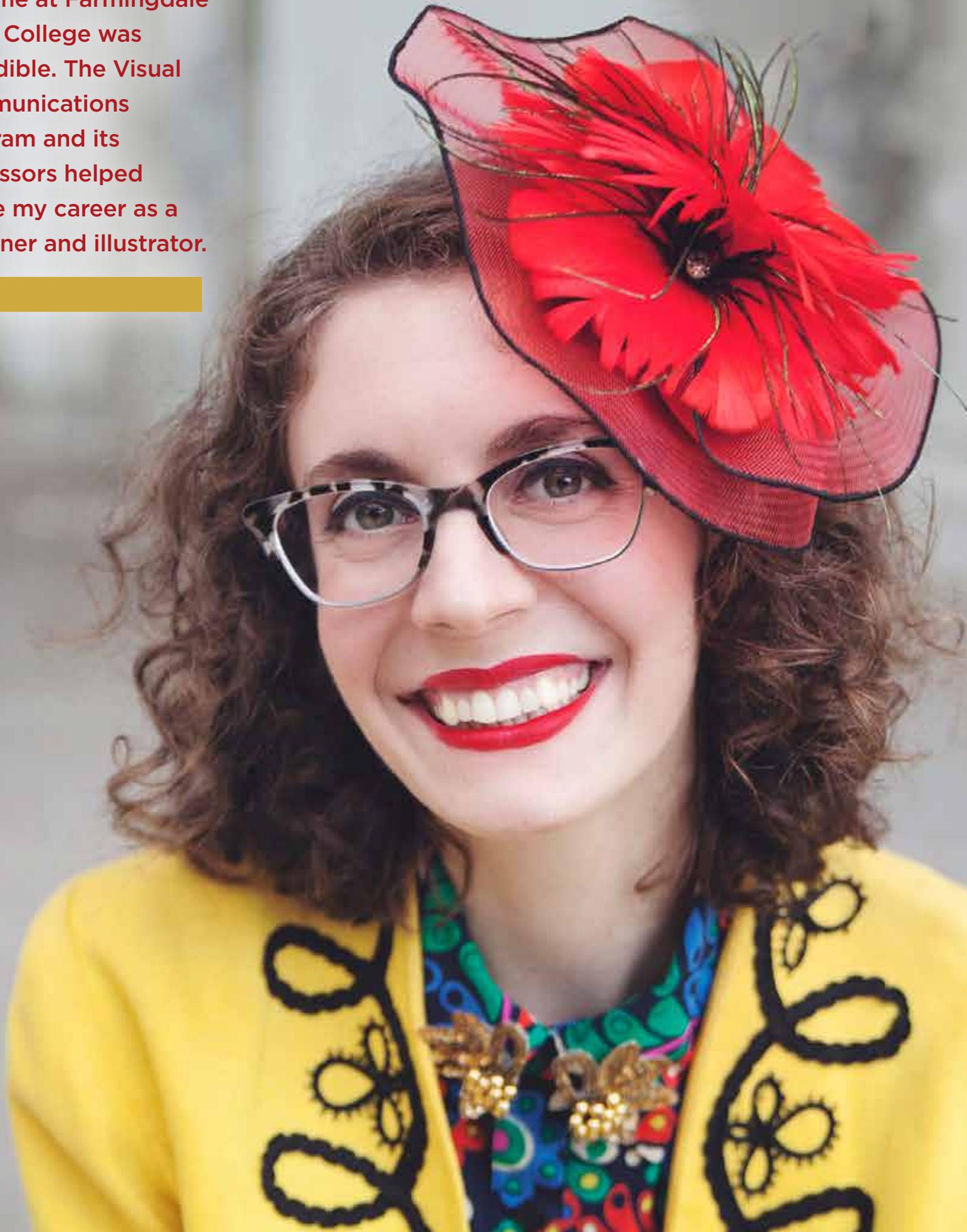
*Transference & Countertransference*

At FSC, Reilly earned *magna cum laude honors* and FSC's Student Award for Academic Excellence. She is generous in her praise of the Visual Communications program, and raves about professors such as George Fernandez and Jack Harris.

"My professors were so supportive and wonderful," Reilly says. "My work became more illustrative over the years I attended the program, and because of that some professors who had backgrounds in illustration offered to mentor me."

“

My time at Farmingdale State College was incredible. The Visual Communications program and its professors helped shape my career as a designer and illustrator.



## Bringing It All Back Home

A Business Management major wins a coveted Civic Fellowship and uses her mixed heritage to make a difference in her community.

Farmingdale continues to boast of excellent outcomes in many critical areas related to student success, and **Angelique Roberson '21** is among the best of the recent examples — and one who has been nationally recognized.

Roberson, a Wheatley Heights resident and Business Management major, won the coveted Newman Civic Fellowship last year. The prestigious fellowship is a year-long program that identifies and supports students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing their communities.

“Being awarded the Newman Civic Fellowship is an incredible honor,” says Roberson, who graduates this May. “I believe that I can expand my resources and my opportunities to help make a difference and give back to the community that taught me valuable lessons in life, and other communities like mine. From this, I hope to inspire others to become the best versions of themselves, to challenge themselves, exceed expectations, and break the status quo.”

Roberson is a first-generation African American/Latina student who has excelled at everything she does at the College and in the community. At Farmingdale, she carries a near-perfect grade-point average, has been named to the President’s List every semester, and is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. Her success has been shaped by her blended

heritage — she has an immigrant Mexican mother and an African American father.

“My background shaped me as a person because it provided me the opportunity to experience a life full of diversity and different cultures,” she says. “It taught me to be open minded to other backgrounds, appreciative of the different cultures, and welcoming of everyone and anyone.”

Roberson is also a Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) student. RAM is an esteemed program funded by a major grant awarded to Farmingdale by the United States Department of Education. Each academic year, 250 new Farmingdale students are selected for membership in this program, which provides exclusive co-curricular activities to its students.

She was recently presented the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence.

Roberson’s community activities include serving as a marketing intern with Girls Inc. of Long Island, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, helping clean debris and pollution from Long Island beaches, and serving meals in soup kitchens.

“To see the faces on those we helped was an incredible feeling,” Roberson says. “To see them laugh, tell jokes, and enjoy the moment reminded me to enjoy the little moments, especially in the fast-paced life I seem to live.”

“ TO SEE THE  
FACES ON  
THOSE WE  
HELPED WAS AN  
INCREDIBLE FEELING. ”



## Beginning a New Chapter

Darrien Hunt wasn't a leader on social issues when he came to FSC — until he established the first NAACP presence on campus.

**Darrien Hunt '21** has a passion for equity, empowerment, and equal opportunity — a commitment that led him to establish a chapter of the NAACP at FSC. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds. When Hunt arrived at FSC, he had no plans other than to attend class.

“Coming into Farmingdale as a freshman, I couldn't picture myself participating in anything on campus, let alone leading anything,” Hunt says.

But Hunt was involved in the Black community off campus, and FSC's NAACP chapter was birthed out of his experience as president of the NAACP Jamaica Youth Council in Queens.

“I worked to eliminate race-based discrimination, empower individuals of color, and close the social disparity gaps present today.”

That experience led him to broaden his vision, to give a voice to like-minded members of the campus community.

“My initiative for starting a chapter came from my enjoyment of creating change in my community,” Hunt says. “The work I have done alongside my peers in Jamaica has driven me to look for new ways to create change and opportunity wherever I go. I firmly believe in equity, and ensuring that everyone has access to the same resources and opportunities needed for their progress.”

Hunt is studying Computer Programming and Information Systems. He is a member of Epsilon Pi Tau Honor Society and a Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program student. He has worked with Dr. Angela Jones to develop an Africana Studies minor, and lobbied Greenley Library to stock more literature related to the

Black experience. Off campus, he is Criminal Justice Chair for the NYS NAACP Youth and College Division and the 2020 Game Changer Youth and College Service Award winner. Graduating this spring, he is planning to pursue a master's degree in Computer Science.

“Since establishing the chapter, I feel like I've grown tremendously as an individual,” says Hunt. “I've stepped out of my comfort zone on numerous occasions, and developed into someone that I wasn't a year ago. I feel much more like a leader who's destined to make an immense impact on this world.”

“I'm humbled by everything I've learned, the people I've met, and the opportunity to be where I am. I plan on being a leader wherever I go and displaying leadership in all my endeavors.”

“Being recognized as an official chapter of the NAACP is an honor. Receiving recognition from great civil rights activists means that my fellow students and I can be trusted to advocate for the rights of colored people under the prestigious name of the NAACP.”

Hunt was recently presented the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence Special Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and was the only recipient in all of SUNY.

Now that he has achieved his goal of giving FSC students of color a platform to speak their minds, as he moves on he reflects on his achievements and what his successors must do to continue the work. “‘Closed mouths don't get fed' is a distinctive philosophy I live by,” says Hunt. “It has helped me develop into an active leader in my community, capable of advocating for change.”

“ SINCE ESTABLISHING  
THE CHAPTER, I FEEL  
LIKE I’VE GROWN  
TREMENDOUSLY AS  
AN INDIVIDUAL.”



## She Makes Her Pitch

An elite softball player earns honors on the mound and hits a home run in the Dental Hygiene Department.

As a middle school student, **Madeleine Smith '21** had more on her mind than school, sports, and friends. She pictured herself as a dental hygienist someday, and would play-act with her grandparents as if she were really working on their mouths and gums. So at an early age, Smith was already sinking her teeth into her future profession.

“Some kids play doctor or house, but I distinctly remember playing dental hygienist at my grandparents’ house,” Smith says. “They had these recliner chairs, which were perfect. My grandparents were generous enough to let me floss and brush their teeth. I would pretend to take x-rays by placing a heavy blanket on them, and then press a pretend button. Something about the profession sparked an interest in me at a very young age.

“I looked forward to my dentist appointments, which is saying something, since most people cannot stand the dentist. My hygienists are always so kind and truly care about my oral health, which is why I want to make a difference in the health-care field. I want to be the person to make patients smile each time they arrive and leave the dental office.”

Farmingdale State College has been cited many times for its outstanding dental hygiene program, which is what attracted Smith to FSC — all the way from San Diego. She enrolled in her sophomore year, after the first college she attended — Mount Ida College, just outside Boston — unexpectedly closed its doors. From her research, Smith knew the best dental hygiene programs were on the east coast,

so FSC became her next college of choice. A successful women’s softball program was an added incentive.

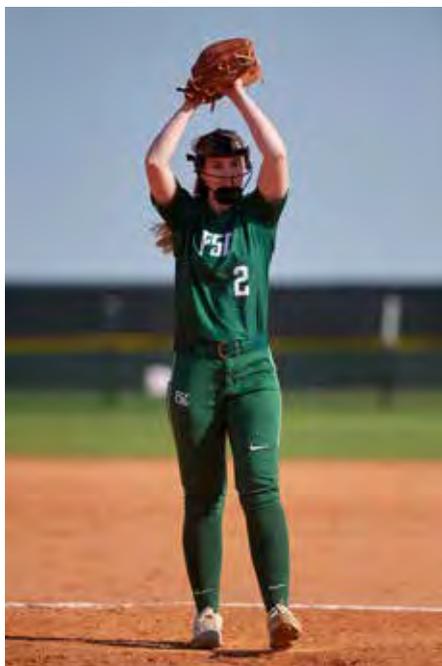
“I figured I may as well apply and see if I’d get accepted, and I did. I knew I would get a fantastic education with top-of-the-line professors and clinic coordinators.”

Smith’s first year at FSC was a success, with two appearances on the Dean’s List. She also played All-Star-caliber softball, being named Pitcher of the Year and Most Outstanding Player in the Skyline Conference tournament. But being 3,000 miles from home, at her second school in two years, and involved in sports didn’t distract Smith a bit.

“No secret. I commit to my studies,” she says. “My parents have always said school comes first and I have continued to live by that, which also means school over softball. My degree is incredibly important to me, and I want to put all the effort I can into obtaining my bachelor’s degree in Dental Hygiene. My friends say I live at my desk, because whenever they walk in, I can almost guarantee you I am sitting there studying or working on homework.

“Time management is key to balancing school and softball. It is doable, but by no means is it easy. I am either at my desk studying, in class, or at softball practice. While Dental Hygiene is a very demanding program, softball has been a great outlet for me. It allows me to escape from reality and the stress that comes along with my studies.”

That’s saying a mouthful.



“ I AM EITHER AT MY DESK  
STUDYING, IN CLASS, OR AT  
SOFTBALL PRACTICE.  
WHILE DENTAL HYGIENE IS A VERY  
DEMANDING PROGRAM,  
SOFTBALL HAS BEEN  
A GREAT OUTLET FOR ME. ”



# Facts & Figures

## STUDENT PROFILE

Students who joined Farmingdale State College community in Fall 2020



## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**46**  
Degree Programs  
7 CERTIFICATES



**1** Masters Degree  
**40** Bachelor's Degrees  
**5** Associate Degrees  
**31** Minors

## INTERNATIONAL STUDY

**1,000+** Programs offered through SUNY

## OUTCOMES *within six months of graduation*



## STUDENT BODY

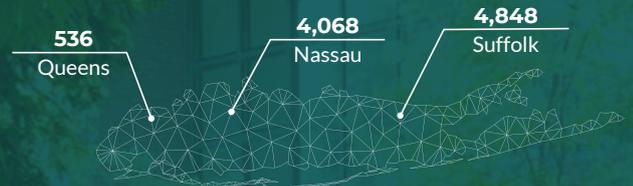
**10,018** Students  
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

Our student body includes:

- ▶ 47% of students from minority populations
- ▶ 62% of students awarded financial aid
- ▶ About 203 active duty or veteran military



Our students come from all over Long Island



## RETENTION

National average freshman retention rate per IPEDS/U.S. Department of Education is 60.6%



## CURRENT COSTS



## FACULTY & INSTRUCTION



**20:1**  
Student-to-Faculty Ratio



**23**  
Average Class Size

## STUDENT LIFE



70+

Student Clubs and Organizations

Academic, Performing Arts, Cultural, Social Justice, and Greek



FRATERNITIES



SORORITIES

39 Intramural Teams



## ALUMNI



100,000+

Graduates Worldwide

## NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS



Applied Gerontology



Business Analytics



Cannabis Production & Management



Civil Engineering Technology



Computer Science



Computer Security Technology



Criminal Justice: Police, Courts, and Corrections



Geographic Information Systems



Health Promotion and Wellness



Interaction Design



Nutrition Science



Wind Turbine Technology

63

Skyline Championships

Winner of Four Presidents' Cups



15

Division III All-Americans



9

Division III Intercollegiate Women's Sports

9

Division III Intercollegiate Men's Sports

## WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT FARMINGDALE

Farmingdale State College ranked **No. 2** in SUNY for lowest student-loan debt at the time of graduation.\*

\*LendEDU - 2019

Placed among the **Top 25%** of public colleges & universities in the US\*

\*Business First - 2017

Our nursing students had a **100% Pass Rate** in the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.\*

\*1st quarter - 2020

Forbes ranked Farmingdale State College a **"Best Value College"**\*

\*Forbes Magazine - 2019

FSC students graduate with the **Lowest Debt** in the SUNY System\*

\*LendEDU - 2018



# CARLY TREBULL

“Educators have known for a while that designing a lecture topic as a narrative is very effective, and comics only solidify that approach.”

# DRAWING ON HER EXPERIENCE

How one imaginative researcher teaches entomology through illustration.

Worms, ants, spiders — like most kids, **Carly Tribull** grew up shooing them, stomping them, or swatting them away. It wasn't until years later that she developed an interest in insects and, in effect, got the bug about entomology.

Today Dr. Carly Tribull is an assistant professor of biology and an entomologist who researches the predatory practices of parasitic wasps, the species that invade the bodies of other insects and breed their young inside them. While that sounds more like the plot of a horror movie, killer wasps are more than just the center of her professional world: they are also the subject of a comic book she drew in graduate school, entitled *Carly's Adventures in Wasp Land: Nature's Horror — Parasitoid Wasps*. Populated by anthropomorphic wasps who say things such as "Aw, shucks," "Howdy," "Who could possibly like us?" and finally, "I'm tired of feeling bad about what I am!", the comic is just one in a series in which Tribull is a character who teaches about wasps, the one element of the comic that is not far from reality.

Originally created for middle school students, Tribull now draws biology comics for college students, handing out chapters as the semester progresses, with the intention of eventually assembling the content into an online textbook. She expects to complete this ambitious project in two years and make it available at no cost to students and educators worldwide.

"The response from my students has been positive," she says. "Educators have known for a while that designing a lecture topic as a narrative is very effective, and comics only solidify that approach."

Though Tribull loathed insects and creepy crawlers growing up, she loved drawing other creatures — dinosaurs (she pursued paleontology at one time

because of them), dragons, and other fantastical creatures. She studied art in high school in Florida and the subject ignited her comics career.

After earning her PhD in 2015 at the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, Tribull taught for two years at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. But she yearned to return to New York, and selected Farmingdale because, she says, it is an "undergraduate, teaching-focused institution."

She even believes her use of comics as a teaching tool was a factor in FSC offering her the opportunity to join the faculty.

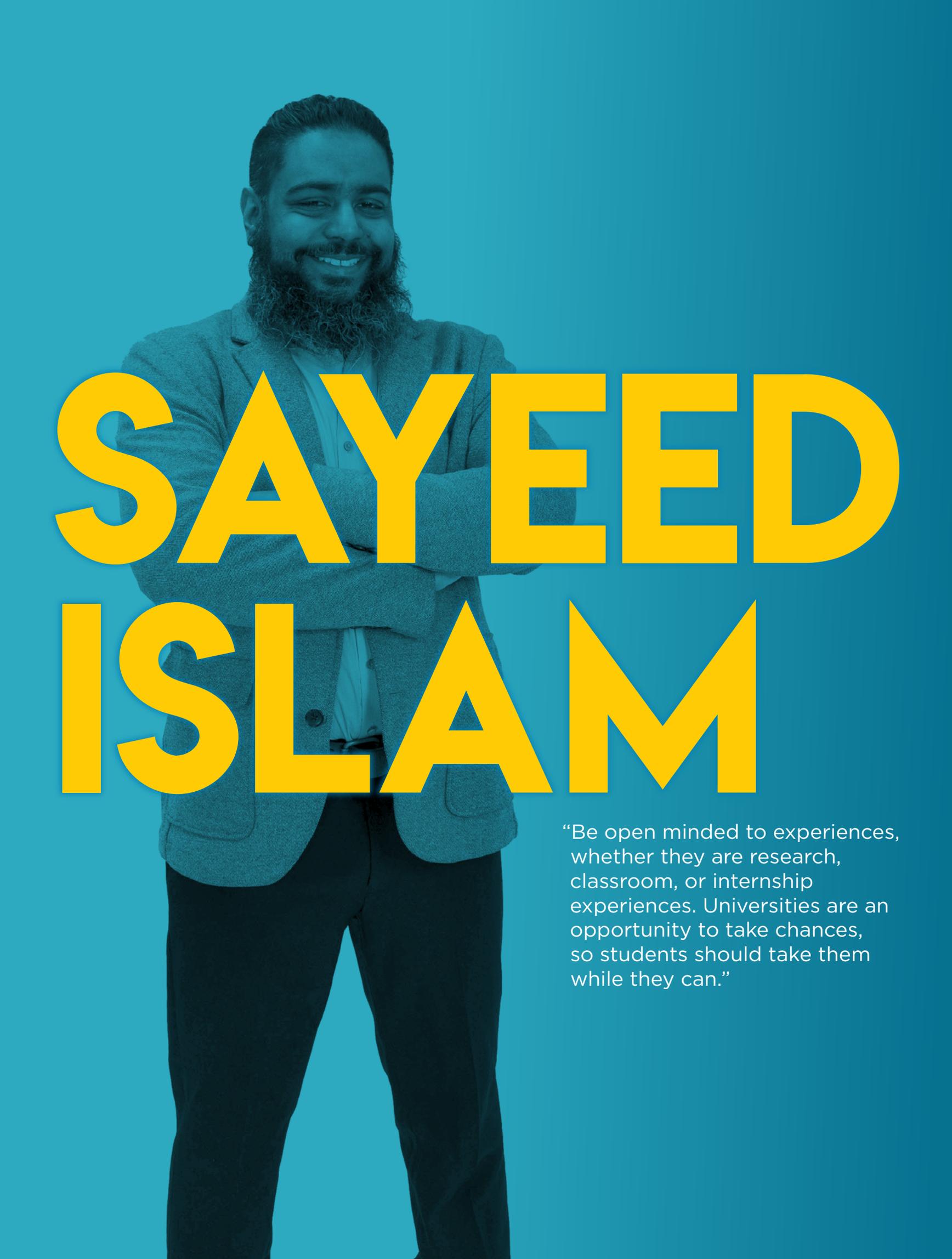
One wonders how her comic books influenced the people who interviewed her for the job of assistant professor. Dr. Tribull has a theory.

"I think the search committee was interested in any potential faculty who were interested in engaging with students in unique ways," she says. "Since I've been here, people have been pretty supportive of the idea of comics as a viable teaching tool."

Dr. Tribull also is passionate about bringing diversity into the field and classroom. One way she does that is to seek out and mentor non-traditional students.

"I'll be working to mentor students who are underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields," she says.

"I'm also particularly interested in mentoring women, first-generation college students, and other non-traditional college students. As a comic artist, I think about the diversity of my characters a lot — it's easy to unconsciously fall into the trap of drawing people who look like you, and I want all of my students to be able to see themselves in these comics."



# SAYYED ISLAM

“Be open minded to experiences, whether they are research, classroom, or internship experiences. Universities are an opportunity to take chances, so students should take them while they can.”

# WORKING CLASS HERO

Dr. Sayeed Islam gets his inspiration from rock music when exploring the complex psychology of the workplace.

**Dr. Sayeed Islam** really enjoys the rock band Fountains of Wayne — especially the band’s leader and lyricist, the late Adam Schlesinger.

Okay, but you are wondering, “What is the significance of that?”

It becomes a little clearer once you know Dr. Islam is an associate professor of Industrial-Organizational Psychology at Farmingdale State College and a practitioner in the field. Still not clicking?

As Dr. Islam explains it, Industrial-Organizational Psychology is “the psychology of work, where we take what we know about psychology and use it to improve the workplace.” Fountains of Wayne fits here because Dr. Islam identifies with the songs they perform about work — not the fulfilling kind where you are always happy about heading to the office, but the mundane, unfulfilling, “I can’t believe it’s Monday already” kind.

Dr. Islam embraces lyrics such as these, from the song “Bright Future in Sales”:

*I gotta do some quick readin’  
For the big meetin’  
But my head is spinnin’  
And I can’t quite open my eyes*

In his article “A Tribute to a Band That Knew How to Sing about Work,” Dr. Islam wrote: “What really hit home with me was this: Schlesinger wrote about everyday life. He wrote about workers and people who struggled.”

Dr. Islam’s study of work and how to make it better for employees and employers began at Rutgers University, where he enrolled with the idea of entering the medical field. He realized quickly enough it wasn’t for him, so he switched to economics, his minor. While fulfilling his degree requirements, he took a course in psychology, which he found fascinating, but not compelling enough to switch majors again. But his interest was rekindled in graduate school, at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

“When I started taking my master’s courses in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, I really felt a nice fit between my interest in social science, my desire to use data, and my interest in people.”

Oddly enough, Dr. Islam’s connection between data and people began as he watched sports with his brother.

“We would watch the New York Knicks, New York Giants, New York Yankees. He was very focused on the statistics of each player. That really cemented my desire to use statistics in other areas of life.”

Now, Dr. Islam not only teaches Industrial-Organizational Psychology, he is co-founder and vice president of consulting with Talent Metrics, a company that helps clients measure and manage the talent inside their organizations.

Dr. Islam describes himself as a passionate advocate for the fields of Industrial-Organizational Psychology and training. That comes through in both the classroom and the front office.

“I enjoy both because they help me exercise different skills. I enjoy helping organizations improve over time, which I see as the ultimate use of the knowledge of I-O psychology. I love teaching, especially at Farmingdale, since my students are really wonderful. There’s nothing better than watching students learn, develop, and grow over time.”

Dr. Islam watches over them in the lab too, helping student researchers delve into subjects such as social media and human resource professions. For that, he won the CTLT Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentorship.

He is also generous with advice. He tells clients, “Try to make your organization’s decisions using objective data. Trusting a gut feeling will only get you so far.” To students he says, “Be open minded to experiences, whether they are research, classroom, or internship experiences. Universities are an opportunity to take chances, so students should take them while they can.”

A portrait of Lanina Cooke, a woman with braided hair, wearing a grey cardigan over a dark top and dark pants. She is standing with her hands in her pockets against a solid purple background. The text 'LANINA COOKE' is overlaid in large, bold, teal letters.

# LANINA COOKE

“After I worked in the field in various capacities and in local government at a reentry program, I felt it was time to share what I had experienced and hopefully get more students interested and involved in the behind-the-scenes areas of criminal justice.”

# JUSTICE IS SERVED

A new Criminal Justice Studies Center takes an innovative approach in examining issues of law and the courts.

“I can’t say I always aspired to a criminal justice career. Growing up, my interests ranged from being a mechanic to a veterinarian. Teaching did, however, enter my mind quite a few times,” says **Dr. LaNina Cooke**, assistant director for the Center for Criminal Justice Studies.

Cooke did, indeed, enter the teaching profession, though she took an unusual and circuitous route. As a freshman at Morgan State University she majored in Sports Administration. When she lost interest in the curriculum, though, Cooke switched her major to Psychology, which she loved. An internship at the Juvenile Justice Remediation Center in Baltimore led her to degrees from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and CUNY Graduate Center, and a seven-year stop at the King’s County District Attorney’s Office in Brooklyn.

“When I started my doctoral program, I was asked if my career would ultimately be in the field or in teaching,” she says. “I chose the field because I wanted to have an inside view of the criminal justice process, and to get an understanding of the people who impact and are impacted by the system and those who are instrumental in its functioning.

“After I worked in the field in various capacities and in local government at a reentry program, I felt it was time to share what I had experienced and hopefully get more students interested and involved in the behind-the-scenes areas of criminal justice.”

Now Cooke is preparing for the opening of FSC’s new Center for Criminal Justice Studies, an initiative that includes bringing the Criminal Justice Department’s programs and the School of Engineering Technology’s Security Systems/ Law Enforcement Technology degree under one roof. Making the Center even more timely is the launch of a new four-year degree, Criminal Justice: Police, Courts, and Corrections, which Cooke describes as social science oriented with courses in intelligence, victimology, reentry, and counterterrorism.

The program was already being developed when Cooke arrived at FSC in 2016, but she has left her mark on it by creating courses in Corrections and Reentry, Policy and Program Evaluation, and Criminal Justice Leadership and Ethics.

According to Cooke, “the degree is absolutely important to the area, in that it offers students the opportunity to stay local, while taking a major that hits all corners of what they need to know to be effective in the field. This program offers a non-technical outlet for students who are geared toward the social-science aspect of criminal justice. Students will be well prepared to either join the workforce or extend their academic career.”

And do their Farmingdale education justice.

# THE BUCK STARTS **HERE**

Matt Colson grew up in Farmingdale's backyard. Now he is leading the philanthropy effort.

**Matthew Colson** joined FSC last July as Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement, overseeing the fund-raising strategy and alumni engagement for the College. He also serves as Executive Director of the Farmingdale Foundation and is an ex-officio member of the Alumni Association Board.

"The welcome and support I've received from the Farmingdale family has been truly humbling and a testament to how special this college community is," Colson says. "I look forward to working closely and strategically with the entire campus community as we mobilize and inspire our alumni, loyal donors, friends, and business partners in pursuit of excellence and critical support for our students and faculty; and together move the mission of the College forward in service to Long Island and beyond."

In his short time at Farmingdale, Colson has already made an impact — inheriting and completing the Student Emergency Fund campaign to assist students in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. It raised \$130K from 200 individual donors and has served over 100 students who otherwise were struggling to continue their studies. Under his leadership, the Office for Development and Alumni Engagement also has rolled out more frequent communications and program offerings to our alumni, established a regular social media presence, designed and deployed a new comprehensive annual fund strategy, successfully closed new scholarship agreements, including the second-largest gift in the history of the College, and organized an On-Demand Gala in November that raised over \$135,000.

Colson was previously Executive Director of Alumni Relations at Stony Brook University, where he professionalized the operations of the Alumni Association, generating a 60 percent increase in the Association's revenue, strengthened the alumni donor base, and developed award-winning engagement and cultivation programs, including the 40 Under Forty Alumni Awards.



# THE WINDS OF CHANGE

New careers in wind energy are on the horizon, and FSC is preparing students for the next wave of opportunities.

Since its founding in 1912, Farmingdale State College has been known for its career-launching degree programs, cutting-edge technology, and innovative hands-on instruction. FSC continues these traditions with the introduction of new programs in Wind Energy Technology, thanks to the launch of New York's Offshore Wind Training Institute (OWTI).

The State University of New York (SUNY) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) launched OWTI to train 2,500 workers as part of the largest public investment in offshore wind workforce development by any state in the U.S.

Each of Farmingdale's new wind technology programs is geared toward a specific audience — graduating high school seniors, current college students, and seasoned professionals — to improve awareness of career opportunities and to help supply the skilled workforce necessary to advance renewable energy infrastructure off the shores of Long Island and across the nation.

Discover all of FSC's Wind Technology programs at [farmingdale.edu/wind](http://farmingdale.edu/wind).



Introduction to Wind Energy



Wind Turbine Technology Certificate



Microcredential in Wind Energy Technology



Wind Turbine Technical Training



# PRESIDENT'S GALA 2020

No one attended, but everyone had a great time!



*Dr. John Nader*



*Michael DelGuidice*



*Michelle Johnson*

With social distancing and gathering restrictions making an in-person event impossible, the Farmingdale Foundation and Office for Development & Alumni Engagement faced a difficult challenge in their fundraising efforts — and came up with a unique solution.

In effect, the message was: “Come to the Gala we’re not having.”

So the President’s On-Demand Gala was born, saving the Foundation’s signature fundraising effort to support the College during the unusual times created by the COVID-19 pandemic. A pre-recorded virtual event accessible to alumni, business partners, and other benefactors of FSC whenever they chose to view, the Gala had all the trappings of a live event, but without guests in formal dress seated at tables in a ballroom. And so it was billed as “The Best Event You Won’t Attend.”

To create a fun and engaging event, each guest was mailed a customized “Gala Box” with the “wine & cheese, when you please” theme, featuring champagne, an FSC signature wine glass, and a charcuterie board. A raffle ticket was tucked away in each box, giving the participant a chance to win an exciting prize. A silent auction was available to bid on sports memorabilia and group experiences. The program was a production that premiered “on demand” in

November as the gift boxes simultaneously were arriving on guests’ doorsteps.

An entertaining video of the program created by the design team in the Office for Institutional Advancement showcased the best of Farmingdale in 2020, forecasting a relentless pursuit of excellence in 2021. The video featured two stirring performances from Billy Joel band member and singer/songwriter Michael DelGuidice. The virtual Gala was indeed a celebration of the entire Farmingdale campus community and its perseverance, determination, and steadfast commitment to the College’s mission and its students.

“The success of the virtual gala reflects the remarkable energy, dedication, and creativity of the Foundation and alumni staffs,” President Nader said. “The unique event attracted more attention and institution-wide support than ever.”

In fact, over 300 loyal Farmingdale alumni, faculty, staff, corporate sponsors, and friends participated. Over \$130,000 was raised to support areas of the College’s greatest needs.

“I watched the presentation last night — and wow! It was spectacular,” said Jerome D’Antone, Vice President at TD Bank. “All of TD’s guests loved it and were raving about the Gala box.”

He was just one of the guests who was happy he did — or, rather, didn’t — attend. ▶

# CAR-MENCEMENT

Not even a pandemic could stop FSC from celebrating with a drive-up ceremony.

With the May 2020 Commencement postponed due to COVID-19, Farmingdale administration discussed with students ways in which the milestone could still be celebrated. As a result of these discussions, "Car-mencement" was organized to provide graduates a way to visit the campus one last time as students. Over 300 students drove through the campus in a colorful — and delightfully chaotic — parade, with decorations on their cars and their names on posters. President Nader read each name as the cars rode by. The Office of Alumni Engagement distributed gift bags of FSC

memorabilia and over 150 faculty members lined the "CAR-mencement" parade route to cheer the students on.

In a heartwarming story of persistence, one graduate refused to let four decades gone by remain an obstacle to finally getting his degree. Forty years after leaving Farmingdale — with just one class separating him from earning his diploma — Peter Spall, who enrolled in 1979, was awarded his degree in Recreational Leadership based on credits awarded for life experience. [▶](#)



# 5

# YOUNG ALUMNI

## MEET OUR EXCEPTIONAL QUINTET OF ACHIEVERS

### MESSIAH R. GAYMON, JR.

#### Science, Technology, & Society '19

A Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence winner and former SGA president, Gaymon is working at Big Brothers and Sisters of Long Island as External Program Relations Manager. He is responsible for the agency's community and social media presence, media relations, and coordinating recruitment-oriented programs. He is also in the field, doing speaking engagements and networking with educators, corporations, and faith-based institutions. "Farmingdale State College provided me with both the foundation to be a leader and a support system that challenged and groomed me for my current job," Gaymon says. "Now I'm advocating on behalf of the youth of Long Island and defending the potential of future generations. Farmingdale trusted me to lead the student body and my hope is that through my work I contributed to the legacy of FSC."

### KRISTEN STEINHARDT

#### Visual Communications '19

Steinhardt is CEO and part owner of Gyro Revolution, the Northeast's only seller of gyroplanes. Based at LI's MacArthur Airport, the company both sells the two-seater aircraft and provides flight services and training. To help Gyro Revolution compete in this emerging market, Steinhardt is also responsible for all means of communications. "My degree gives me the opportunity to pursue an occupation in many different industries," Steinhardt says. "You can become a marketing professional, art director, photographer, graphic designer, ux/ui designer — the degree requires you to take classes in all of these subjects. So when you graduate you actually have the skills to start your own business, brand it, and market it, or be a valuable asset to an organization."

### CLYDE VANEL

#### Aerospace Technology and Aviation Administration '97

Vanel is a NYS Assemblyman and Representative of Assembly District 33 in Queens — but that's not all. He is an attorney, internet entrepreneur, community advocate, private pilot, and founder of the NY Metro chapter of Black Pilots of America. His latter two interests are the result of his studies at FSC — he holds an AAS in Aerospace Technology and a BS in Aviation Administration. It was his education that prompted him to bring one of his passions to the community. "I had a great, great experience at the aviation program. Now, when people find out I'm a pilot, they are amazed. I asked myself, 'How do I make it where more people can experience aviation?'"

### WILLIAM JIMENEZ

#### Business Administration '10

FSC's Alumni Association president and member of the Farmingdale College Foundation, Jimenez is also Alumni Relations Coordinator at Stony Brook University, where his focus is on creating and maintaining a student-alumni culture. Jimenez was involved in numerous activities while an FSC student, including the tennis team, sociology club, student athlete activities committee, and playing Rambo, Farmingdale's beloved mascot. He also worked in several campus offices after graduating, including the Student Success Center, Athletics, and the Career Center. "FSC prepared me for life after college by making sure I had all the right skills to succeed in everything," Jimenez says.

### JASMINE TORRES

#### Liberal Arts & Sciences '15

Torres works for Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, where she is Database Coordinator/Program Analyst. She is also involved in Walk the Walk, an event that supports victims of violence through counseling, advocacy, and legal programs. She is bullish on Farmingdale State College, and credits FSC for giving her a leg up in the pursuit of a career. "Farmingdale enhanced my personal development, achievement, and credibility in the educational world. As a young adult, I've learned through FSC's community that when pushing myself out of my comfort zone, I was capable of creating opportunistic doors to open, challenging myself, and growing as an individual with greater experience and knowledge. I am forever grateful for FSC's recognition and experience, which sparked me to pursue a thriving career and educational opportunities."

# Meet Inge SCHAEFER

Alumna and donor Inge Schaefer '58 attended Farmingdale and said it was the best decision she ever made.

“Farmingdale lit the fire of learning within me. It is Farmingdale that instilled pride in myself and a ‘you can do it’ attitude. To now have the opportunity to pay it forward by establishing a scholarship for an incoming FSC student overwhelms me with gratitude.”



FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

To continue the legacy of a Farmingdale education and learn more about how your gift can transform the lives of our students, contact Michelle Johnson, *Director of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship*, at 934-420-2369 or [michelle.johnson@farmingdale.edu](mailto:michelle.johnson@farmingdale.edu).



# BRAGGING POINTS



## Chancellor's Graduate Fellowships —

grants of up to \$5,000 for students who have graduated with a SUNY undergraduate degree, and are continuing their education at one of SUNY's 64 campuses — have been awarded to Theodore Ajuik and Ryan Collins. Ajuik, who holds a BS in Aviation Administration, and Collins, who studied both Computer Engineering Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology, are headed to University at Albany and Stony Brook University, respectively. Ajuik will study for an MBA, and Collins an MS in Computer Engineering.



**Nursing students** again achieved a **100 percent pass rate** on the critical NCLEX licensure exam. **Med Lab Science** students had a 100 percent pass rate in licensure. **Pro Pilot students** achieved 100 percent pass rates in pilot certificate, commercial pilot certificate, and instrument rating. In addition, 56 Nursing students completed the Johns Hopkins University Contact Tracers training, helping to reach Long Island's reopening criteria during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Athletics department had 72 student athletes named to the **Skyline Conference Honor Roll**, one of the highest numbers in FSC history. For the Spring 2020 semester, the cumulative GPA for the 299 student athletes was 3.02. Thirteen teams had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.



**SUNY Chancellor Awards for Excellence in Service** were presented to Lynn Marsh (Dental Hygiene), Marilyn Flores (Registrar), Joanne Ulrich (Use of Facilities), Bentley Whitfield (English and Humanities), and Tara Zajak (Mechanical Engineering Technology). CARES awards for service to the campus were given to Kevin Murphy (Health and Wellness), Andrew Kalos



*Orla LoPiccolo, winner of the 2019 AIA Long Island Chapter's Archi Educator Award, with students.*

(University Police), and Marsh. A special award was presented to the Information Technology and Custodial departments.



The **Small Business Development Center** assisted 145 small businesses in receiving \$33 million in recovery funding. The SBDC also assisted the Children's Center in a successful application for a federal loan of \$190,000 to retain staff during the pandemic.



The **Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology** awarded a six-year reaccreditation for six programs in the School of Engineering Technology. The **University in the High School program** received accreditation through the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. The **Visual Communication program** was accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design.



**Orla LoPiccolo**, Architecture and Construction Management chair, won the 2019 AIA Long Island Chapter's Archi Educator's Award. **Monica**

**Diamond-Caravella** of Nursing and her team won the prestigious 2020 AACN Exemplary Academic-Practice Partnership Award. **Luisa Dattoma** was honored by the New York Dental Hygiene Association for Excellence in Mentoring.



**Codagenix**, a clinical stage synthetic biology company located in the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park on campus, received a **\$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** for vaccine research to combat respiratory virus in the elderly.



**Dr. Kerry Lutz**, associate professor of Biology, was the co-recipient of a two-year, \$300,000 EAGER grant from the National Science Foundation. Farmingdale is in partnership with Rutgers University on the grant, which will go to support two undergraduate research interns to perform high-impact research with Dr. Lutz during the fall and spring semesters. The research interns will spend 10 weeks at Rutgers University.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to student success, Farmingdale State College delivers exceptional academic and applied learning outcomes through scholarship, research, and student engagement for Long Island and beyond. FSC's commitment to student-centered learning and inclusiveness prepares graduates to be exemplary citizens equipped to excel in a competitive, diverse, and technologically dynamic society.

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# Farmingdale State College

State University of New York

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