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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I begin my fifth academic year as president of Flagler College, I'm proud to reflect on the tremendous progress we have made — progress rooted in strategy, shared vision, and a thoughtful approach to strengthening the College's future.

The initiatives launched over the past four years have driven measurable growth in enrollment, revenue, and reputation. Undergraduate enrollment has steadily increased, supported by a renewed focus on communicating the distinct value of a Flagler education and enhancing the student experience. Retention efforts, guided by a campus-wide commitment to student success, have led to a notable rise in retention rates. Investments in student life, digital tools like Lewis the Chatbot, and the Flagler Family Portal have strengthened the connection between students, families, and the College. Our athletics program continues to unite the campus, with six spring teams advancing to national championships and 246 student-athletes earning Presidential Honor Roll recognition. Flagler also reached its highest-ever ranking in the NCAA Division II Learfield Directors' Cup.

A centerpiece of our progress is the \$130 million, three-year renovation of the Ponce. This historic landmark has been thoughtfully preserved and transformed to offer students modern-day living within an iconic setting—honoring our heritage while elevating the residential experience for generations to come.

Strategic financial planning has transformed our revenue model. Early in my presidency, we addressed tuition pricing to better reflect the value of the Flagler experience. The result has been a \$6,000 increase in net revenue per student, affirming both our brand strength and market position. The Flagler Forward campaign, publicly launched in fall 2023, has already surpassed \$75 million — far exceeding its original \$50 million goal.

Our reputation has been elevated through a coordinated national brand campaign. In just one year, we've seen measurable increases in student pride, retention, and philanthropic confidence. National media placements and strategic storytelling have extended our reach far beyond the region, establishing Flagler as a truly national brand and attracting students from across the country.

With growing momentum, strong institutional alignment, and confidence in our direction, Flagler stands at its strongest point in history.

Warm regards,

John A. Delaney

President, Flagler College

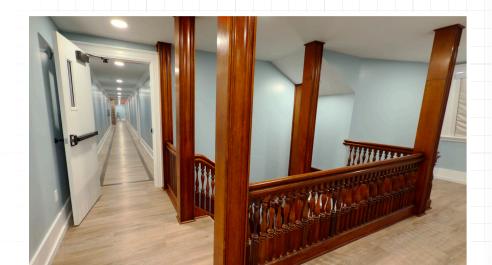


TOTAL PONCE RENOVATION COMPLETED

A \$130 MILLION INVESTMENT

Ponce Hall fully reopened this Fall for students after renovations of the West Wing residence halls were completed, wrapping up the second phase of this major College project. The National Historic Landmark has been undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation over the past couple of years through the generous support of donors and the State of Florida.

Restoring the Ponce to its original grandeur included interior renovations, a total roof replacement, a new HVAC system, and other work to modernize the building while preserving its rich history.

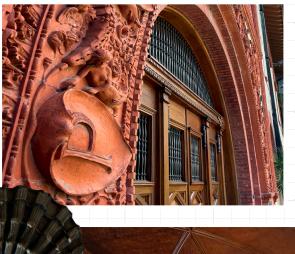




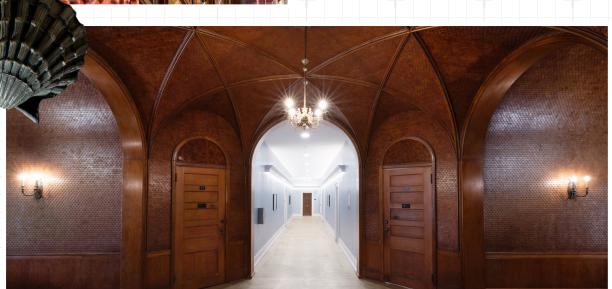


FLAGLER COLLEGE NAMED ONE OF

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN U.S.



We've always known Flagler was beautiful — now Condé Nast Traveler agrees, naming us one of the 54 Most Beautiful College Campuses in the U.S. Flagler joins Georgetown, Harvard, Stanford, and Notre Dame. The publication said "college campuses double as some of America's most magnificent architectural masterpieces" and lauded Flagler with the others for being an institution that offers "far more than a place to hit the books."







A New Bridge for

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH SPANISH UNIVERSITY

Flagler College has developed a new global partnership with Spain's University of Oviedo that will pave the way for student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations, and immersive language experiences.

The university in the Asturias region of northern Spain is more than 410 years old and has a historic campus in the city near the Spanish coast. Oviedo is close to Aviles, Spain, which has had a

"sister city" connection with St. Augustine for more than 100 years and is the birthplace of St. Augustine founder Pedro Menéndez de Avilés.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in September by Flagler President John Delaney and Christina Valdés, the Rector's Delegate for the Royal Complutense College in Harvard and North America.

FLAGLER'S STANDING STAYS STRONG IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

Flagler College maintained its #3 rank among regional colleges in the South in the 2024-2025 U.S. News and World Report Rankings. Flagler also achieved a #2 ranking in the Undergraduate Teaching Programs category, up from #5 last year. This category







highlights institutions whose faculty and administrators are committed to highquality undergraduate teaching. This year also marked the first time that Flagler made the top 500 colleges in the country, according to The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse Best Colleges in the U.S. ranking for 2025.





FLAGLER LAUNCHES HISTORY MAKER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM WITH ERIN BROCKOVICH & R.L. STINE

Flagler College has launched the inaugural History Maker in Residence program, a new initiative designed to bring nationally recognized thought leaders to campus for immersive, multi-day residencies that engage students and employees in meaningful conversations around creativity, advocacy, leadership, and impact.

The program kicks off this fall with two dynamic figures who have shaped culture and history through different, yet

equally powerful, means: R.L. Stine, bestselling author of the Goosebumps and Fear Street series, and Erin Brockovich, renowned environmental

activist and consumer advocate.



The Storytellers

AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE



Flagler College's Storytellers — Author in Residence program has brought nationally-recognized authors to Flagler's campus to teach and mentor for an entire semester.

The authors engage with faculty and students, hold readings, and teach a course focusing on a seminal text that has shaped their writing.

In Spring 2025, the Storytellers program featured Kelsey Norris, a writer and editor from Alabama. Her debut story collection, "House Gone Quiet," is a finalist for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. In Fall 2024, poet, fiction writer, and translator Ananda Lima visited campus.

She is the author of "Craft: Stories I Wrote for the Devil," "Mother/land," and is the winner of the Hudson Prize from Black Lawrence Press.

Business Week 2025:

INNOVATION LEADING FOR LEARNING

Flagler College's Business Week 2025, themed "Innovation -Leading for Learning" and sponsored by Rulon International, was an engaging and inspiring event that demonstrated the College's commitment to blending academic excellence with real-world skill application.

The week was filled with learning and networking opportunities for students to engage with faculty, alumni, and local business leaders, culminating in the exciting Lion's Cage competition. The keynote speaker was Dr. Amy Edmondson, Novartis Professor of Leadership and Management at the Harvard Business School,

a chair established to support the study of human interactions that

enterprises that contribute to the betterment of society.



DR. KELLY LAUNCHING STUDENT-RUN RECORD LABEL FIRST CITY RECORDS

Professor Yvan Kelly, instructor of economics and chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance, developed a student record label at Flagler College through a new course that gives

students the opportunity to record, promote, and market an album for an artist from Flagler. Kelly has a passion for music, and has taught classes and published on the subject.



EQUIPPING TOMORROW'S BUSINESS LEADERS

THROUGH MICRO-CREDENTIALING IN SUSTAINABILITY



During the Fall 2024 semester, one of Flagler's Social Entrepreneurship courses introduced students to real-world applications of business models that prioritize both profit and positive impact.

Professor Paula Seymour enhanced her "Managing Financial and Social Returns" course by incorporating the "Sustainability Change-Makers Programme," a microcredentialing workshop from B Lab Switzerland, offering students hands-on sustainability experience.

"Social Entrepreneurship is about giving students the tools to be change-makers for the future," said Seymour, Flagler's Social Entrepreneurship Program coordinator.

B Lab, a global nonprofit with regional partners and local B Labs in various countries, aims to empower businesses to operate as "a force for good."



EDUCATION IN GERMANY

Insights from our internship abroad

Last fall, three Flagler College education students embarked on a transformative three-week teaching adventure in Germany.

Guided by their academic preparation in the College's Education Program, senior education majors Bridget Sypniewski, Taylor McCain, and Savannah Call returned with fresh insights and skills. They engaged with German schools to build practical teaching skills, explore different educational approaches, and gain hands-on experience while immersing themselves in a new culture.

MODULAR SCIENCE LAB READY TO OPEN

FOR STUDENTS IN FALL 2025

Fall 2025 marked the opening of Flagler's new Modular Science Laboratory as the hub of our Biology major, one of the fastest-growing and most in-demand courses of study in the country. The new facility, located off Malaga Street near Abare Hall, will provide new instrumentation, specialized ventilation equipment, and classroom space; it will also enable students to conduct complex experimentation in well-resourced surroundings.

With the addition of this new equipment, Flagler now offers key courses in Chemistry and Physics, which creates a direct pathway for students wanting to pursue medical school, pre-professional school, or a career in the medical field.





FROM FLAGLER TO FINLAND:

Student's Pulitzer reporting into homelessness

Senior Lilly Dietz's passion for understanding the problems homeless people face began well before she took Flagler's "Global Issues and the Pulitzer Center" course, where she earned a prestigious Pulitzer Fellowship to explore the topic further.

Dietz, a Digital Media Production major with a minor in advertising, was drawn to the "Global Issues and the Pulitzer Center" course due to her long-standing fascination with journalism. The class, taught by Tracy Eaton until his recent retirement after 17 years, further fueled her passion.

As a Campus Consortium partner with the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting, Flagler offers students like Dietz the chance to research and report on key global events and issues that interest them.



AT KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Performing Arts Department at Flagler College was recognized for its production of "Streetlight Woodpecker" at the prestigious

> Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) this spring. This original play, penned by Flagler's Professor Shawn

Fisher, was one of only five selected from 11 states to perform at the February regional festival in North Carolina.

"Streetlight Woodpecker" won 14 National Awards. It excelled in almost every award category, highlighting outstanding achievements in acting, directing, design, technology, management, and collaboration.





FIELD OF DREAMS DOCUMENTARY

In their spare time between classes and semesters, Flagler Professor Tracy Halcomb and Visiting Faculty Filmmaker Jim Gilmore spent four years filming the documentary "Fielding Dreams: A Celebration of Baseball Scouts" featuring dozens of interviews with some of the scouting legends of the game. Narrated by former MLB pitcher Jerry Blevins, "Fielding Dreams" debuted at Cooperstown New York's Baseball Hall of Fame in 2024.

Since launching the Cinematic Arts major at Flagler, Halcomb and Gilmore have been working with students on a film about Fort Mose Historic State Park, the

> site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement, as well as a collaboration with the Coastal Environmental Science program documenting student work in Bermuda.

FLAGLER COLLEGE CABARET

MAKES BRIGHT LIGHTS OF NYC'S 54 BELOW

Flagler College Cabaret performed "Alone, Together" at New York's City's famed 54 Below this past March. The ensemble of students shared stories of reliance and hope, centering around what it means to feel separated yet united at the Broadway-themed supper club for emerging and established artists.

A recipient of the 2022 TONY AWARDS® Honor for Excellence in the Theatre, 54 Below is affectionately known as "Broadway's Living Room."





A CULTURAL IMMERSION IN TANZANIA

A course called "Africa and Development: The Tanzania Experience" led by Adjunct Instructor Lisa Fiala introduced students to the African nation through cultural immersion and exploration of development work taking place there.

By visiting local NGOs, the U.N. and schools, and hearing from local leaders, students gained insights into the impact of programs in Tanzania. In addition, there were numerous interactions like visiting the Maasai people, going on a safari,

traveling to the island of Zanzibar, hiking to waterfalls and even swimming with turtles.

The course was part of the College's FlagSHIP JanTerm, an immersive and hands-on experience in January. It included trips to Portugal, Chile and Costa Rica, as well as courses in St. Augustine that helped students explore deaf ecosystems, diversity in theatre and homeless youth. FlagSHIP stands for Flagler Sophomore High Impact Practice, and it's one of the three pillars of Flagler's signature Core Experience. With a focus on real-world learning experiences like Study Abroad and collaborative, community-based partnerships, the program helps prepare students for life in a diverse, complex and ever-changing world.







SAINTS GO Global

2024-2025

292

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A GLOBAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

FACULTY LED STUDY ABROAD TRIPS

COUNTRIES TRAVELED TO FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

20 FLAGSHIP STUDY ABROAD TRIPS

CZECH REPUBLIC

2 GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS

TEXAS GEORGIA BERMUDA

COSTA RICA

COLOMBIA

9 PARTNERSHIP

- JULIUS-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT WÜRZBURG (GERMANY)
- INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (JAPAN)
- EUROPEAN BUSINESS SCHOOL (FRANCE)
- MANAGEMENT CENTER INNSBRUCK (AUSTRIA)
- MUNICH BUSINESS SCHOOL (GERMANY)
- **CHINA FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY (CHINA)**
- BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY (CHINA)
- CHENGDU NORMAL UNIVERSITY (CHINA)
- ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY (UNITED KINGDOM)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FULL-TIME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

83

26 NEW INTERNATIONAL FRESHMAN/
TRANSFER STUDENTS

INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

25

37

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN OUR STUDENT BODY

Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bermuda, Bolivia, Belarus, Canada, Switzerland, China, Colombia, Curaçao, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Cayman Islands, Nicaragiau, Norway, New Zasiand, Peru, Poland, Pragiguay, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United States, South Africa, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates

ADDRESSING MODERN STUDENT CHALLENGES

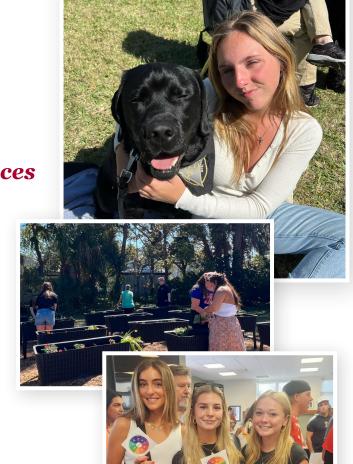
with expanded wellness resources

Flagler College's Health & Wellness Department adopts an integrative approach, recognizing the crucial role of health and wellness in student success.

"Students today face unique challenges—ranging from mental health concerns to navigating a digital world that constantly demands their attention," Dean of Health & Wellness Mary Tinlin said. "In response, we've expanded our resources to address a broader spectrum of wellness needs."

The Health & Wellness team facilitates a wide range of services and resources, including Health Services,

Counseling Services, the Campus Assessment, Referral and Evaluation (CARE) Team, Case Management, and Community Outreach and Education.



FROM CAMPUS BUZZ TO CONCERT BLISS: FLAGLER STUDENTS SANG OUT LOUD

Flagler College students didn't need to venture far for top-tier live music, especially in September during St. Augustine's Sing Out Loud Festival. The festival brought dozens of rising local artists and famous performers alike to venues throughout the city, and

students traded in beach days for a weekend on Francis Field in St. Augustine to see headliners like Norah Jones and Noah Kahan. The partnership with Sing Out Loud is one of the many events and experiences Flagler students are offered.



FLAGLER STUDENT SUCCESS





SPORTS CLUBS LAUNCHED

OF STUDENTS ENGAGED IN CAMPUS

COUNSELING CENTER SUPPORTED

Students

Sessions

HEALTH CLINIC HAD

CAREER DEVELOPMENT **HOSTED**

CAREER-RELATED EVENTS

- COMMUNITY FAIR
- TWO CAREER EXPOS
- ACCOUNTING FAIR





FLAGLER SAINTS' **COMMISSIONER'S CUP**

WOMEN'S **TENNIS ADVANCES TO**





SAINTS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS



The Flagler College women's tennis team dropped their semifinal match of the NCAA National Championship to No. 1 Barry University in May. The Saints capped off the year at 23-6 and missed a shot at the national championship match after their second trip to the final four in three years. The Saints broke the Div. II-era record for most wins in one season.

Other teams reaching Division II national tournaments include the men's tennis team, which ended their season 20-3 after a loss in the preliminary round, and the women's golf team that made it to the medal match play semifinal round this May. In the fall of 2024, the women's cross country team punched a ticket to the NCAA National Championship, finishing in the top 25.

FERNANDEZ SELECTED AS NCAA DIV. II NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Flagler College women's soccer forward Andrea Fernandez was selected as the 2024 Ron Lenz/D2CCA National Player of the Year and earned third team United Soccer Coaches All-America honors.

The senior is the first player to be selected as the national player of the year in the history of the program.







\$75.1 MILLION IN PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY

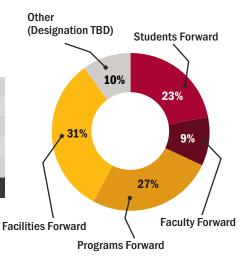
Planned Gift Commitments 23% 69% Cash Received Remaining Pledge Balances Committed

CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS

| | Cash Committed | Working Goal | % to Goal |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Cash Received | \$ 51,640,088 | | |
| Remaining Pledge Balances Committed | \$ 6,295,843 | | |
| Total Spendable Cash Commitments | \$ 57,935,931 | \$ 50,000,000 | 115.87% |
| | | | |
| Planned Gift Commitments | \$ 17,149,104 | \$ 15,000,000 | 114.33% |
| Total Campaign Commitments | \$ 75,085,035 | \$ 65,000,000 | 116% |

CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

| | Cash Committed | Working Goal | % to Goal |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Students Forward | \$ 17,063,798 | \$ 13,800,000 | 123.65% |
| Faculty Forward | \$ 6,888,049 | \$ 6,750,000 | 102.05% |
| Programs Forward | \$ 20,521,683 | \$ 16,050,000 | 127.86% |
| Facilities Forward | \$ 23,241,846 | \$28,400,000 | 81.84% |
| Other (designation TBD) | \$ 7,369,659 | | |
| Total Campaign Commitments | \$ 75,085,035 | \$ 65,000,000 | 116% |



SCAN HERE FOR THE 24-25 ANNUAL REPORT HONOR ROLL TO SEE THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED DONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS













BRAND CAMPAIGN WHERE HISTORY BEGINS

The "Where History Begins" brand campaign strategically connects Flagler College's historic foundation to its transformative future, reinforcing the institution's core identity and mission. Through integrated storytelling that highlights the journeys of students, faculty, and alumni, the campaign showcases Flagler's distinctiveness

and national appeal. This intentional brand-building effort has contributed to measurable success in enrollment, retention, and fundraising — positioning Flagler as a rising national brand known for launching lives of meaning and impact.

NATIONAL EXPOSURE

The College received unprecedented national exposure through its partnership with RW Jones Agency.

- MSN.com: 123M Reach Southern Living: 11.5M Reach | 74K Views
- THE ART OF THE DILL: WHEN WILL AMERICA'S PICKLE OBSESSION COME TO AN END?

MSN.com: 123M Reach Chicago Sun-Times: 2.92M Reach | 3.81k Views Tampa Bay Times: 2.19M Reach

- >> THESE ARE THE BIGGEST FINANCIAL HURDLES FOR 20-SOMETHINGS HERE'S HOW TO NAVIGATE THEM U.S. News and World Report: 23.8M Reach | 7.84k Views
 - 0.5. News and world Report. 25.6W Reach | 7.64K Views
- Wish of the second of the s

>> FOOD INFLUENCERS ARE MAKING UNCOMFORTABLE EYE CONTACT WITH YOU – AND THEY'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE

HuffPost.com: 1.58M Reach | 10.3k Views MSN.Com Top Reach: 119M

- YOU CAN NOW TAKE A COLLEGE COURSE ON "SURF LITERATURE": Q&A WITH PROFESSOR SAMUEL MCMILLAN American Surf Magazine: 16K Reach | 9.23K Views
- WHAT JOBS CAN YOU GET WITH A PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE?
 U.S. News & World Report: 23.93M Reach | 6.25K Views
- THESE THREE SCHOOLS ARE PREPARING TEACHERS FOR CLASSICAL EDUCATION

Forbes Magazine: 88.2M Reach | 13.2K Views

FAMILY PORTAL

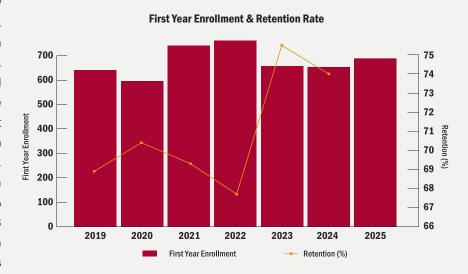
More than **6,100 family members** used the Flagler Family Portal in 2024-25, receiving more than **378,000 emails.**

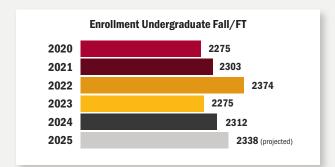


Behind the Numbers:

ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, & TUITION

First year enrollment has steadily rebounded since the pandemic, climbing from 595 in 2020 to 742 in 2021 as students returned post-COVID. Despite a temporary dip in 2023 and 2024 — impacted in part by the Ponce Hall water main break in 2022 — first year numbers are rising again, with 688 students projected for fall 2025. This upward momentum is mirrored in retention rates, which dropped to 67.7% in 2022, but surged to 75.5% in 2023 following the launch of a new tuition strategy that enhanced the College's market perception.





Undergraduate fall full-time enrollment at the College has also shown a steady recovery, increasing from 2,275

Net Tuition Revenue (NTR)

2021 \$14,196

2022 \$15,839

2023 \$17,529

2024 \$18,206

2025 \$20,600

During this same period, net tuition revenue (NTR) rose from \$14,196 in 2021 to a projected \$20,600 in 2025, highlighting the growing value and appeal of the Flagler







PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Flagler College recognized five exceptional staff members with the 2025 President's Award during a ceremony held June 12. The annual award celebrates employees who go above and beyond their daily responsibilities, demonstrating outstanding performance and commitment to the College's core values.

This year's recipients are Matthew Angelo, senior help desk technician; Matthew Green, senior associate director of Athletics for internal operations; Sharon Muraca, executive assistant to the vice president of Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty; Andrew Nordelus, associate director of event technology; and Nanette Sowersby, custodian/housekeeper. Each honoree was nominated by their peers for their exemplary service and lasting impact on the College. Winners received a \$1,000 award in recognition of their contributions.

FLAGLER COLLEGE AWARDED PLATINUM LEVEL

for 2025 Healthiest Companies

Flagler College was awarded the Platinum Level Award for 2025 Healthiest Companies by the First Coast Worksite Wellness Council (FCWWC) for creating a culture of health and wellness within the organization. This is Flagler's second time achieving

the Platinum Level.

Award winners were recognized for making noteworthy strides to improve the health and well-being of their employees. Applications were evaluated based on five key components of a well-rounded wellness program: leadership alignment; promoting a healthy

work environment and culture; wellness collaboration and program design; wellness programs and initiatives to support well-being; and evaluating and measuring opportunities and successes.







ENROLLMENT*

2,210

*ACADEMIC YEAR **24-25**

OF GRADUATES PARTICIPATED IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

125+

FULL-TIME FACULTY

1511
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

76% STUDENTS RETAINED

FLAGLER'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

TOP MAJORS

Business Administration

Coastal Environmental Science

Criminology

Digital Media Production & Journalism

Graphic Design

Hospitality and Tourism Management

Marketing

Psychology

Sport Management



42 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

UNDERGRADUATE MINORS

2 MASTERS

1 ST CLASS TO COMPLETE FLAGLER'S CORE

18 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

34 U.S. STATES

1 U.S. TERRITORY

FLAGLER FORWARD Campaign Priorities for Our Final Year

• STUDENTS

Chapter Scholarships

Ensuring that aspiring Saints from New York, Chesapeake, First Coast and Sun Coast have access to higher education that will allow them to shatter glass ceilings, contribute major breakthroughs to their respective fields, and boldly enrich the communities in which they live.

PROGRAMS FlagSHIP

By internationalizing Flagler's curriculum, we open transformative learning opportunities to every student, connecting them to the world while ensuring that financial barriers never limit their potential.

• FACULTY

Teaching Excellence Awards & Scholarly and Creative Excellence Awards

Providing faculty with robust professional development through research, scholarship, and creative work drives students to attain their highest level of academic and professional self discovery.

• FACILITIES

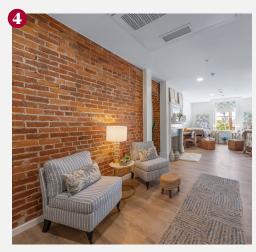
Remaining Funding Projects

- >> Preserving Historic Ponce de Leon Hall
- >> Enhancing the Pollard Tennis Center and Lacrosse Field
- >> Building the Joyner Center for Religion and Culture
- >> Building a Music Hall addition









3

New Exhibits Bring HOTEL PONCE DE LEON'S HISTORY TO LIFE

Flagler College students, employees, and visitors can now experience the history of one of St. Augustine's most iconic landmarks in an entirely new way.

The College unveiled a series of interactive exhibits inside the Rotunda and Courtyard of the former Hotel Ponce de Leon, designed to immerse guests in the art, architecture, and stories of Henry Flagler's Gilded Age masterpiece.

Funded by a grant from the State of Florida, Division of Historic Resources, the project blends multimedia technology with tactile, hands-on experiences. The result is a richer experience for student-led tours, casual visitors, and members of the Flagler community alike.

Working with Quatrefoil Associates, Flagler College developed exhibits that range from digital storytelling to historically-inspired recreations.

Among the highlights are student tour guides illuminating historic photographs with lantern projectors; rotunda exhibit discovery drawers beneath the grand staircase filled with artifacts, ephemera, and prompts for self-guided learning; portraits that come to life through digital touchscreens that introduce key figures from the Ponce's past; a stained glass design kiosk that allows visitors to create Tiffany-inspired stained glass; a recreated guestroom with original furnishings and reproductions depicting President Harding's family's 1921 stay; courtyard exhibits featuring a bronze statue of Henry Flagler and his dog Delos with other history-focused kiosks.

"These new exhibits offer our visitors, students, and the St. Augustine community fresh ways to experience the remarkable history of the Ponce," said Flagler College President John Delaney. "They bring Henry Flagler's vision to life and deepen appreciation for the cultural and architectural legacy that continues to inspire us today."



The installations are the latest step in Flagler College's ongoing effort to preserve and interpret the Ponce de Leon Hotel, a National Historic Landmark that remains the heart of the College's campus and one of the city's most treasured buildings.

In addition, the College is completing a new documentary that will give a behind-the-scenes look at the Ponce's multi-million dollar renovation and restoration project which will debut on January 14, 2026.





"When I first saw the re-created chandelier installed in its intended location, I thought it was just perfect," Drysdale said. "It felt and looked like it was always meant to be there."

This chandelier is a replica of the original that once hung in the Hotel Ponce de Leon's ballroom. Likely removed in 1893 during a rewiring project, it has now returned as a stunning centerpiece dedicated to the late Professor Thomas P. Rahner (1935-2024). Rahner, a founding faculty member and key figure in the Theatre Arts Program, had long been interested in restoring the chandelier.

Drysdale took up the cause after Rahner shared a detailed proposal in 2018, which included research and schematics. The project evolved with the involvement of Blaise Morrell of Hands On Metal Design & Fabrication and sculptor Enzo Torcoletti, a former Flagler professor and Morrell's mentor.

Drysdale, a longtime supporter of Flagler and student of local history, noted that historical accounts about the original

Built in 1888 by Henry Flagler and designed in the Spanish Renaissance Revival style, the Hotel Ponce de Leon was among the first buildings wired for electricity, thanks to Flagler's collaboration with American Inventor Thomas Edison. While revolutionary, the early electrical system had drawbacks. According to historian and former Flagler College professor Tom Graham, Flagler even hired a house electrician and assistant to manage issues like frequent bulb replacements.

Archival records reveal that the original chandelier may have been considered temporary. An 1894 Atlanta Constitution article described it as metal, and a Florida Times Union piece from 1889 mentioned a future chandelier with 500 lights costing \$30,000 — a project never realized until now.

The modern chandelier, handcrafted from bronze, brass, and steel, weighs nearly 400 pounds. Because no clear images or



records of the original existed, Morrell used vintage light bulbs and other reference points to estimate its dimensions. The finished piece spans 12 feet at the top, 6 feet at the lower ring, and holds 72 bulbs that mimic 19th-century lighting.

Morrell built the entire structure — including castings, chains, and mechanical parts — in his workshop, achieving both technical complexity and historical authenticity. "I like to put details into things that people can notice if they care to." he said.

To support the chandelier, the College reinforced the ceiling above the artwork and installed a lift system for maintenance.

Drysdale's involvement in this project reflects his deep connection to Flagler College. A St. Augustine native, he has served on the Board of Trustees since 1985 and has been a driving force behind several fundraising initiatives, including the Flagler Forward Campaign. He also established the W.I. Drysdale Endowed Scholarship and helped fund Drysdale Field in memory of his father.

"The reason why the College was founded was to preserve the historical significance of St. Augustine," Drysdale said. "It is my belief that the Ponce is the most successful restoration project in the State of Florida."

To learn how to support the ongoing preservation of Flagler College's historic campus, visit Flagler.edu/flagler-forward.

ROOM WITH A VIEWTOWARD FLAGLER'S FUTURE

By Danielle Berke

If the halls and walls within a building more than 135 years old could speak, generations both past and present would ask about the legacy stories they hold—like the one belonging to Mrs. Janet W. English '73 and Laura English Dawson '99.

On Move-In Day in 1995, Janet was stunned to learn her daughter Laura had been assigned to the same dorm room she lived in from 1970 to 1973—room #274.

"It was not pre-arranged and was totally coincidental," Janet said. "In fact, I contacted former Flagler College presidents, Bill Proctor and Bill Abare, to ask them if they arranged it. I was surprised to find out that they hadn't."

To honor this shared experience and support Ponce Hall's restoration, the English family named the room the "Janet Wiseman English '73 and Laura English Dawson '99 Residence Room."

Their commitment to Flagler runs deep. Janet, David, and Laura established two endowed scholarships for alumni legacy students. Laura also championed the creation of the Atlanta Chapter Endowed Scholarship to support students from her hometown.

Both mother and daughter were active students and remain engaged alumni. Janet, who graduated in 1973 with a degree in Education, was involved in Student Government and Omicron Delta Kappa. She is a charter member and past president of the Flagler College Alumni Board, and currently a President's Society member.

"I purposefully give to Flagler College because we are proud of what Flagler has accomplished, how it's grown, and how it is positioning itself for the future," Janet said.

Laura earned degrees in Accounting and Business Administration in 1999. She and her husband Brad have three children, with the "requirement" that one attends Flagler to continue the family legacy. She served on the Alumni Board since 2017 and was a Giving Challenge Ambassador in 2018 and 2019. She is also a President's Society member.

"I watched my parents give their time, energy and money to Flagler. I also remember checking the honor roll of donors for their names. I wanted my name included one day," Laura



said. "I started by giving \$25 when I graduated, then increased over time. I realized that the more you give at Flagler, the more opportunities there are to be a part of Flagler's legacy and be around others who share this passion.... It is such a special place where we all have the ability to make a difference."



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