Over 1,600 students are eligible to receive their degrees in an outdoor ceremony at the 94th Spring Commencement on Sunday, May 19. Over 1,200 have earned a BS or BTech degree while 431 have earned AS degrees and 22 have earned certificates. The ceremony will be held on the Track and Field Complex due to the construction taking place as part of a Nold Hall renovation. Commencement begins at 10:00 am.

An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters will be awarded to Dr. Ligia Amada Melo de Cardona, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology for the Dominican Republic, which has had a long relationship with the College and provides the majority of Farmingdale’s international student population. The College currently has about 100 students from the Dominican Republic enrolled.

“We are excited to have the Minister at the graduation ceremony,” President Keen said. “We value our friendship with the Dominican Republic and the students from that country who enrich our campus academically, culturally and socially. Minister Melo’s great accomplishments on behalf of the education of the youth of her country are very impressive.”

Dr. Melo, who with the aid of a translator will be keynote speaker, has been Minister of Education since 2004. She began her career as a secondary school teacher in the Dominican Republic, having grown up in the country’s La Altagracia province. She has worked to reform education in her country, especially in the areas of science, technology, and research—areas in which Farmingdale thrives, and which provide a basis for the association between the Dominican Republican and the campus.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in higher education, both at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. She received her doctoral degree from the Complutense University of Madrid.

Other ceremonies surrounding Commencement include the annual 50th Anniversary Class reunion, this year honoring the Class of 1963 as well as the Class of 1953. The alumni activities include a reunion dinner and a tour of the campus. “While it is always wonderful to see the graduates holding their diplomas and taking photos with their parents, it is equally enjoyable to see our alumni return,” Dr. Keen said. “We’re fortunate that many of them attend the commencement exercises.”
New Deans of Arts and Sciences, Business Named

Two vacancies for deans have been filled, with Dr. Lou Reinisch appointed Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences last month and Dr. Richard Vogel named Dean of the School of Business this month.

Dr. Reinisch, who is currently head of the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, has extensive academic and administrative experience including as Dean of Science, Director of Medical Physics, and Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, all at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Prior to that, he served for eleven years in various capacities, including as Associate Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology and Physics at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He also served as Assistant Professor at Northeastern University and at the University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Reinisch also has an extensive and impressive record of research and publication in Biophysics.

Dr. Vogel, who had been serving as Acting Dean, chaired the Department of History, Economics and Politics for eight years, during which it developed the BS degree in Applied Economics and minors in Economics and History. The HEP Department under his leadership has been an innovative and active participant in various programs that serve students and nurture the intellectual environment on campus.

Since coming to the College, Dr. Vogel has actively served in many capacities on committees and assigned responsibilities, including as Campus Liaison Officer of the New York State Assembly and Senate Internship Program since its origin on our campus in 2006. To date, 29 Farmingdale students have participated in the legislature’s internship program.

In addition, President Keen announced the appointment of Dr. Charles Adair as Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Adair has served since May, 2012 as Acting Associate Dean in the School and for twenty-two years as Chair of the Department of Biology. “Dr. Adair has provided excellent leadership for the department as it developed the BS degree in Bioscience and oversaw the design and renovation of Hale Hall to provide a modern teaching and laboratory facility for the department,” Dr. Keen said.

Change is Coming to Gleeson’s Interior

Thanks to the generosity and vision of alumna and College Foundation member Theresa Santmann, the interior of Gleeson Hall will soon look different. Santmann challenged Farmingdale’s visual communication students to present how they would re-design the interior of the building. By all reports, the student projects exceeded all expectations and the winning proposal came from Kayla Tompkins, Jeffrey Louis Betts and David Rosa, students in Wayne Krush’s class. Proposed changes include: color coding the floors, renumbering the floors (basement, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor), adding directional signs to the doorways, new lighting fixtures in the lobby, bar stools and counters by the windows facing Hale Hall and billboard graphics. Each student received a $1,000 prize.

Campus Road to be Named for Dr. Cipriani

The College Council last month passed a resolution approving the naming of the campus outer road in honor of former President Frank A. Cipriani, who served as the College’s 6th president from 1978 until his retirement in 2000. His association with the College began when he was appointed an Assistant Dean in 1964. He served in other various administrative capacities and also held the rank of Professor of History and Political Science.

Dr. Cipriani was instrumental in the transition of the campus from an associate institution to a baccalaureate institution and helped lead the 2001 creation of the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park, a partnership with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

The road connecting the Route 110 entrance with the Melville Road entrance will be known as Dr. Frank A. Cipriani Drive. A formal ceremony is being planned.

CSTEP Winner

Competing against 144 poster presentations last month, the biomass research work at Farmingdale’s IRTT in the area of the Copper Zinc Alumina Catalyst Optimization for Low Temperature Water Gas Shift Reaction won first place in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) competition at the State level. Biomass research student Alexandre Pereira presented this poster that deals with the maximization of hydrogen from bio synthesis gases to energize a fuel cell to produce combined heat and electric power. Alexandre works with Dr. Hazem Tawfik, director of the IRTT.
Fulbright
Scholarships

Professional Communications student David Davila is Farmingdale’s fourth consecutive Fulbright winner since Farmingdale first began participating in 2010.

Ten FSC students submitted applications in the national competition and three were selected by the National Fulbright Committee as Finalists.

Dr. Beverly Kahn announced that David will travel to Argentina will assist in Teaching English to University students at an English Teacher Training College. Himmler Joachim has been named an alternate for Thailand.

“Kudos to Vicki Janik for leading a program that has nurtured and prepared both of these outstanding students,” said Dr. Kahn.

Hoops Star Grabs All-America Honors

AJ Matthews was named to the 2012 D3hoops.com men’s All-America First Team after a season in which he averaged 22.6 points—ranking ninth in the nation—and 14.7 rebounds per game (leading the nation) for Farmingdale. The 7-1 center, who has attracted the attention of NBA scouts, is the holder of 10 single-season school records and six all-time career records.

Matthews was previously named to the DIII News All-America Team, the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-America Team, and to the ECAC All-Metro Team. Matthews also was named the District Player of the Year after once again leading the nation in rebounds per game while also recording 2.88 blocks per game, which ranked 7th in the nation. In Matthews’ two seasons at Farmingdale, after transferring from Broward Community College in Florida, the Rams amassed a 43-14 record.

Success at Open House, Accepted Students Day

Over 800 prospective students—plus their parents and siblings—attended the Spring Open House last month, making it one of the largest-attended events of its kind at the College. The attendees toured the new Campus Center, Hale and Lupton Halls, and other sites around the campus and interacted with faculty and students. Tours were guided by the new Rambassadors—student volunteers who will act as hosts at various campus events.

Over 400 students and parents attended Accepted Students Day, allowed those who have applied and been accepted for Fall 2013 to meet with faculty, get advisement schedules, and gather additional information as they transition from high school.

The expanded events are part of an overall strategy to broaden communication with prospective students and parents in order to maintain strong enrollment.

“Feedback from the two events has been very positive,” said Patrick Calabria, vice president for institutional advancement and enrollment management, “but it would not have been possible without the dedication of our faculty, the admissions staff, the marketing communications staff, and the many volunteers, including our Rambassadors. It’s that kind of teamwork that makes Farmingdale special, and that really comes across to the prospective students.”

New Campus Tobacco Policy Announced

In an effort to maintain a healthy campus environment, the College has announced an effort to move to a “tobacco-free campus.” The primary regulation of the policy is that smoking and the use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, is prohibited inside all buildings, within 25 feet of the perimeter of all buildings, along pedestrian pathways, and at outdoor events.

“We aim to make the campus a tobacco-free environment for two primary reasons,” President Keen said. “First, the emissions from the use of tobacco can have negative effects on non-tobacco users. Second, the impact of tobacco use on personal health is a burden to the general public in the form of supporting the health care system and insurance. You will notice that many public facilities, businesses and workplaces have adopted tobacco-free policies for their premises.”

As part of the informational campaign, signs will be placed at appropriate locations around campus. In addition, programs will be provided to support smokers and users of other tobacco products in their effort to quit. Activities will include smoking-cessation sessions, distribution of literature, establishing informational web pages, and other means to encourage individuals to stop smoking and using other tobacco products.

Enforcement will be through cooperation of community members, education, and polite requests of those in violation to honor the policy. All members of the campus community are encouraged to help by reminding smokers when they violate the rules, by advising colleagues who smoke to seek help to stop smoking, and by supporting them as they seek to stop.

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People in the News

- Visual Communications students created artwork to promote the AACCUE’s Multinational Cultural Festival.
- Steven Maybloom, Smart Grid, participated in a panel discussion titled “Energy & Environmental Careers last month.
- Student Tywna Key was honored for her military service by the Links Inc. Long Island Chapter at the 50th Anniversary celebration last month.
- Amarjeet Kaur, a junior nursing student, is the recipient of the 2013 Carol’s Cause scholarship worth $3500. Joe Laino, the Founder and President of Carol’s Cause said, “That she represents everything that Carol believed in and he is proud to welcome her into the growing legion of Carol’s ‘angels’.”
- Dr. Gary Brown, professor of biology and former chair of the Department of Ornamental Horticulture, received a lifetime, honorary membership in the Long Island Arboricultural Association earlier this year at the annual Tree Symposium at Planting Fields Arboretum.

Events

- Commencement - Sunday, May 19 at 10 am at the Track and Field Complex near Nold Hall
- Retirement Luncheon / 25 Year Pin - Thursday, May 23 at 12:30 pm at the Campus Center Ballroom

Art Scholarship Winners Named

Congratulations to Farmingdale’s visual communications students who created new art to enter into the Babylon Art Festival. All work was exhibited in Old Babylon Town Hall.

Award of Excellence: Matt Moran, Brandon Schwartz, Jessica Villamor and Nicole Wong.

Honorable Mention: Angel Cabrera, Andrew Collado, Kyle Mark and Joe McGarry.

CSTEP and Empire State Medical Association Winners

Miriam Bello and Guyida Richard completing research with Dr. Frances Santiago-Schwarz at FSC and the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research - won second and first prize in the 2013 Statewide CSTEP competition and the Empire State Medical Association’s 7th annual research competition, respectively.

Students Honored at Energy Conference

At the Advanced Energy Conference held last month in Manhattan, student Alexandre Pereira won the first prize for his work with Dr. Hazem Tawfik and Brookhaven National Lab for a Biomass project, and student Joseph Valanti won the third prize for his work on batteries with Dr. Jeff Hung. MET alumnus Daniel Weinman was also cited for his research. He now is employed on campus as a Technical Laboratory Assistant.

Introducing Our Rambassadors

The Rambassadors program is a new elite student internship developed this Spring. These outstanding students have already made a great impression at our Spring Open House and Accepted Student Day. Keep your eyes open for the release of their blog ‘A Day in the Life.’

Students Honored at Energy Conference