Hasler & College Magain





DAVE BARNETT RETIRING AFTER 37th SEASON

A look at the baseball coach's legacy of impact



JOHN A. DELANEY

President

CAROL BRANSON

Vice President for Marketing and Communications

BRIAN THOMPSON, '95

Director of Publications, and Magazine Editor

MASON MUSHINSKI, '19

Freelance Art Director

CONTRIBUTORS

Gabby Alfveby, '24
Anna Boone
Megan Churchill, '24
Hannah Duffey, '23
Hailey Gay, '24
Sydney Preston, '24
Lucas Scotch, '22
Becky Short, '15
Beth Sweeny, '05
Zach Thomas, '00

FLAGLER COLLEGE

MAGAZINE is published for alumni and friends of the College by the Flagler College Office of Marketing and Communication

74 KING ST. ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32085-1027

904.819.6249

bthompson@flagler.edu

TO READ THE FULL STORIES, visit www.flagler.edu/magazine



DEPARTMENTS

THE BREEZEWAY 4
Flagler Approves Launch of New Biology Major
New Master's in Public Administration Coming to Flagler
Center for Religion and Culture
Student Entrepreneurs into Industry Success
Faculty and Staff Retirements at Flagler
Renowned Journalist Bob Woodward Visits Flagler
Remembering
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
Flagler Forward: The Campaign for Flagler College
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS28
Drew Halloran: Working to Save the Chimps
Hunter Miller: Protecting the World's Oceans
Jefferey Spivey: The Power of Believing in One's Work
Eliza Jordan: Living the Luxury Life as Magazine Writer
ALUMNI NOTES
FEATURES
DAVE BARNETT RETIRING AFTER 37TH SEASON8
BEN ATKINSON Q&A: REPTILES,
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY AND ECO-POETRY12
BEHIND THE WALLS OF THE PONCE14
HALCOMB AND GILMORE DOCUMENTARY ON BASEBALL SCOUTS
FLAGSHIP TANZANIA TRIP IN PHOTOS22
TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS LEGACY24

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{COVER PHOTO:} \ A fter\ 37\ years, Flagler\ College\ baseball\ Coach\ Dave\ Barnett\ is\ retiring. \\ \textbf{PHOTO\ BY:} \ Zach\ Thomas, 'oo \end{array}$



DEAR FLAGLER FRIENDS,

As I reflect on a wonderful year filled with celebrations and reconnecting, I am thrilled to share the latest developments and future plans for Flagler College. Over the past three years as President, I have had the privilege of engaging with many of you to learn from your remarkable experiences at, and connections to, Flagler. Your stories inspire us to preserve and enhance the legacy of this unique institution.

Flagler College has always stood at the intersection of history and future innovation – a place where our historic roots provide a foundation for forward-thinking growth. In just over 50 years, we have grown into one of the South's top regional colleges, earning accolades for our exceptional undergraduate teaching and value. This blend of tradition and progress is a cornerstone of our mission.

We continue our commitment to strengthening Flagler's legacy through the Five Star Plan. Through this comprehensive strategy, we have made great strides in upgrading our facilities, integrating advanced technology, enhancing campus life and enriching student experiences. Central to this initiative is the extensive restoration of Ponce Hall, with the east wing already completed and the west wing renovation underway.

Our efforts extend beyond Ponce Hall with new additions such as the Dock on the San Sebastian River for research and exploration and the cozy fire pits behind the Ringhaver Student Center enhancing our campus environment. The Institute for Classical and Core Education, the Flagler Sophomore High Impact Practice (FlagSHIP) and the introduction of a biology major with a new modular science building are further examples of our commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

This period of transformation is made possible through the incredible generosity of our supporters. In October, we launched the Flagler Forward campaign, aiming to raise \$100 million with substantial contributions already secured. This campaign will ensure that we continue to provide an exceptional education and experience for our students, faculty and staff.

We are on the brink of an exciting new chapter in the College's history, and I invite you to learn more within these pages about how we are moving Flagler Forward.

SINCERELY,

President John A. Delaney



FLAGLER APPROVES LAUNCH OF NEW BIOLOGY MAJOR

A fter several years of research and planning, Flagler College has approved a new Biology major that will launch this fall and bring one of the most popular majors to campus.

Biology graduates in the U.S. have higher than average salaries and salary growth, and students interested in STEM programs represent one of the largest and best-qualified sectors of prospective students.

The Biology minor, launched in 2017, has proven a popular and well received addition to the Natural Sciences department at Flagler, laying the foundation for expansion into a major.

For these reasons, the Flagler College Strategic Plan in 2019 identified a Biology major as an important priority in the College's future.

The Biology major curriculum was developed to give graduates the marketable skills to launch them in their preferred career and allow them to pursue competitive graduate or pre-professional programs. This major requires credits in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer information systems, as well as communication and research, in order to receive the Bachelor of Science degree.

With the addition of new classes, the major will also require the College to create additional laboratory space. A plan for a modular laboratory classroom is underway to be supported by donor funds. As more Biology students are recruited in the coming years, the demand for teaching lab space and full-time faculty is expected to grow, and will eventually lead to a need for a new academic building with additional teaching laboratories.

Flagler has made tremendous progress in developing its science programming over the last 15 years, but leaders have always recognized that the College could never advance its academic profile without building a solid program in the Natural Sciences. The highly successful Coastal Environmental Science major was launched in 2013, and a biology minor in 2017. As of Fall 2023, there were 11 full time faculty teaching in the sciences at Flagler.

Biology is one of the most popular choices of major nationwide, and according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), "Biological and Biomedical Sciences" ranks as #4. Its numbers have risen 37% over the past 10 years. With the new program, Flagler expects to be able to recruit new students interested in the sciences. The prospective student pool for a biology major tends to have better academic profile, diversity and gender balance than the general student population.

NEW MASTER'S IN

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMING TO FLAGLER

By Anna Boone

Relagional College is elevating its academic offerings with a Master of Public Administration of Communication of Public Administration of Communication of Com of Public Administration (MPA) degree tailored to professionals seeking career advancement.

"It's a degree that aids you in managing and leading public organizations regardless of what field it's in," said Joel Bolante, director of the Public Administration Program.

Flagler's MPA Program is designed to equip students for leadership roles within public, non-profit and private sectors. It provides a comprehensive understanding of government operations and private sector regulations, setting professionals up for success in their respective fields.

The Program requires minimal campus presence, making it particularly accessible for working adults and parents seeking to continue their education.

"With our fixed schedule, all classes are offered at least once per year, - allowing you to complete your degree in a year or at a pace that best suits your lifestyle," Bolante said.

Even before launching, Bolante said there has been consistent enthusiasm for Flagler's MPA Program. This is partially thanks to the highly-respected reputation of the undergraduate Public Administration Degree (PAD) Program that precedes it.

"With nearly 700 alumni, the undergraduate PAD Program enjoys

a stellar reputation amongst civil servants and public sector agencies throughout northeast Florida," Bolante said.

Some notable PAD alumni in the region include St. Johns County Sheriff Robert Hardwick, St. Johns County Director of Public Works Greg Caldwell and St. Augustine Fire Marshal Abby Pedigo.





FLAGLER COLLEGE SETS **NEW RECORDS IN 2024 GIVING CHALLENGE**

etween April 3 and 4, 2,062 donors Contributed to Flagler College's sixth annual Roar and Raise Giving Challenge, raising a recordbreaking \$1,557,589 in support of the College's people, programs, and places.

"Year after year, our Saints community sets the bar higher for what we can accomplish through Roar and Raise," said Kristy Myers, Vice President of Institutional Advancement. "Their devotion to the College's mission of academic excellence and personal enrichment is the backbone of Flagler's ability to deliver a truly transformative education."

Roar and Raise is Flagler's biggest fundraising event of the year. First launched in 2019, the annual 48-hour giving challenge unites Saints worldwide behind advancing the College's student-centered educational mission.

Funds raised are invested into key areas of need under the Flagler Forward Campaign, the College's comprehensive plan to maintain the institution's prestige while elevating its student outreach, faculty support, programmatic offerings, and facilities preservation and innovation.

"Behind every student engagement activity, academic program, and funded scholarship, there is a loyal donor who has given their time and resources to bettering our campus community," Myers said. "That is what a Flagler education is all about."



COLLEGIATE BUSINESS **COMPETITIONS LAUNCH**

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS INTO INDUSTRY SUCCESS

By Anna Boone

ave you ever been laid off?" Sophomore Jacob Goldman, Clad in suit and tie, asked a judges' panel of business leaders. "It's terrifying to get that hand on your shoulder — the boss needs to see you ... it's almost like you know what's coming. But what if you actually did?"

These were the opening lines of Goldman's April 2023 Lion's Cage Competition pitch for Layoff Lookout, an innovative company intended to promote "layoff transparency." Co-founded with his cousin Noah Schwartz, their business model functions through an early alert email system notifying users of upcoming mass layoffs planned by their employer or affecting their area.

From the inspiration and initial idea to development and expansion in less than a year, Layoff Lookout (LayoffLookout. com) has seen marked growth as a legitimate company with hundreds of members to date taking advantage of the free sign-up.

An article about the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN Act) piqued Schwartz's interest during the beginning of his freshman spring semester at The University of Vermont. This set of overarching federal and varied state regulations requires, with certain qualifiers, employers to publicly report planned mass layoffs well in advance — the key to Layoff Lookout's business model.

"We saw a gap and we both knew we had the ability to fill that gap," Goldman said.

In February of 2023, Goldman's Principles of Microeconomics professor, Allison Roberts, put the Lion's Cage Competition on his radar. This Shark Tank-adjacent business pitch competition is held as a part of Flagler's annual Business Week, a unique channel in which the cousins saw an opportunity to expand their ideas on WARN notice uses.

FACULTY AND STAFF RETIREMENTS AT FLAGLER

Flagler College said goodbye to some long-running faculty and staff members this year including:



TERRY BENNETT, SUPERVISOR OF MAILROOM SERVICES - Bennett started working at Flagler College in 1995, and in nearly 30 years, got to know thousands of students, alumni, faculty and staff heading up the Mailroom. He was known for more than just handling their mail, but also for caring about everyone who walked through

the Mailroom doors.



LYNN BRUESKE-WALTON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY - Brueske-Walton is a State of Florida Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Qualified Supervisor, a National Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. She is a regular presenter at

local, regional, and national mental health forums and conferences.



AGNIESZKA (AGGIE) JOHNSON. **ASSISTANT** PROFESSOR OF SPANISH - Johnson brought wide international experience and passion for languages to her classroom. Believing that to learn a language successfully a student must be immersed in language and culture, she led many

study abroad programs in Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico and Spain. In 2016, she received the Florida Association for International Educators Award "You Make a World of Difference."



TRACEY EATON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION - Eaton is an award-winning journalist and visual storyteller. He has worked throughout Latin America and is a former Fulbright scholar in Ecuador. He headed Dallas Morning News bureaus in Mexico and Cuba from 1994 to 2005. Eaton served as chair of the Communication

Department from August 2018 through June 2021.



KNIGHT, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ACCOUNTING - Knight earned a Master of Tax Accounting and his B.S. in Accounting from the University of Alabama. He brought a long career in business and industry to his teaching service at Flagler College. He has served as a senior executive of public and private corporations.



TRACY UPCHURCH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW AND HISTORY - Upchurch spent 25 years as a practicing attorney, served as a Florida state representative and as a mayor of the City of St. Augustine. He used this impressive practical knowledge and experience in law in his classes, as

well as during his time as Director of the Law Program. Upchurch also taught American history courses at Flagler.

RENOWNED JOURNALIST

BOB WOODWARD VISITS FLAGLER

ournalist and author Bob Woodward came to campus this spring to talk about his perspective on political reporting as part of the inaugural Flagler College Presidential Speaker Series.

The series brings distinguished thought leaders to campus to share global perspectives, inspirational stories and career insights.

Woodward met with students, faculty and staff,



and spoke on America's current state through the lens of the history he's lived and experiences he's collected as a political journalist.

Revered in the field of political journalism, Woodward is an associate editor of The Washington Post, where he's worked since 1971. He has shared in two Pulitzer Prizes, first for the coverage of the Watergate scandal with



Carl Bernstein, and second as the lead reporter for coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The decorated journalist first gained international attention when he and fellow reporter Bernstein uncovered the Watergate scandal in 1973. He is also the author of 22 nonfiction books, 15 of which became No. 1 bestsellers.

REMEMBERING ·······

C adly, Flagler College lost several retired faculty and staff members who had been long-time members of the campus, and touched countless members of the Flagler community over their many years of service.



MATTIE HART – The Reverend Dr. Mattie Hart was ordained in 1971 and chose to follow her heart and entered the University of Durham gaining her Ph.D. in Divinity in 1975. After her return to the U.S., she worked with Young Life in Jacksonville, Fla., where contacts gave her the opportunity to become

a professor at Flagler College until her retirement in 1996. During her time in St. Augustine, she found her church home at Memorial Presbyterian Church, was active as guest pastor, and volunteered with many of the outreach programs offered through the church.



LOU PREYSZ - After a long career of military service, Lou Preysz began teaching in the Business and Economics Department at Flagler in 1982, where he taught in the management and marketing disciplines. During his 26-year career on Flagler's faculty, he served as assistant, then associate

professor in management and marketing until his retirement in the summer of 2008, when he was awarded the title of Associate Professor Emeritus. He led the Society for Advancement of Management team to eight national management case championships. He also brought inspirational mentorship to the Flagler men's basketball team as chaplain for a number of years.



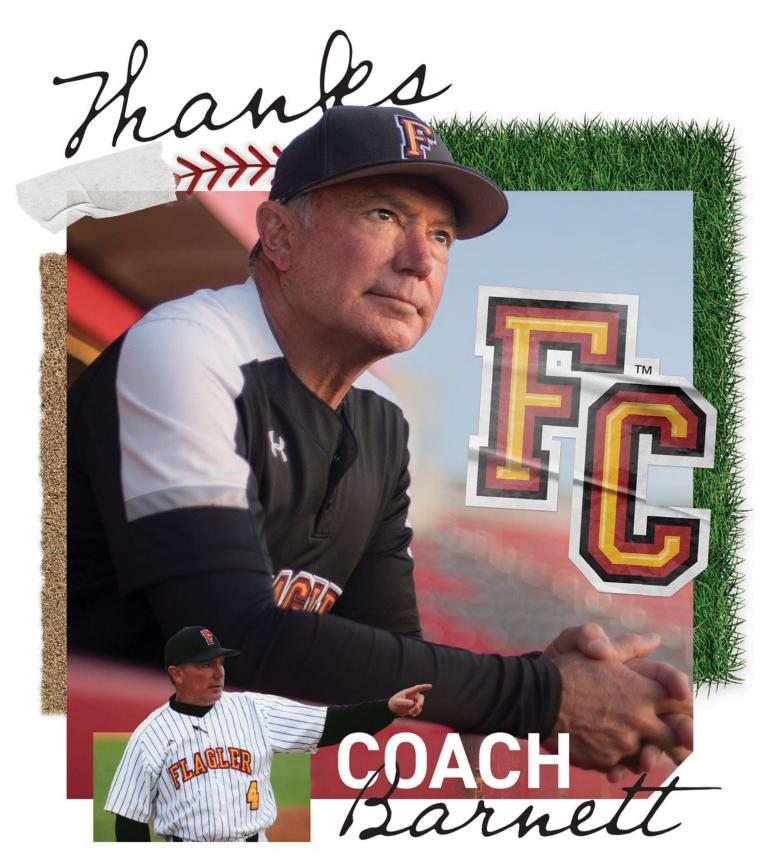
MICHAEL SHERMAN - Michael Sherman was raised in Tanganika, East Africa, but came to the States to do his graduate studies in sociology at Duke University in North Carolina. He taught briefly at Apalachian State before becoming the chairman of the Social Science Department at

Flagler College, where he taught for more than 40 years. He was well-respected as a colleague and a teacher. He also had a special interest in indigenous populations and spent time on native American reservations in the southwest and in Florida.



DARWIN WHITE – As part of the Flagler College family for almost 30 years, Darwin White made a lasting impact, and was instrumnetal in the growth of the College as an educator, coach, Athletic Director, Dean of Students and Registrar. He served as Flagler's second Director

of Athletics from 1975-77 and as head baseball coach from 1976-78. He played an important role helping Flagler become a member of the NAIA under his direction. He later served Flagler in the role of Registrar from 1994-2003, and is best known by students for his long stint as Dean of Students from 1977-1994.



BY GABBY ALFVEBY, '24. PHOTOS BY ZACH THOMAS, '00

DAVE BARNETT RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS, LEAVING A LEGACY OF IMPACT ON FLAGLER BASEBALL

lagler baseball Head Coach Dave Barnett began his 37th season with the Spints the company of the country of the with the Saints this year like any other: focused on the team and ensuring its success.

But for Barnett, this wasn't just any other season.

After nearly four decades at Flagler, Barnett announced his plans to retire following the current season. While he tried to go about business like he always does, he admitted mid-way through that he was starting to feel the emotions that come with retirement, and that they would hit him more and more as the season went on.

"I just want these guys to have a good season and do well," Barnett said. "I want to enjoy it, which I am. I want to enjoy going to practice. I want to enjoy the games. You know just soak it all in because this is it. I won't be doing the same thing I've done for 37 years, the same routine really when you think about it, so that will be different."

Barnett has accumulated a career record of 1.054-873. He has made the top 20 for all-time wins in NCAA Division II baseball, and led his team to the regional finals twice, in 1993 and 2002, as well as the Peach Belt Conference tournament seven times. On top of that, he also served as the athletic director at Flagler from 1994 to 2009.

After all of it, Barnett said he has loved every second of his career. He has watched 51 of the players he coached sign professionally, three of whom moved up to play Major League Baseball.

But for Barnett, it hasn't just been about baseball. He saw himself not only as a coach, but also as a teacher of many lessons for the players who have gone through the Flagler baseball program.

"I'll miss it [coaching players]. But there's also a nice feeling to know that I'm retiring and I won't have some of the headaches," Barnett said. "But I know I'll miss the players. I'm not talking about necessarily this group of players, but all the players that I've coached."

The Saints finished 2024 29-24 after their season came to an end in May against Georgia College & State University in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship Series. Barnett said however the season ended, he recognized that this is the last team he will ever coach, and planned to live in the moment and enjoy it all.

"[My main focus is] just enjoying the team and the players and [having] a little bit of reflection," he said during the season. "I want to focus on this particular team because it's the last team I'm going to coach. So, yeah, I want them to do well. I'll get a little choked up sometimes in my mind if I try to think about reflecting on things. I'm trying to enjoy it."

Barnett did, in fact, start coaching because he enjoys and gets satisfaction from being not just a coach, but also a teacher, a mentor and someone players can lean on for help.

"Coaches have influence," he said. "I always had coaches that I had a lot of respect for and had a lot of influence on me when I was younger. So, I think that probably played into my thoughts about coaching, too. That the influence that a coach can have on players is a lot more than teaching the game. You kind of hope you're teaching the game of life a little bit, too."

Matthew Burke is a senior infielder on the Flagler baseball team and has not only learned so much about baseball and grown within the sport, but also those life lessons that Barnett emphasizes.

"He took a chance on me," Burke said. "[I had] no offers in high

school, and he just gave me a chance to play college baseball, and I'm so grateful for that. It's really, really awesome. Obviously, he stresses about winning and losing. He wants to win so badly, but he shapes us men to where we want to be for our futures. He wants us to have a family, treat everyone that we see right, and he just wants the best for us in our future. He wants us to be successful in the real world."

Burke said that he will miss the energy that Barnett brings to the field and is honored that he got the chance to be a part of his career.

"[I will miss] his joyous spirit at practice," he said. "He always has a smile on his face and wants to be there. He wants us to be better every day. And I feel like that's a really good [quality to have] as a head coach. He's had a wonderful career, and it was awesome to be a part of that wonderful career."

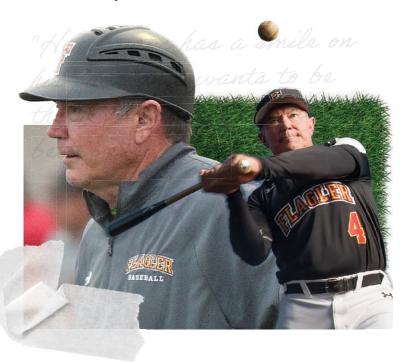
Barnett is grateful for his time at Flagler and all the opportunities he has had. He built many relationships with the community during his time as an assistant coach, head coach, and even when he served as an athletic director.

"The emotions are more [than that] I'm just thankful," Barnett said. "My emotions are thankful that I've stayed at the same place for as long as I have. Flagler's a great institution. You know, to live in a community like St. Augustine is a blessing. I'm just thankful that I've been able to stay at the same place."

Barnett not only made an impact on Flagler baseball, but also on Athletics as a whole. He served as the Athletic Director for 15 years, from 1994 to 2009, until the current athletic director, Jud Damon, took over.

"We grew a lot and improved a lot during his tenure," Damon said. "He made some major facility improvements as the AD. He grew the department and he was instrumental in the transition of Flagler from the NAIA to NCAA Division II."

Barnett and his dedication will be deeply missed by Flagler College and the community.





"[What I will miss most about him is] his presence in the Athletic Department," Damon said. "He's always supportive of everybody else in the department, and he cares very deeply about Flagler College in a way that only someone who's put so much of his life into it could care."

Barnett will always be a fan of Flagler baseball and is hopeful for the program's future.

"I think whoever takes over, I feel, is in a real good spot," Barnett said. "I think it's a good job. We've got a lot of things in place to win. I want this program to win. I want them to win and win big at the national level, and I think that we're trending in that direction."

Barnett is excited to be able to enjoy watching from the stands instead of the field.

"I want the program to do well," he said. "I want to come to games and sit in the stands and enjoy their success."

Barnett plans to top off his legacy by building a "tradition room" off the dugout.

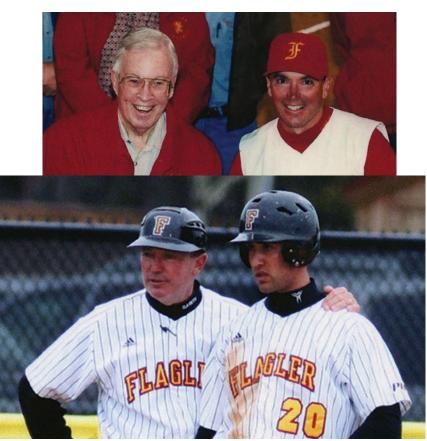
"That's my legacy to the players," he said. "That's something I wanted to do. It's called the Alumni Tradition Room, and it's going to have every team picture from 1975. That was our very first team. It's going to highlight all the individuals that were either All-Conference or All-District or All-Americans and we have All-Decade teams. We have players that played professional baseball. We have players that are on our Flagler College Athletic Hall of Fame. So it'll be like a museum of sorts for Flagler baseball, and really, there's no other sports that have something like that."

Barnett hopes that building the tradition room can leave an impact on the program and allow past players to bring their families back and relive their careers as baseball players.

"That's gonna' be the last thing I want to do, and I think it's neat because these guys can come back for Alumni Weekend or any time. That's their room," he said.

Barnett has plans to spend time with his family during retirement and take up some hobbies.



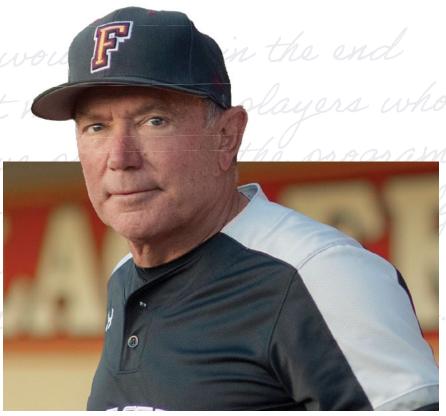


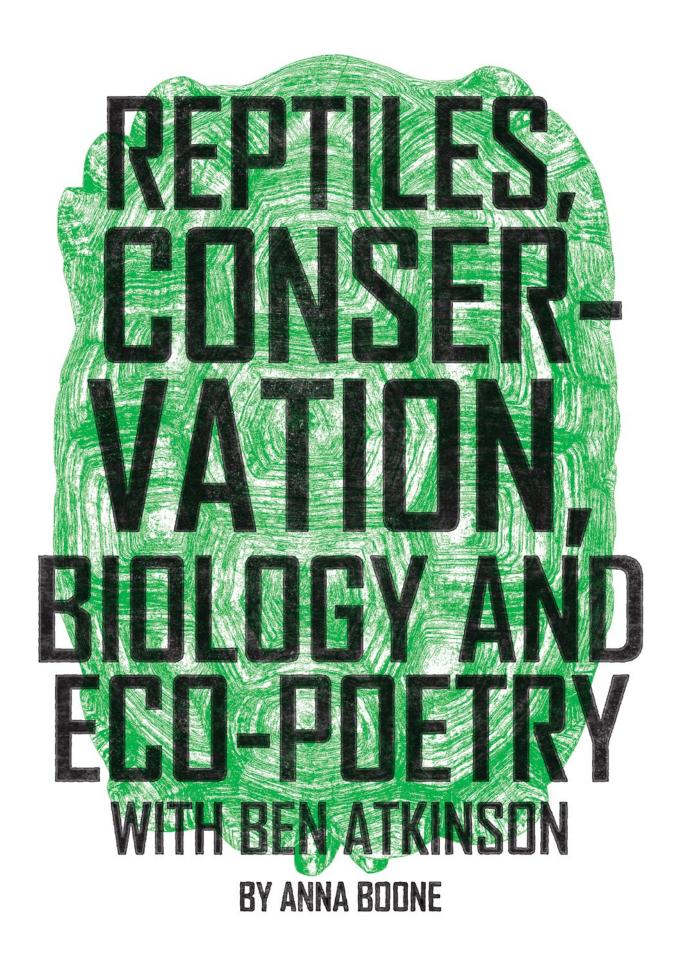
PHOTOS (ABOVE): Through the years, and many different uniforms, baseball Coach Dave Barnett has been a constant in the sport, and athletics, at Flagler College.

"I've got five grandkids, so I think that [spending time with] family is my biggest plan, and then I might see if I can sharpen up my golf game a little bit," he said. "It's pretty rusty. Maybe doing a little fishing."

Many coaches are remembered and measured by their success on the field, but Barnett hopes that his legacy is more than that.

"I hope that I have a positive influence on all the players that I've coached," he said. "You hope that you had some kind of impact on them ... I would hope in the end that most of the players who have played in the program would say that, 'He not only taught me about baseball, but he taught me about life."







en Atkinson, Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences, instructs students on topics like ecology, f B environmental science, sustainability, and evolutionary biology. His primary areas of research and professional development focus on the conservation biology of reptiles and amphibians, but not as many people know he also likes to write "eco-poetry" about ecology and the natural world. When he's not co-authoring research and presentations, often with students, you might find he's performing as a featured reader for the "Jax by Jax" Literary Arts Festival. Flagler Magazine sat down with Atkinson to talk about his passion for conservation and teaching.

What is your favorite course to teach at Flagler, and why?

I love teaching Honors Learning Communities most. They pair two courses from different departments together under a unified theme. The class and faculty work together to find the common ground and intersections of two disparate fields of study. The most rewarding part is the community we create among the cohort as the students make thematic connections across different disciplinary lenses.

Tell us about your area of expertise and what sparked your interest in this field.

My primary area of academic expertise is the conservation ecology of tortoises and freshwater turtles, especially threatened and endangered species. For as long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by wildlife - whether extant or extinct. To quote my late mentor, a pre-eminent herpetologist and conservationist, Dr. Peter C.H. Pritchard, "Arrested development. All kids like turtles, but most grow out of it!"

Which books or resources would you recommend to someone who is first beginning to learn about this field?

A very accessible (and visually engaging) book for beginners in this field would be "Turtles of the Southeast," by colleagues Kurt Buhlmann, Tracey Tuberville, and Whit Gibbons (UGA Press).

List five words you would use to characterize your style in the classroom.

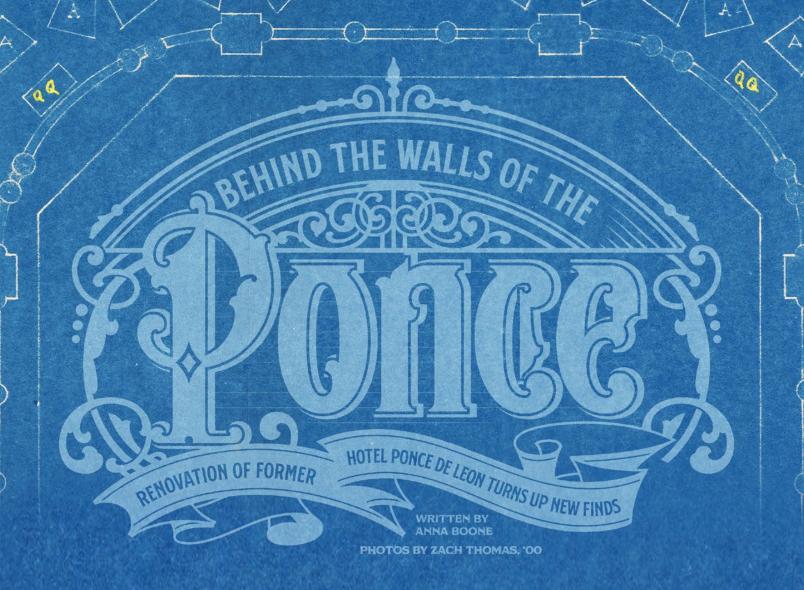
Honest, conversational, demanding (but fair), passionate, and ever-evolving.

What sets apart the program, or specific major, you instruct as a great opportunity for Flagler students?

We consider the field our classroom. The Department of Natural Sciences faculty provide genuine field and laboratory research experiences – from gathering and analyzing water quality samples to hands-on wildlife work. Specifically, I've led study abroad courses and expeditions to Bermuda and Belize, field methods focused on local natural areas, and independent student projects – especially at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve to shed light on understudied aspects of coastal gopher tortoise ecology.

Describe your perfect day in St. Augustine:

To me, a perfect day in the St. Augustine area is spent in the field, usually at the GTM Research Reserve tagging gopher tortoises with my students and mentees. The GTM Reserve is a special place. Its ecosystems are preserved in perpetuity, but also represent some of the most imperiled habitats in Florida. Additionally, the staff and volunteers there are wonderful people.



S ince embarking on a historic restoration project less than two years ago, Flagler College has handed contractors and preservationists a magnifying glass to rediscover one of St. Augustine's most iconic buildings, the former Hotel Ponce de Leon.

"That's what's kind of fun: peeling all this back," said Bill Evans, owner of Avondale Window Restoration.

As expert groups like Evans' regional restoration company work to preserve the historical value and beauty of the Ponce, they are peeling back 130 years' worth of layers which have obscured original details of the former hotel for over a century.

"One of the things about working long-term in a building like this is you get to know it intimately," said Geoff Stewart, owner and director of International Fine Art Conservation Studios (IFACS). "You can stay here for half an hour and notice things you hadn't before."

Intricately painted and once vibrantly colored wallpaper ornamented the walls of the Ponce from different periods of the hotel. A handful of these prints are among the hidden gems unearthed by groups like IFACS during recent preservation work inside the National Historic Landmark.

These magnificently designed prints seem worthy to be framed on a wall rather than covering one. But in a manner characteristic of his opulent winter resort, Henry Flagler's vision has left the College with countless walls to continue to explore for artwork.

One uncovered wallpaper print, with a faded floral damask

design, has found the spotlight it deserves. With a beauty akin to peering through a kaleidoscope, this once-bold print now hangs as a swatch in the East Wing of today's student residence halls.

Identifying and uncovering seemingly minute design details from original craftsmen and artists requires keen observation and a genuine interest in finding those special elements which now characterize the historic building that is the centerpiece of Flagler College.

This is a challenge that Stewart considers a "wonderful privilege" as he leads the work that revealed original paint color schemes of the former hotel.

"You've got to look behind your initial impression," he said.

While the College has restored several original hotel fireplaces throughout its stewardship, nearly a dozen others have been uncovered over the past two years. Masked by layers of plastered drywall, the fireplaces revealed elaborately placed tile, carved wooden mantles and intricate metalwork.

Restoring these more than 125-year-old fireplaces requires precision at every step. This hefty undertaking is a project that has literally expanded Avondale Window Restoration.

"But I'm not complaining!" Evans said.

To accommodate the scale of this project and space needed to restore individual elements from the many fireplaces in former hotel rooms, Evans had to expand his Jacksonville workshop two



stories up.

"At our shop, every single fireplace has a book," he said, explaining their system which requires individual numbering of each part of the fireplace from mantle to inner iron grate.

"Everything had to get numbered, and everything has to be put back exactly the same way it was put on," Evans said. "Even if we have to replace a piece of the fireplace, we have documentation of it. [For example,] all the pieces that go back together have to be exactly the same size and made out of the same type of wood."

Behind fireplace mantles and beneath baseboards, they also discovered previously unseen maker's marks and builder signatures. Evans said that each manufacturer









ABOVE, photos of the Ponce undergoing renovation work in 2023, including newly discovered fireplaces and original hotel wallpaper that had been hidden for years behind plaster. TOP, a room above the Rotunda was turned into a new community space called The Birdcage.



had a logo or a mark placed on their respective elements, and that at least five of these distinct maker's marks have been found through their work so far.

The variety of original contractors makes the job of preservationists like Evans' distinctly more challenging. This is largely due to the extensive time, space and energy required to restore and reinstall historical elements of this building with exactness.

"Everything has to go back the exact same way it was made by the people who made it a hundred years ago," he said. "Using all those same skills, some easier tools, but all the same skills."

These are all the details that may have otherwise remained buried behind the walls of the historic building had a burst water pipe in the Ponce's east wing in 2022 not caused Flagler to undertake this major stewardship initiative. While time-consuming and costly, the upside has been uncovering remarkable details of the building's history.

"The Ponce will always unveil mysteries to you and things that



you just were not expecting," said Vice President and Chief of Staff Laura Stevenson Dumas.

Some, like long-time contractor with the College Mike Davis, consider the former Hotel Ponce de Leon "the most unique building in downtown St. Augustine."

Four decades of experience working inside the Ponce stand as the basis for such an honest compliment from Davis, third-generation owner of his family's construction business, A.D. Davis Construction

"If it had become a hotel before historic preservation took precedence in St. Augustine in the 60s and 70s, a lot of the historic features would've already been gone, and there wouldn't have been [for example] a Flagler Room to save," Davis said, recalling his grandfather AD's strong relationship with architect Craig Thorn and their early work on the College.

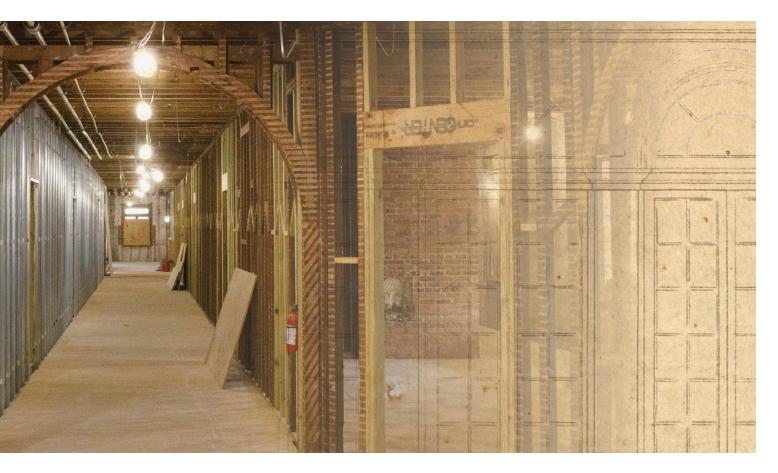
Thinking back to 1981, during his first summer as a 14-year-old apprentice inside the Ponce, Davis recalled being struck by the ornate 'fireplaces and historic features' that seemed so foreign to a college dorm room.

At a young age, Davis picked up on this niche juxtaposition which has proven to be a defining asset for the College, even creeping into its mission statement.

Stevenson Dumas said it's uncommon for a college to focus an element of its mission on something other than the quality of its student education. However, she sees the value in this differentiator as an opportunity to honor the past with forward thinking.

"I think that's one of the great things about Flagler," Stevenson Dumas said. "We are housed in this very remarkable town with a very rich history, and we are a part of that history."

\[
\bigsim
\]











TOP, images of the Ponce's West Wing during renovation work in 2023, including swatches of original wallpaper found behind plaster (center right).

ABOVE, a student room after renovations were completed. (Photo above by Scott Smith, '00)





im Gilmore used to spend hours listening to his cousin J im Gilmore used to special nodes as a scout for the Texas Rangers.

"We would get together at cocktail time or watch the sunset over Lake Michigan and talk," said Gilmore, a Visiting Filmmaker at Flagler College. "(He) always tells stories about his life as a baseball scout. I was sort of listening and listening and finally like, 'You know, Brian, if you keep telling these stories, I'm going to really need to turn this into some kind of a movie because this all sounds good, and it should be recorded."

And that is exactly what Gilmore and fellow Communication Professor Tracy Halcomb decided to do for their new documentary on these unsung heroes of American baseball.

The film, "Fielding Dreams: A Celebration of Baseball Scouts," has dozens of interviews of scouting legends, including five scouts who helped build the 2023 World Series Champion Texas Rangers.



Since its release, "Fielding Dreams" has garnered media attention around the country, had its world premiere at the Sarasota Film Festival and even been shown at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, where Gilmore and Halcomb were invited for a Q&A after the screening.

The film has generated a lot of interest in scouts, who are often overlooked for their work, even though they are so integral to making the sport happen. Without being away from their families for extended periods of time and driving hours to watch a young player for a short 20 minutes, World Series teams would not be what they are.

"Baseball scouts are the only people that are not in the Hall of Fame," Gilmore said. "You've got players, you've got managers, you've got announcers that are in the Hall, but not baseball scouts. I think our number one hope is that this raises a little bit more awareness about what they bring to the game of baseball."

Halcomb said the film tells a story that is deeper than just baseball - one that is really a human-interest story highlighting the life of these critical individuals and the challenges that the MLB faces.

"Even though this is a baseball story, I look at it as really kind of a

very heartwarming human (film)," Halcomb said.

With technology advancements, cost efficiency and post-COVID scouting cuts, the profession has been under more pressure than ever. But in spite of new challenges, what they found were scouts whose love for the sport and desire to see it continue to progress was the reason they continue to invest so much into it.

"They're passionate about this job. They love this job. They can't imagine doing anything else, even though it takes them away from their family like up to 200 nights of the year," Halcomb said. "They still want to see this high school kid in a small town and they're gonna' drive four hours there, pay for their own gas, watch this kid play and then drive home that night."

The ins and outs are rarely highlighted due to little or no coverage of the endless amount of work that they do to help put together a team's roster.

"They make the game of baseball happen," Gilmore said. "Nothing you see happen in front of you in the ballpark would happen without an area scout identifying talent from a young man, probably when they were in their teens, and following them forward to securing them



to end up becoming part of Major League Baseball. And so, I think our hope is that it raises awareness for scouts."

Although the documentary aimed to highlight baseball scouts' work, it also presented some of the challenges that Major League Baseball faces that are often swept under the rug.

Baseball has provided endless opportunities for athletes worldwide, and many players come to the U.S. for the opportunity to play at the

professional level. But players from diverse backgrounds, and especially the rate of black players and players of color, is significantly lower. Making sure to not gloss over these challenges was important to Gilmore and Halcomb.

"The dearth of African Americans in baseball, and how come there's not a lot of black baseball players, we addressed (in the film)," Halcomb said. "The fact that the statistics is it's something like 18% of Major League players on the opening day rosters were black, and we're down to under 10 percent now."

Access to safe outdoor playing fields and facilities in black communities has been a challenge for decades. To promote change, the sport is making strides with programs and initiatives for young black athletes to have the opportunity to learn the game and have equal opportunity to pursue a career.

"Scouts have scout teams where they go into the inner cities, and different teams



are now building baseball academies in some of the parts of bigger cities that just don't have the availability," Halcomb said. "Baseball teams are starting to pay attention. So, we're hoping that it's moving the needle in the right direction."

The life of a scout is not ordinary. Their life is spent on the road searching for the next big player for the MLB, which is something that other technological advancements can't replace.

While scouting, they are running numbers on each player, but also going deeper than the analytics. The scouts talk with opposing teams, as well as family members, to better understand what they call the "makeup" of each player. For them, it is more than just the physical aspect of each player.

"It is way more than just having a speed gun on a pitcher and watching a guy hit a home run," Halcomb said. "It's fascinating. It's like a science getting all the different pieces together."

The interesting part about scouting is that the focus is not just on the athlete, and scouts get to personally know the families of each player and spend a great amount of time with them.

"I think what kind of surprised me is how much the scouts really do," she said. "They get to know the parents, they get to know the family situation, and they take that all into account. When they talk about 'makeup,' ... they are part psychologists."

It's all done in hopes of finding a player who can end up becoming a star.

"They're looking at what kind of mental toughness that they have and how much drive," Halcomb said. "Like one scout says, you're looking at a 17-year-old trying to

figure out if he's gonna' be any good when he's 23 or 24. You're projecting five to seven years out, and so, you're taking a huge risk."

Another issue that the film brings up is the low rate of female scouts, which dates to the early 1900s.

"We interviewed a wonderful female scout named Christy Wood who works for Major League Baseball," Halcomb said about the first female scout, who has held an on-field position with the MLB Scouting Bureau. "She goes out to all the teams and she is one of the very few female scouts."

Gilmore said this film meant a lot to the scouts. They felt like they were seen and heard on a realistic level, unlike films that have been made about them in the past.

"So, I mean this is a much more of a realistic look at what they do every day and how they how they put those World Series teams together," Gilmore said.

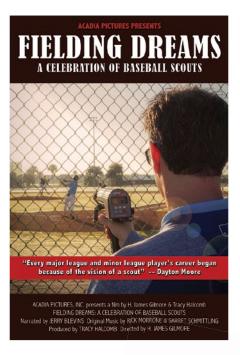
Halcomb and Gilmore already work closely together in the Communication Department at Flagler, where they helped launch the new Cinematic Arts major. The program will let aspiring filmmakers get involved with all aspects of narrative and feature filmmaking in a major designed to model a real professional environment.

They recently began their first project on Fort Mose Historic State Park, site of the first legally-sanctioned free African settlement. Students will be involved in all parts of the pre-production and production stages of the film.

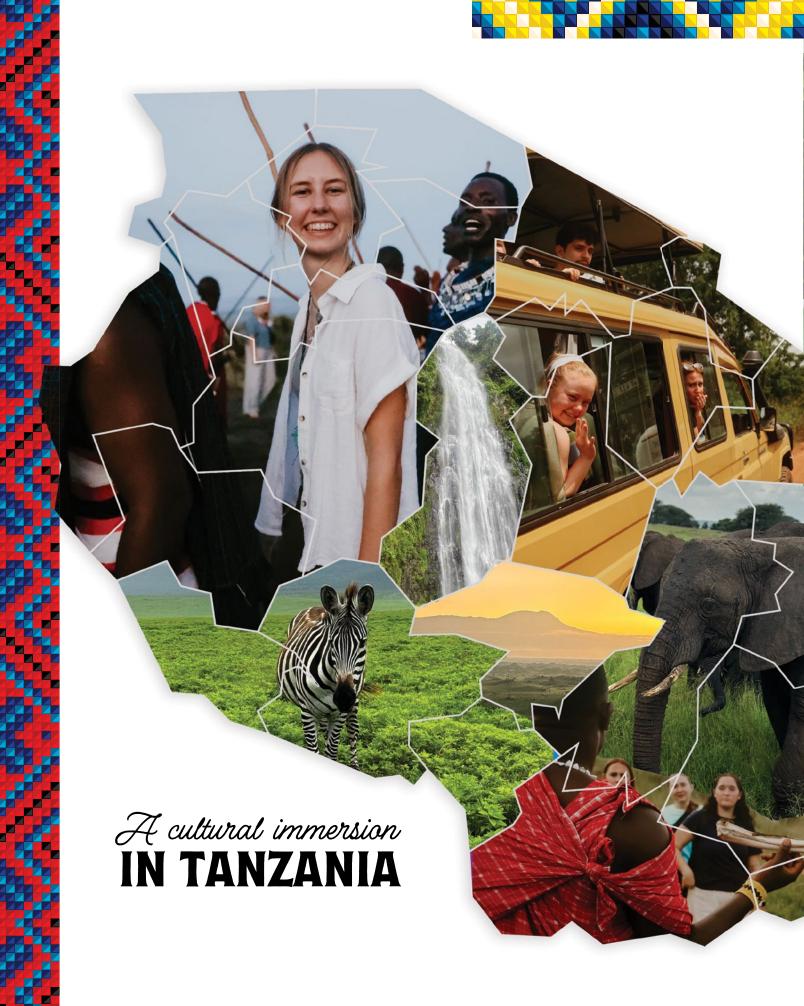
The two have also worked on previous projects together, including the documentary "Cracking Aces," which focused onprofessional women poker players.

■











CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF FLAGLER'S

TALLAHASSEE

AT LAST GRADUATION

▼n May of 2024, Flagler College Tallahassee celebrated the achievements of its final graduating class.

For more than 20 years, Flagler College and Tallahassee Community College (TCC) have partnered to provide affordable higher education opportunities for students in the capital city region. This momentous commencement marked a historic milestone, signifying the successful culmination and close of a long-time partnership between the institutions.

Despite the success of the academic programs offered on Flagler's Tallahassee campus, the landscape of higher education has changed dramatically since Flagler offered its first class in Tallahassee two decades ago. The partnership and its programs have continually adapted to changing enrollment trends and student needs, always with the goal of providing quality, community-focused education. This evolution represents a positive step forward in the availability of higher education options for students in Florida.

"Flagler College remains in strong financial standing and is adapting to meet changing enrollment trends and student needs," Flagler's Director of External and Government Relations Beth Sweeny said. "Since legislation was recently passed for TCC to officially become Tallahassee State College, with the capacity to offer fouryear degrees, we are confident they will serve the Tallahassee community well."

"It's a bittersweet moment, but I'm also really proud of what our alumni are doing, and the legacy that they have," said campus Dean Wayne Riggs. ♥

The partnership was sparked through an invitation by T.K. Wetherell. former President of Tallahassee Community College, to Flagler College President Emeritus William Proctor.

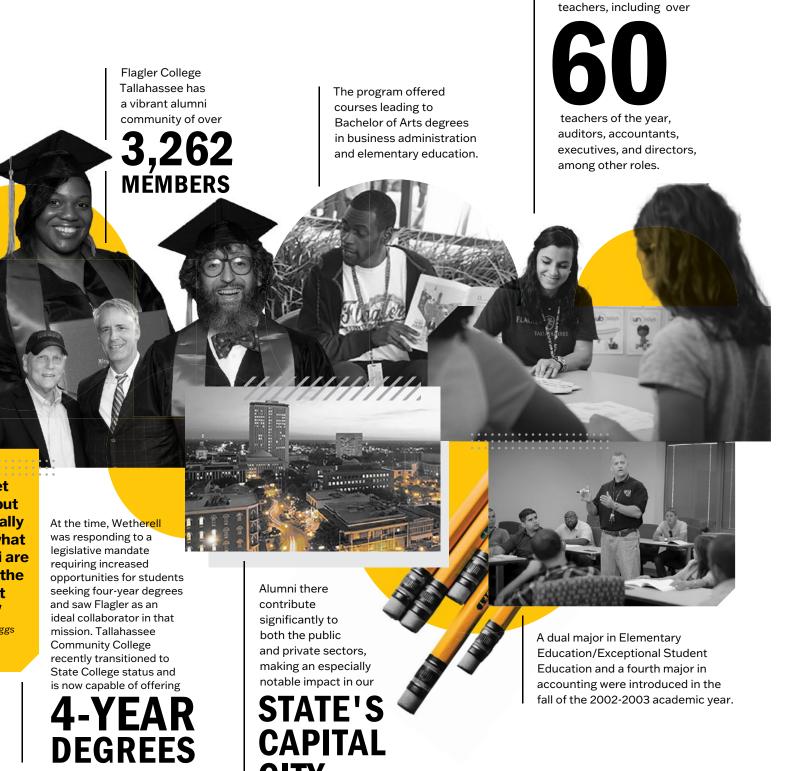
The campus in the fall Enrollment grew

to 100 students during the first academic year and in subsequent years expanded to almost

bitterswee moment, b I'm also re proud of w our alumni doing and legacy tha they have'

- Dean Wayne Ri





Graduates have embarked on successful careers as



FLAGLER FORWARD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR FLAGLER COLLEGE

F lagler Forward is Flagler College's new \$65 million comprehensive campaign to continue elevating our campus to a national level.

Already, more than 9,000 donors have helped raise more than \$55 million toward the goal of growing programs, expanding learning opportunities, recruiting the brightest minds, and evolving the College to the next level. The campaign's four priorities are focused on students, faculty, programs and campus facilities so students and faculty have the latest technology and resources.

Flagler College receives grant from Siemens to fund science research

 \mathbf{F} lagler College has received a \$30,000 grant from Siemens' Empower+ to support two vital initiatives within the College community.

The grant includes \$25,000 for Flagler College Professor Matt Brown's San Sebastian River Water Quality Research Project. Additionally, Siemens gave \$5,000 as the lead/title sponsor of Science Week, underscoring Siemens' commitment

to fostering scientific education and innovation.

Brown's research uses fecal bacteria such as Enterococcus as indicators of untreated waste, with the goal of tracing sources of fecal input to local waterways. He also aims to study the response of Enterococcus bacteria to saltwater exposure and its connections to the broader microbial community. The results will help the city of St. Augustine target their funding for sewer conversion to the areas that need it the most.

"The Empower+ grant will provide our students with the tools to explore topics such as biofuel optimization and partitioning of contaminant compounds. Allowing students to see the applications of their new skills right from the start is a powerful motivator for learning," said Brown.

Specifically, the funds will allow the College to purchase critical laboratory equipment, provide research stipends for undergraduate student researchers,





and cover travel and research dissemination expenses.

Steve Hoiberg, Director of Siemens Empower+ Programs, emphasized the importance of such transformative research endeavors. "Transformative research such as the study of the San Sebastian River and related environmental issues is not only an important part of the College's core mission, but it's critical to the State of Florida's sustainable future," said Hoiberg. "This is the innovative, forwardthinking work that Siemens' Empower+ program is passionate about supporting."

Empower+ from Siemens expands partnerships and supports customized programming in various areas, including sustainability, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), student success, workforce development, energy efficiency, and community engagement. Through initiatives like Empower+, Siemens aims to collaborate with communities, schools, colleges, and universities to inspire the next generation of leaders.



I hen you imagine the face of a donor, the vision that emerges is rarely one of a young, 20-something-year-old man fresh out of college. But James Mernik, '21, is that donor.

Upon inheriting a giving account from his late grandparents, Mernik was tasked with perpetuating their lifelong interest in philanthropy.

"They left no instructions or recipe card for the trust," Mernik said. "They wanted us to give back and support nonprofits of our choosing that were meaningful to us and that would allow their legacy to carry on while we built our own."

Mernik gave it some thought, and decided that his alma mater, Flagler College, was the best place to invest his resources.

"My time at Flagler was so impactful," he said. "I met lifelong friends, I studied abroad, I got involved, and I grew so much as a person. I knew after graduation that I needed to stay involved and contribute as much as possible to the future of Flagler."





Mernik graduated in 2021 with a degree in Criminology. During his time at Flagler, he served as Vice President of both Student Government and the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. He is the first generation in his family to graduate.

"I know that made my grandparents very proud," Mernik said. "They neither graduated from college nor had the means to go."

In honor of his late grandparents, whom he called his "twin pillars and biggest supporters," Mernik established the Richard and Judith Anderson Memorial Endowed and Annual Scholarships. Matched 2:1 by a grant provided by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, the awards benefit first-year students with a declared major in Criminology, a minor in Pre-Law or a major in Business Administration.

Mernik also named the College's Mail Services Facility and the Printing Room in Flagler's cutting-edge entrepreneurial location, the Brown Innovation Center.



FLAGLER ALUM WORKING TO SAVE THE CHIMPS

By Sydney Preston, '24

It was a viral video of a chimpanzee named Vanilla seeing the sky for the first time that captured the hearts of Americans, and helped Flagler College alumnus Dr. Andrew Halloran, '95, raise awareness about the plight of animals kept in labs and cages for most of their lives.

Halloran, who worked with the wildlife organization Save The Chimps, posted the video of Vanilla being released at the chimpanzee sanctuary in Florida, gazing up in awe at the blue sky. The video was picked up by national media including CNN, USA Today, The Weather Channel, and was seen around the world from England to China.

Vanilla the Chimp was bred in a biomedical research lab in New York. The first years of her life were dedicated to invasive procedures due to the fact that Chimpanzees share 98 percent of their DNA with humans.

At the age of 28, Vanilla was rescued from a facility in California after spending most of her life in biomedical research labs. She was brought to her forever home at the Florida sanctuary where she made friends and saw the sky for the very first time.

"All of us that have worked here have 225 moments not captured on camera that are just as special as what happened in Vanilla's video," Halloran said. "They all had to make that step through the door onto the island."

Formerly Director of Chimpanzee Behavior and Care at Save the Chimps, Halloran now works with The Elgin Center in Vero Beach that provides consultation services to animal sanctuaries, including Save the Chimps. He is also finishing a textbook for Cambridge University Press on animal care and welfare.

For the Flagler College alum who majored in Philosophy and Theater, finding his passion has improved not only his quality of life,

but also the lives of over 200 chimpanzees.

"When I was 18, I was very high-minded that you go into school and study what you're interested in, not what was going to get you a job," said Halloran. "I am so glad I did that."

Halloran said he always wanted to work with animals, but wasn't sure how to go about it. After Flagler, Halloran began to intern at Zoo Atlanta working with golden lion tamarins, before becoming a zookeeper. He fell in love with apes, specifically chimps, and went on to grad school at Florida Atlantic University to study biological anthropology.

He had many jobs in the ecology industry but when he discovered the position for Save the Chimps, he went after it immediately. The organization helps rescue chimps from the entertainment industry, laboratories and personal ownerships, relocating them to the sanctuary where they can live on specially-built islands with other rescued chimps.

Halloran goes to the chimps, wherever they are in the world, and performs behavioral assessments on them to see where they would best thrive, whether that be at the sanctuary or an accredited zoo.

"For us, what thriving really means is chimpanzees able to live their lives to the fullest. For a chimp, like a human, they need a rich social environment where they can choose who they want to be around, when they want to eat, where they want to go. It's so important for chimpanzees to have a cognitive stimulating area," Halloran said.

Halloran said attention from viral videos like Vanilla's could help lead the world to understanding the true importance of all species.

"Jane Goodall said that chimpanzees are kind of the door-opening species. They are like humans so we should care about them. Well, chimps aren't that different from gorillas so we should care about the gorillas. Then gorillas aren't that different from another species and so on and so forth," he said.

1977

After 15 years together, BOB BRUNO married Lisa Walker in a small, intimate wedding ceremony near Tampa, Florida, in September 2022. A 10-day visit to Europe was a nice honeymoon, visiting both London and Brugge, Belgium. Bob and Lisa still visit St. Augustine about once a month and enjoy owning the Mermaid Cottage not far from Old Town. Bob also finally retired after 43 years serving this country in the U.S. Air Force, and 22 more as a contractor with the military.

1979



It's been years since JUDY (DEL VECCHIO) STAUB and her roommate finally got together! They were roommates from the 70s and they didn't miss a beat on their night out! They even had a beer at St. George's Tavern!

1982

DEBRA (FREEDMAN) ZEJAVAC has retired after 41 years of teaching the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Manatee County.



Upon retiring from teaching middle school science, DIANE (HORNBACK) FISHER wanted to do more for her community. She already volunteers at her church's food pantry and with local Scout groups. But then a fellow retiree asked her to join her in reaching youth through agriculture. The organization, Steam Onward, led to creating community gardens, farmer's markets, food forest plantings, stream monitoring, anti-tobacco/vaping presentations and launching a seed business. A BIPOC farming cooperative saw the value of their work and supported the youth initiatives and seed business. The cooperative, Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance,

was on CBS News and Diane was honored to participate.



JACQUIE (MATTHEWS) WILLIAMS was promoted to Community **Engagement Manager at Lutheran** Services Florida - Refugee and Immigration. In the eight years that she has been with the organization, Jacquie has held three positions. She started with Lutheran Services in 2015 as the Community Outreach Coordinator. In 2021, she was promoted to Community Outreach-Housing Coordinator. With this last promotion, Jacquie will be responsible for facilitating and coordinating a robust community engagement strategy for Refugee Services, with a particular focus on building relationships with volunteers, local community partners and service providers.

1985



JOAN NOËLDECHEN is an American poet and recently won the Who's Who Award. She is also the goddaughter of Frank Sinatra. Her father, Warren Noëldechen, was honored and inducted into the World War II Memorial. He served in St. Augustine in 1944, bunked at the Monson and dined in the Ponce.

1986



CATHY (COLMAN) CLARK met up at Laura Ann Best's, '86, Tennessee home after not seeing each other for 36 years. They caught up about families, as well as compared notes on about being a Special Ed teacher in Oregon and Tennessee.

1987

ELLEN FOLKMAN and her husband, Carl, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in April 2023. They also celebrated their youngest son's graduation from high school. Ellen and Carl are excited that their younger son, Alex, will be joining his older brother, Ethan, at Boston College. Carl and Ellen still own their company, Florida Wine and Spirits, Inc., where they work with various wine and spirit brands to help market their products. Ellen has a blog, Family Around the Table, that will celebrate 13 years in September, and she has also started a second website, The Best Drink Recipes.

1989



It would be hard to venture around Northeast Florida and not see some of the logo creations of KIM FITZGERALD, owner of Curleytail Design. That's because since 1998 Kim has created branding, logo design, business cards, brochures, direct mail campaigns and more for thousands of local businesses. The company is pleased to be celebrating 25 years in business. Kim received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Commercial Art from Flagler College, continued her education in Advertising Art Direction at the Portfolio Center in Atlanta, Ga., and after working in the real estate and land development industry in Flagler County for over a decade, she launched Curleytail Design in 1998. Kim attributes hard work, honesty, and giving back to the community as the key to the company's success.

1992

KERRI PRATT retired after 30 years of teaching and moved to Virginia to lead a simpler life of gardening and enjoying the cooler weather.

1994

LISSETTE DECOS graduated from Flagler with a Bachelor's in Communications and she

absolutely loved her time at Flagler. She began her career in TV as soon as she graduated from Flagler, working for companies such as MTV, TLC and Bravo to name a few. A few years ago, she decided to branch into writing fiction and recently published her debut novel, a rom com called "Ana Takes Manhattan." via one of the top five publishing companies.

1995

KELLY BATTLES recently earned her MBA. She is retiring from teaching high school English and started her new career as the senior copywriter for a marketing firm in Richmond, VA.



BRIAN AND NANCY (DEMATO) THOMPSON'S daughter, Amelie, graduated from St. Augustine High School this May, and will follow in her parents' footsteps when she starts Flagler College this fall. Brian still works at Flagler as **Publications Director and Nancy** is a pre-kindergarten teacher at Memorial Presbyterian Day School in St. Augustine.

1996



GLORIMAR MALDONADO is now the Diversity Officer for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, located in Alexandria, Va. In this role, the first of its kind for the agency, she provides policy review, technical guidance, data-driven analyses, and strategic leadership for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) programs and initiatives to recruit, retain, engage and develop a prepared, diverse and sustainable workforce. She was also selected to be a part of the Fall 2023 cohort of the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society (LDS) Program.

1997



AMY (BURNETT) HELDMAN recently joined the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) as senior communications director. Previously, Amy spent 18 years in communications at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

2000

2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED.







EVA (VAN BUREN) GIBSON'S YA novel, "Frightmares," was nominated in the 2023 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, by Mystery Writers of America, in the category of Best Young Adult. The Edgar Awards honor the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television.



REBECCA (WAGNER) QUINTER

graduated from Project Speech at the University of Central Florida with a Masters in Exceptional Education and a Certificate of Collaboration with Speech & Language Pathologists/MTSS.



SAMANTHA (BILLINGSLEY)

GALLAGHER will have a solo art show, "The Little Things That Matter," at the Heller Nature Center in Highland Park, III., from March 1-April 30, 2024. This show will feature drawings of local insects and native plants, and their importance in the ecosystem. She will have additional works on display from April 27-August 4, 2024, at the Lake County Forest

Preserves' Dunn Museum in Illinois for the upcoming Periodical Cicada Emergence exhibit.



ZACH AND MARGO THOMAS

welcomed son David Benjamin in November 2022, and celebrated his adoption finalization in May 2023. Ben was enthusiastically embraced by his big sister, Annie.

2002

ASHLEIGH (SMITH) GLICKLEY,

Magnet Coordinator and Instructional Coach from Hawthorne Elementary School, has been selected as a 2023 Science Communication Fellow and will sail aboard Ocean **Exploration Trust's Exploration** Vessel (E/V) Nautilus. Glickley, who is from Louisville, Ky., and has lived and worked in Florida, Arizona and Guatemala, joined the team aboard E/V Nautilus for four weeks to explore deep sea biodiversity and seamounts around Johnston Atoll.



LEAH WEINBERG recently started her own law firm with her business partner. The firm is Oduberg Law, LLP (oduberg.com) and they are NYC-based. They serve small business owners and entrepreneurs based in New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Washington DC. They also operate a contract template shop called Legally Set (legallyset.com).



COREY PENDLETON's Flagler Elementary Education degree has opened many doors for him. As he enters his 19th year of teaching,

he will be the Headmaster/ Principal of Bethal Christian's Academy in Tallahassee, Fla. This upcoming school year, they will have an all-boys academy, and they are trusting him to build it from the ground up. The school will service students from pre-K through fifth grades, but due to Cody's expertise with working with at-risk males, they are exploring partnering with Leon County Schools to work with at-risk middle school-aged males too.



JULIE (HARRIS) SEALS will be starting her second year as the elementary principal at San Jacinto Christian Academy in Amarillo, Texas.

WILLIAM ADAMS has started a mental health counseling practice, 1up Counseling Services (www.1upcounseling.com), a practice based in St Augustine and utilizing confidential telehealth services. They focus on telehealth because it provides more flexibility and comfort in the counseling experience, and allows them to see anyone in Florida. The 1up team is comprised of two experienced Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Jessica Hobgood and Bill Adams. They expect to add new counselors over time to increase their capacity and help meet the needs in their communities.

2006



KATE CARVER started her own private practice for mental health therapy specializing in LGBTQ+ issues for teens and young adults. The practice name is Constant Renovation Counseling and is located in Durham, N.C.



After working as the Managing Director of Theater for the Patel Conservatory for over 15 years, AUDREY SIEGLER has accepted a new position as the Performing Arts Center Manager for the Central Park Performing Arts Center in Largo, Fla. She will oversee all operations in the building.



DEVON JEFFREYS married Maggie William on May 28, 2023 at Shawnee Inn and Resort in Pennsylvania. The two live together in Mount Bethel, Penn. Devon works for Athlete Interactive, a digital marketing firm specializing in pro athlete marketing, where he is in his 13th year as Content Coordinator and Social Media Manager.



ASHLEY (SADEGHY) COAKLEY

and her husband, Avery, have finalized the adoption of their son, Mark. He is 8 years old and has already been on a vacation to St. Augustine, where he got to tour the campus, visit the Alligator Farm and walk around the Fort!



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC) announces that CHELSEY **COSLETT**, manager of marketing and stakeholder engagement, recently accepted an appointment to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) Manufacturing Extension



FLAGLER ALUMNUS HUNTER MILLER: PROTECTING THE WORLD'S OCEANS

By Megan Churchill, '24

Growing up in Polk County, Fla., Hunter Miller has always appreciated the natural world. But it wasn't until 2017 that he was able to use this respect for the Earth to fuel his career. Miller graduated from Flagler College in 2011 with a degree in Public Administration, and now serves as Field Campaign Manager at Oceana.

Oceana is the world's largest international advocacy organization working to preserve the oceans. The group works to increase biodiversity by preventing overfishing, habitat destruction and plastic and oil pollution.

Miller didn't apply for his position at Oceana directly after college.

"I really don't have a typical story when it comes to how I got here," he said.

The economy was in a bad place when Miller graduated from Flagler in 2011, and as he looked for job opportunities, he kept St. Augustine in mind.

"After college I knew I wanted to stay in St. Augustine. I had no desire to leave, I loved the community," he said.

Miller began working at the local St. Augustine business, Southern Horticulture. While working, he also advocated for environmental protection, organizing for the group Environmental Youth Council.

"For years I [worked at Southern Horticulture] and then in my spare time I was essentially an activist and an organizer," he said.

Miller said that in 2015, President Obama proposed opening the Atlantic Ocean to new offshore oil drilling. Miller and the Environmental Youth Council got to work organizing campaigns to prevent this from happening.

In their efforts they went to the White House, lobbied on capitol hill, and they organized marches in St. Augustine. They ultimately helped stopped oil rigs from showing up on the Atlantic coastline.

Miller found advocating for the environment important regardless of whether he got paid for his efforts. In those first years after graduating from Flagler, he made time to commit to advocacy while also working.

Read full story online at www.flagler.edu/magazine.

Partnership National Network's (MEPNN's) marketing steering committee. The committee is responsible for setting the overall direction of, and planning the activities for, the MEPNN marketing working group and community of practitioners as well as providing input on tactics for the MEPNN national awareness campaign.



Domi Station has appointed KARA HOLBERT as new Executive Director. Holbert previously served as the Associate Director

of Domi Station since joining 2021, and will advance her role of helping entrepreneurs grow their companies in her expanded leadership capacity.

2010

MELISSA (DAGENAIS) MORGAN

is employed as Curator at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum, which is part of the **Historical Resources Department** of the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court. She was named Employee of the Month for May 2023.

SHANNA GREER recently became a Master Control Operator at the WGFL hub in Gainesville, Fla.

2011

DEVIN COUSINS finished her Masters of Professional Accounting and started as a Senior Accountant with Tembo CPAs in St. Augustine in February of 2023. She is currently preparing to take the CPA exam starting in the summer of 2023.

KATHERINE (STREET) UZEL is expecting in July of 2024!

2012



Henderson Franklin is pleased to announce that Florida association lawyer, COLBY KEEFE, has graduated from the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Leadership class. This accomplishment is truly outstanding and reflective of Colby's commitment to the SWFL community.



AUTHOR AND POET JEFFEREY SPIVEY TALKS WRITING. AND THE POWER OF BELIEVING IN ONE'S WORK

Jefferey Spivey, '05, is a St. Louis-based author, poet and journalist who is currently editor at Northstar Publishing. He won the 2023 Iron Horse Book Prize and was named runner-up for Poets & Writers' 2023 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award. He was also a recipient of The de Groot Foundation's 2022 COURAGE to WRITE grant. He's currently taking part in Bennington College's MFA Writing Seminars. His short stories have appeared in Hive Avenue Literary Journal, Punt Volat, A Gathering of the Tribes, Typehouse, decomp and Havik. His poetry has appeared in Rigorous.

Q. What are you most proud of?

A. At this moment, I'm so proud of my short story collection, "The Birthright of Sons." It was officially released January 9, 2024 by Texas Tech University Press, and it's the culmination of years of effort. I've always dreamed of traditionally publishing a book and sharing my work with a broader audience. That it's happening now is so surreal, but it's also a joyous time. The love and support I've received from friends, family, and my broader network (including alumni and faculty at Flagler) have made this achievement that much sweeter.

Overall, I'm proud of having a truly creative career. After freelancing for the last eight years, I've taken on the role of editor at Northstar Publishing, overseeing the company's main magazine title, PRB+. I'm in the thick of promoting my book. And I'm deeply engaged in the Bennington MFA Writing Seminars, working with an incredibly accomplished advisor and positioning literature at the center of my life. I feel so blessed to have these opportunities, and I know this period is the result of years of hard work.

Of course, the foundation for my career was built at Flagler College, and I recently had the chance to serve as a mentor for the Fort Mose Writers' Room (part of the Cinematic Arts program). It was an honor to share my expertise with this wonderful group of students, and it was a full-circle moment stepping in to advise and lecture almost 20 years after I graduated. (Many thanks to Dr. Nadia Ramatour, Visiting Filmmaker Jim Gilmore and Dr. Tracy Halcomb for inviting me onto the project!)

Read full story online at www.flagler.edu/magazine.

KATE LIVESEY graduated with her Masters in Human Centered Design & Engineering from the University of Michigan in April 2023.



MICHAEL TARLAIAN JR. had his second child (two boys) and became an Insurance Agent with AAA St. Augustine.



The Knights of Columbus Corpus Christi Assembly 2810 and Santa

Maria Del Mar Catholic Church recognized Palm Coast Fire Chief KYLE BERRYHILL with the Tony Gasparino "Lest We Forget Award."



As an Army Retired Paratrooper and Graduate of Flagler College's Public Administration Program, **CHET CROWELL** became a photographer and team member of Round Canopy Parachute Team U.S.A. They honor our past heroes with Parachute Operations around the world. On June 9th, 2019, Chet parachuted into France for the 75th Anniversary of Normandy. They parachuted from C47s that

flew 75 years ago in 1944. Many of them were planning to parachute in for the 80th Anniversary.



Theatre Arts Alumna CARSON (HEARTSILL) PROCHORSKI and husband Mathew were married on April 22, 2023. They chose the Casa De Solana Inn in historic St. Augustine as their venue. They could not imagine a more fitting place for the ceremony than the city they both love!



Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. CPAs is proud to recognize Flagler College alumnus NATHAN HARMON on his promotion within the firm.

2015



ALYSSA (MENARD) STEWART graduated with DANIEL STEWART, '15, and they then married in Narragansett, Rhode Island, in June of 2019.

December 2022 was busy for KAYLA (HOELZEL) BIGERTON.

She graduated with her Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and two weeks later welcomed her first child, Delilah. She thanks all the alumni that contributed to her dissertation data collection.



CAMERON MCCALL received his Certified Public Accountant license in May. He is currently working as an auditor for Deloitte in Jacksonville.

2016



MADDIE DIFILIPPO and **ZACH DIFILIPPO** are both Flagler College alumni and recently started working together! Zach and Maddie met one month into their freshmen year at Flagler in 2012 and have been together ever since! Maddie graduated with a major in Graphic Design and Zach graduated with Business. They loved this town so much, they decided to stick around and were married on Oct. 2, 2021. After graduating in 2016, Zach became a real estate agent here in St. Augustine and has been in the business for over six years. Maddie recently left her full-time position as a graphic designer to work with Zach as his Head of Marketing and Operations. Zach hangs his license with Coldwell Banker Premier Properties on Anastasia Island. Maddie and Zach say they owe it all to Flagler and this small beach town for bringing them together 11 years ago!



NICOLE (PERLSTEIN) COLBURN married Alex Colburn at the Riverhouse in St. Augustine on April 15, 2023!



COURTNEY (FISHER) EDWARDS married Ross Edwards on March 3, 2023, at Tringali Barn in St. Augustine.



This past year has been a big one for RACHEL (BRANDT) HONG and CHRISTIAN HONG, '17! They met at Flagler through an Intro to Business class and have been together for 6 years ever since. Christian is originally from Florida, but moved all the way to Pennsylvania to be with Rachel after they both graduated. Rachel works in Marketing and Christian works in Graphic Design. Rachel and Christian got married in June, and welcomed their first baby girl, Lily, on Sept. 10. They are so excited to start their own little Flagler family.



In February 2023, ALLISON JOHNSON welcomed a baby girl to the world. In May, she got a promotion at work to become a Program Manager.



CAROLINE PARSON-CHAMBLISS graduated Flagler as Caroline Parson in the Spring of 2018. She and her husband Cole Parson-Chambliss and her met while they both worked as park rangers at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine, a career she credits to her Flagler

internship back in 2015. Caroline

has been with the National Park Service for 7 years and recently moved parks in 2022 to be the Property Manager of the Blue Ridge Parkway while her husband works for facilities at Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Their wedding was in March of 2023 at the Baughman Center in Gainesville, Fla. Caroline and Cole now reside in North Carolina with their dog, Maple.



After graduating in December 2019, MEAGHAN DUBE returned to her home state of Maine to put her degree in deaf education to work in teaching a Deaf Self-Contained Class at the high school level. She continued her education at George Mason University by completing a master's degree in special education. In 2021, she relocated to Gaithersburg, Md., and now teaches a combined third-fourth grade special education class of students with autism. Meaghan recently got engaged on the campus of Flagler College during a trip to St. Augustine! They will be married in April 2024 in New Hampshire.



After graduating from Flagler, MICHAEL KELLER went off to Montana to work as a recreational guide at the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. He gave tours of Yellowstone National Park, among other recreational activities, and then moved over to the pre-opening team of their new high-end resort, Montage of Big Sky. He is now the manager of Compass sports within the resort where he is in charge of a team of mountain guides and assorted recreational activities and classes such as skiing, fly fishing, axe throwing, nature and history classes and wildlife safety classes. He is also on several Ron Jon billboards across Florida and South Carolina!



In December 2023, GARLAND **EVANS** graduated in the top 5% of her class from the University of Florida with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy, Dr. Garland Evans has accepted a job at the University of Florida Orthopedic Sports Medicine Institute. Garland graduated in 2019, Summa Cum Laude and was a 4-year starter and record holder for the Flagler Saints softball team. She acknowledges Flagler College as giving her a strong foundation for future success.

EMILY LEMP is an arts educator. teaching Advanced Digital Design and Animation at Gramercy Arts High School in Union Square, New York City. Recently one of her students was selected as one of 50 out of 74,000 portfolios for the AP Art and Design Exhibition.

2020



TAIA GOMEZ has been working with the Phoenix Spurs, Mercury and Footprint Center going on 2 years.



NOAH CAMP and **EMILY STACEY** are getting married March 24, 2024. They started dating while at Flagler in 2018. Noah also just graduated from Vanderbilt Law School and will be taking the bar in July. He currently has a job lined up with a large firm in downtown Nashville. Holland & Knight, practicing commercial real estate law.



ELIZA JORDAN LIVING THE **LUXURY LIFE AS MAGAZINE WRITER**

By Hailey Gay, '24

For Eliza Jordan, '12, magazine writing and editing has been a ticket around the world. Literally. As executive editor of the luxury lifestyle magazine, Whitewall, Jordan has found herself writing about some of the world's top cultural, artistic and commercial venues from Louis Vuitton's sneaker atelier in Italy to Art Basel in Miami.

This Flagler alumna works with numerous interesting and popular designers to cultivate the Whitewall magazine content. Always on the lookout and being contacted to interview new artists for the new edition of this luxury magazine.

"But covering the world of luxury isn't something that comes easily," she said. "It takes hard work and perseverance. To be successful post-graduation, one must have a dream and goal in mind, or else you will fail."

Graduating from Flagler College in 2012, and a few semesters early,

this Flagler alumna has worked hard throughout the past 10 years to make it to executive editor at Whitewall Magazine.

"You know, it was always just about like staying focused and getting it done and actually doing the work," she said. "I think a lot of people forget that. The only thing that stands between you and what you want to do, is the work that you have to do to get there. So, I just did that. You know, I just did the work."

After graduation, anywhere Jordan went she made sure to talk to people, put herself out there to establish her place in the creative industry and not take no for an answer. She worked as freelance writer, with a 5-year career list to never lose sight of her goals.

"Working at a Luxury lifestyle magazine is such a privilege and I feel very grateful," she said. "I don't take it for granted. I remind myself all the time that I didn't come from this background, and I wasn't handed anything. I've worked really, really hard. I think because I worked so hard I am so grateful."

Read full story online at www.flagler.edu/magazine.



MARA (MAZAR) HICKOX married her husband, Ryan Hickox, on April 9, 2022 and were expecting their first child in February 2024!



KATHERINE PACETTI and Hunter Powell were married in St. Augustine in June of 2023.

2021



Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A. CPAs is proud to recognize Flagler College alumni, SKYLER ST. ONGE, on his promotion within their firm.

ALEXIA NOBLES recently graduated from Florida State University with her Masters of Science in International Affairs and received a graduate certification in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. After, she moved back to St. Augustine, Alexia also accepted a job as the Operations Coordinator at the American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN). They are a non-profit made up of industry partners

that provides donated logistics services to other smaller, mid-size non-profits responding to disasters and other humanitarian crises.



CAMERON GURGAINUS started her job at Walt Disney World in April 2023 in the Entertainment Division and Service Industry.

Remembering

ANGEL DAWN TUCKER, '00, passed away on June 25, 2023 after a lifelong heath battle. Dawn graduated from Flagler with a degree in Communication. While attending Flagler, she was a radio host at WFCF, where she conducted interviews and, at times, even gave the weather report. She also worked in the infirmary and co-researched three of the student handbooks that are still used by the College today.

.













FIRST COAST FLAGLER **FORWARD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Flagler's First Coast Chapter celebrated the launch of the College's comprehensive fundraising campaign, Flagler Forward, in April with a Grateful event in St. Augustine.



ATLANTA **FLAGLER FORWARD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH**

Atlanta supporters and alumni came out to support the launch of Flagler Forward.



NAPLES ALUMNI EVENT

Alumni in the Naples, Florida area turned out at the Naples Botanical Garden this April for a fun evening! Thank you to everyone who came.



GOLD COAST ALUMNI EVENT

The Gold Coast Region held a Flagler Forward campaign kick-off celebration on April 25 at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Planning for

flaglergiving.org



Naming Flagler College as a beneficiary of a bequest, estate plan or other planned gift will provide long-lasting support for Flagler College while enjoying financial benefits for yourself.

For more information, contact Nicole Pece, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at NPece@flagler.edu or 904-819-6406.



Shop online at legacy.flagler.edu. Free shipping for purchases over \$50 with coupon code: magazine.

> 59. St. George Street 904.823.3378 legacy@flagler.edu





74 King Street | St. Augustine, Florida 32084 904.829.6481 | www.flagler.edu

