

COPLA CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2024

INSIDE THE ISSUE

- 2 Making Moves
- 4 Inside COPLA
- 6 **Feature:** Botanical Garden Cleanup
- 8 Faculty Spotlight
- 9 Alumni Spotlights
- 11 Panthers on the Rise
- 12 Expert Perspectives



Florida Tech COPLA College of Psych & Liberal Arts



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Welcome to *COPLA Connections*, the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts newsletter.

In these pages, you can see and read about all the interesting activities happening in our college and the fantastic students, faculty, staff and alumni who make it come alive.

Florida Tech is entering a new season of optimism and renewal as the scourge of COVID-19 fades into the past. The university is now 65 years young (sadly, still ineligible for Social Security) and continues to grow and evolve.

This is no more keenly evident than in our welcoming John Nicklow, Ph.D., as Florida Tech's sixth president. Nicklow brings energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to listen to many voices as he charts the university's

course for the next several years. COPLA will undoubtedly play a major role in formulating the new administration and its strategic vision of our future.

The biggest news is that the School of Psychology (SOP) and School of Behavior Analysis (SOBA) have moved out of the L3Harris Commons building to make way for the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine. The SOBA is now located in The Scott Center for Autism Treatment, while the SOP occupies two remodeled Academic Quad buildings. Lab space now exists in the Shephard and Crawford buildings and the old athletic annex on Country Club Road. While moving is never pleasant, the schools have quickly gotten back to full steam and continue their exemplary work with students and in research.

Our college has also been busy hiring many new faculty members—five total, covering a range of disciplines, including the history of science and technology, literature, American history, English, industrial and organizational psychology and applied behavior analysis. In addition, we welcomed Lt. Col. Robert Stillings as the ROTC Panther Battalion's new commanding officer. We bade farewell to Lt. Col. Jimmy Crook, as he began a new journey beyond his Army service.

Of course, we will always remember our alumni who have gone on from Florida Tech to successful careers and lives. You all are never far from our thoughts and hearts. Please keep us updated on what you are up to these days!

Lastly, I'd like to remember the late professor emeritus Phil Farber, who made an indelible imprint on our college and university. Farber was a longtime SOP faculty member who trained generations of students. He was a man of wit and humor and always offered a helping hand to those who needed it. He truly is missed.

Respectfully,

Robert Taylor, Ph.D.
Outgoing Dean, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

Editor's Note: After 17 years in leadership, Robert Taylor has decided to step down as College of Psychology and Liberal Arts dean and School of Arts and Communication head, continuing as faculty to pursue his passion for teaching history and writing. Heidi Hatfield Edwards has assumed the roles of acting dean and SAC head.

SPRING 2024

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Julie Costopoulos
Head, School of Psychology

Lt. Col. Robert Stillings
Head, Army ROTC Panther Battalion

Scan for a full list of COPLA faculty:



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MAKING MOVES

EDWARDS SETTLES IN AS NEW COPLA ASSOCIATE DEAN

Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., communication professor and head of the School of Arts and Communication, officially began her new role as College of Psychology and Liberal Arts associate dean in fall, assuming the role of acting dean upon professor Robert Taylor's stepping down from the role at the end of March.

Edwards, who began her career as a media professional, has experience working in television, radio and print media and in public relations and marketing. After receiving her doctorate in journalism and mass communication, she taught public relations at Penn State as an assistant professor. She joined Florida Tech in 2006 and teaches courses in mass communication and society, communication theory and covering science and technology. In addition, Edwards is a senior research fellow at Penn State's Page Center.

COSTOPOULOS HEADS SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Julie S. Costopoulos, Ph.D., psychology professor and director of the forensic emphasis area of the clinical psychology doctoral program, now heads the School of Psychology. She started her new position in January, assuming a role previously held by Gary N. Burns, who continues at Florida Tech as a psychology professor and chair of the organizational leadership program.

Costopoulos, a licensed psychologist, has taught at the university for 15 years and won the prestigious Kerry Bruce Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016. She previously served as a senior forensic psychologist for the Sexually Violent Predator Program

of Florida and has taught numerous courses in forensic psychology, as well as conducted and published numerous studies in the field.

In 2020, she established the Court Assessment Team, a unique initiative approved by the 18th Judicial Circuit Court allowing clinical psychology doctoral students to conduct parts of the mental health evaluations sometimes required to determine if defendants are competent to stand trial.

ARAGON SUPERVISES NEW CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The clinical psychology Psy.D. program has contracted to work with Brevard County Public Schools to identify students who may benefit from individual and group therapy with Florida Tech graduate students.

The initiative kicked off this spring with a pilot program at Port Malabar Elementary School in Palm Bay. It is supervised by Patrick Aragon '21 MBA, Psy.D., a licensed psychologist and assistant professor of psychology, who is also the assistant director of clinical training.

KRISHNAMURTHY WINS BEST THEORETICAL PAPER AWARD

Psychology professor Radhika Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., and colleagues received the 2022 Martin Mayman award for best theoretical paper published in the *Journal of Personality Assessment* in 2022 for their article, "Professional Practice Guidelines for Personality Assessment," for which she was lead author.

The award, given annually for a distinguished contribution to the literature in personality assessment, was bestowed at the annual convention of the Society



Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D.



Patrick Aragon '21 MBA, Psy.D.



Lt. Col. Robert Stillings



Julie S. Costopoulos, Ph.D.



David Wilder, Ph.D.

for Personality Assessment in Austin, Texas, in March 2023.

At the convention, seven clinical psychology doctoral students Krishnamurthy mentored—Rachel Davenport '21 M.S., Grant Decker, Emily Leonard '19, '21 M.S., Katie Glauner '20 M.S., Karina Guerra Guzman '23 M.S., Ilenia Perez-Palen '22 M.S. and John Rucker '20 M.S.—presented five research papers.

MAZO, GALLOP REPRESENT FLORIDA TECH AT LOCAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT EVENTS

School of Arts and Communication instructors Keturah Mazo '96 M.S. and Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop '10 M.S. shared the power of creative expression and communication with elementary and middle school students who attended National Night Out events in Melbourne and Cocoa in October.

The events, sponsored in part by the Wawa Foundation and the Space Coast Association of Realtors Foundation, bring support to historically underserved and under-resourced communities in Brevard County. Brevard Prevention Coalition partnered with Florida Tech to have Mazo and Gallop host creative writing and journalism activities at the National Night Out event at Carver Park in Melbourne Oct. 3. Melbourne Police Department and the Greater

Melbourne Police Athletic League were the lead sponsors of the event.

The coalition also supported Mazo's creative writing activity at Brevard County Parks and Recreation's Great Pumpkin Rescue, Part Too, event at Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center in Cocoa Oct. 28.

“Early intervention and prevention through positive youth development is how we give the next generation a fighting chance to avoid addiction, underage drinking, drug poisonings and overdoses, which all transcend socioeconomic boundaries,” said Stanley Brizz, executive director of Brevard Prevention Coalition.

LT. COL. ROBERT STILLINGS NEW CADRE HEAD OF FLORIDA TECH'S ARMY ROTC PROGRAM

Lt. Col. Robert Stillings assumed command of Florida Tech's Army ROTC Panther Battalion as a professor of military science in summer 2023 following the retirement of Lt. Col. James Crook '22 DBA.

Stillings, who garnered numerous awards and decorations during his military career, most recently served as the chief of training and exercises for Cyber National Mission Force at Fort Meade, Maryland. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and commissioned from Washington

University in St. Louis in 2006. He also holds a master's degree in defense and strategic studies.

With a goal of continuing to grow Panther Battalion in quantity and quality, Stillings said he also wants to maintain a battalion of servant leaders who are ambassadors for the Army within their communities.

“I want to continue to develop competent, physically fit leaders of high character that are prepared to lead our nation's sons and daughters,” he said.

WILDER NAMED A 2023 'BEST SCIENTIST'

David Wilder, Ph.D., professor and head of the School of Behavior Analysis, was among a dozen current and former Florida Tech faculty members named Best Scientists in the 2023 rankings from Research.com, a leading academic platform and research portal.

Using a measurement called the Discipline H-Index that calculates a score using publications and citation metrics for a specific discipline, as well as a wide range of data sources, Research.com carefully evaluated nearly 167,000 scholars over more than two dozen areas on Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic Graph.

INSIDE COPLA



PATTERSON RECEIVES REV. HARVEY L. RILEY BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD

Gordon Patterson (pictured left), a longtime School of Arts and Communication history professor, received the Rev. Harvey L. Riley Bridge Builder Award during Florida Tech's annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Black Student Union. Patterson, a faculty member for over 40 years who is widely regarded as the university's resident historian, was presented with the award for his commitment to community engagement and civil rights.



JAZZ BAND PERFORMS AT NEW JERSEY MUSIC CONFERENCE

The Florida Tech Jazz Band performed as a featured act at the 2024 New Jersey Music Educators Association State Conference, one of the largest gatherings of music professionals and students on the east coast, in February at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

"This is a huge honor that will help to expand the reach of our STEM university's unique music program," said Joseph Montelione, assistant professor of music and director of bands for Florida Tech's Music Program.

FITSEC TEAM TAKES 5TH IN NCL TOURNAMENT

The National Cyber League's fall 2023 competition concluded in November, with final results showing the L3Harris Institute for Assured Information FITSEC cybersecurity competition team finishing in fifth place. Led by Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion cadet Chandler Hake, the team included previous national champions Curtice Gough and Alex Schmith, as well as Louis Orcinolo, John Sellock, Lilith Fort and Marcus Feliciano. On the FITSEC depth chart, students Maria Linkins-Nielsen, Cody Manning, Joshua Hartzfeld, Joao Silva '22, '23 M.S., Jaylin Ollivierre, Liam Dumbell and Catherine DiResta led a tremendous effort to chase Hake's team.



WELCOME, JAMIE BLASZKOWIAK AND KATIE BUMSTED

The School of Arts and Communication and the School of Psychology may not be in the same building, but their administrative assistants are. In fact, they share the same space in the dean's suite, located on the sixth floor of the Crawford Building. Jamie Blaszковиak migrated to the SAC in fall 2022 from her previous position in Community Psychological Services. Katie Bumsted joined her in August as the new dean's assistant.

EXAMINING THE NUANCES OF NARRATIVE COMMUNICATION



NARRATIVES IN PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Edited by Fuyuan Shen and Heidi Hatfield Edwards



A new book co-edited by College of Psychology and Liberal Arts acting dean and School of Arts and Communication head Heidi Hatfield Edwards

looks at how narratives are used and how effective they are across political, corporate and other areas of communication. The book, *Narratives in Public Communication*, is a collection of communications research material edited by Edwards and Fuyuan Shen, Penn State's Donald P. Bellisario Professor of Advertising. Penn State's Arthur W. Page Center for Integrity in Public Communication funded the research featured in the book. The book is a culmination of studies that examine political, health and science communication, as well as advertising and public relations.

SOBA FACULTY, STUDENTS AND ALUMNI MAKE IMPRESSIVE APPEARANCE AT STATE CONFERENCE

In September, 17 students and six faculty from Florida Tech's School of Behavioral Analysis presented at the 43rd Annual Florida Association for Behavior Analysis (FABA) Conference. Held at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Hotel and Resort in Orlando, Florida, the conference drew behavior analysts throughout the state and country to learn, network and get inspired.

Read the full story on news.fit.edu.



SAC, EVANS LIBRARY CELEBRATE AFROFUTURISM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

More than 100 people filled the lobby of Florida Tech's Evans Library Feb. 16 for the 9th Annual African American Read-In, where they learned about the Afrofuturism cultural movement and its expression through Black literature, the arts and popular culture. Sponsored

by the School of Arts and Communication and Evans Library, the read-in is free to the community and is one of the largest annual celebrations of Black literature on the Space Coast. This year included theme-related performances by students, alumni, faculty and local talent, as well as a keynote address on Afrofuturism by Clarissa West-White, a university archivist and assistant professor at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.



FEATURE

DORFELD STUDENTS JOIN KPBS FOR BOTANICAL GARDEN CLEANUP



The Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden is known as a peaceful place for wellness and inspiration, a calming oasis available to the campus community and beyond.

But its beauty can't be maintained without a little help.

That's where the Florida Tech Keuper Palm Botanical Society (KPBS) comes in. Once a month, society members gather to clean and maintain the precious environment.

Natalie Dorfeld, associate professor of English in the School of Arts and Communication, turned

“We want the garden to maintain its beauty and jungle-like content ...”

*—Natalie Dorfeld, SAC
associate professor*

KPBS' November garden cleanup day into a learning opportunity for students in her Environmental Literature class.

“The garden gets overgrown very quickly, and there have been a lot of invasive species here,” Dorfeld says. “We want the garden to maintain its beauty and jungle-like content, so we are just cleaning up the dead palms and litter.”

She offered extra credit to students who joined her and KPBS members in the cleanup, but one student didn't need much convincing.



Slate Varn, a mechanical engineering senior and KPBS vice president, initially brought the cleanup to Dorfled’s attention, hoping to increase the number of volunteers and promote the event.

“I knew Dr. Dorfled had an interest in helping out and taking care of the turtles, so she was the right choice to help, alongside the Pattersons,” Varn says.

With a passion for animals and nature, Dorfled frequently visits the garden to feed the turtles and relax.

“I’ve been told some students feed them hot dogs, so I make sure they are getting proper nutrients with the gourmet turtle food. They’re quite fancy in that sense,” she says.

“Right now, there’s not a lot of help in the garden, so it’s really important that we work hard to preserve it and maintain its natural beauty.”

—Emily Lohman, KPBS president

The most turtles she has ever seen in the pond at a time is 15, but when she brought the turtle food out during the cleanup, she could only round up about eight of them to show to the group.

Before the cleanup, the group reviewed the rules and specific species to look out for before breaking into designated clusters with assigned tasks. The most common things to look out for were snakes and poison ivy, but they weren’t always easy to spot. Everyone wore neon vests to ensure they could find one another in the overgrown garden.

Once all the information was covered and everyone was dressed, Dorfled and botanical society leaders sent everyone to work clearing out dead palms, picking weeds and shoveling the mud in the pond to even out the surface for animals.

As he cleaned, Varn reflected on the last year he’s spent as KPBS vice president and president of Ethos Community Garden Club, a student-run organization focused on maintaining the community garden in the Residence Hall Quad.

“I really care about these clubs and getting students involved more,” he says.

Varn admires how Dorfled offers her students opportunities to get involved with campus activities, like the garden cleanup, in addition to giving them academic credit, he says.



“I think all classes should be like this. It gets students interested in the class more when they know what opportunities they have.”

Varn works alongside KPBS president Emily Lohman to organize maintenance and monthly cleanups. With all the rain and sunshine Florida experiences, it doesn’t take long for the garden to get overgrown, Lohman says.

“KPBS officially started in 2019, right when COVID-19 hit,” she says. “We’ve kind of had to start from the ground up to rebuild the group. Right now, there’s not a lot of help in the garden, so it’s really important that we work hard to preserve it and maintain its natural beauty.”

After working for two hours, everyone admired the substantial progress they made in such limited time.

“If everyone just came in for at least two hours, the garden could be so much prettier than it already is,” Dorfled says.

For more information on cleaning and maintaining the Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden, visit the KPBS page on Engage.



FACULTY PROFILE

PSYCHOLOGY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CATHERINE TALBOT

It all started with Jane Goodall.

Catherine Talbot remembers watching the anthropologist interact with chimpanzees on a PBS documentary as a child—she was hooked.

“Watching these documentaries showed me the animal kingdom in ways I had never seen before,” recalls Talbot, an assistant professor in the School of Psychology.

The interest stayed with her through high school and led her to work as a veterinary technician. Thinking of the job, Talbot shakes her head and laughs, “I quickly realized that was not the job for me.”

During this time, she came across an opportunity to study primates in Costa Rica, and her interest was piqued.

“Costa Rica was beautiful and opened my eyes to the field of primatology; I was determined to learn more,” she says.

After high school, Talbot attended Florida State University and took as many courses on the topic as were offered, some of which she had to audit because they wouldn't fit into her schedule. Throughout her undergraduate



career, she continued to travel abroad, working on monkey studies in South America and Africa.

“These experiences led me to pursue my master's and doctoral degrees,” Talbot says. While completing her Ph.D. in cognitive sciences at Georgia State University, she focused on the complex evolutionary, biological and behavioral elements of different primates' sociality.

She has worked in several settings throughout her career, such as the Center for Great Apes and the Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research. She now works alongside associate professor Darby Proctor at Brevard Zoo, where they serve as co-directors of the Animal Cognitive Research Center.

Her research primarily concerns spider monkeys. Talbot says the zoo has been a great and unique opportunity, since only a few similar facilities have spider monkeys.

“Brevard Zoo leaves the fission and fusion dynamics to be animal-managed,” she says. “This allows for the monkeys to come together in large groups and break off into smaller groups at their leisure.”

Looking toward the future, Talbot is interested in exploring equity theory regarding spider monkeys. She has worked with 13 primate species so far and would like to work with more.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Natalie T. Sellers '03 M.S.

Residence: Titusville, Florida

Florida Tech Degree: Managerial Communication, M.S.

Current Job: Senior Vice President of Communication, Community & Corporate Services, Parrish Healthcare

UP CLOSE WITH... *Natalie T. Sellers*

Why did you choose Florida Tech?

I chose Florida Tech because of its stellar academic reputation and the curriculum associated with the managerial communication program.

How did your experience at Florida Tech prepare you as a professional?

Having the opportunity to engage with a diverse group of student professionals served to broaden my perspectives. I used my experience and applied the knowledge gained to grow as a leader within my organization.

Specifically, were there any courses or faculty that had a significant influence on your education?

Professor [emeritus] Judith Strother ['76 MBA] was not just an amazing teacher, but a mentor. Her teaching style, experience and depth of knowledge were a source of inspiration.

Share your best Florida Tech student memory.

I appreciated most the in-classroom learning. I valued being in a classroom with others to engage in face-to-face conversations—to share and challenge ideas with mutual

respect. Today, so much is done online, which has value, too. But as a communication professional, I believe the most effective communication and learning happens in person.

What have been the highlights and milestones of your life and career so far?

I have been honored and humbled to earn a number of professional recognitions. Among them was being named Florida Tech's Outstanding Graduate Student in managerial communication; earning fellow status with the American College of Healthcare Executives; and experiencing career advancement, from starting as marketing communications coordinator to now serving as senior vice president overseeing several departments, including marketing communications, human resources, people development (education), patient experience, volunteer services, security and safety and the foundation. Also, I am the proud grandmother of four.

What advice do you have for current COPLA students who want to make the most out of their time at Florida Tech?

Embrace the diversity of thought from your fellow students and professors, and approach all the learning opportunities afforded to you with an open mind.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

UP CLOSE WITH... *Jonathan V. Wilson*



Jonathan V. Wilson '98

Residence: Columbia, Maryland

Florida Tech Degree: Psychology, B.A.

Current Job: Vice President, Organization Development & Talent Management, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

How did your experience at Florida Tech prepare you as a professional?

I learned early at Florida Tech that one of my guiding principles is helping others. Because I was able to find an undergraduate program that nurtured that value while creating a discipline for my continuous learning, I found a fulfilling professional career path. This foundation, combined with the skills honed in ROTC with the Panther Battalion, has allowed me to navigate three different career changes, ultimately bringing together all of my passions into one amazing role at an organization with an impactful mission to help others. Working for a mission-driven organization in a people-centric role was my dream when I started at Florida Tech.

Share your best Florida Tech student memory.

When thinking back to my time at Florida Tech, I instantly remember my walks through the botanical garden in between classes, helping with new-student orientations, being on top of the ROTC rappelling tower teaching others to trust themselves and others, sitting in class in the Quad and early morning runs across the causeway to the beach. In short, my best Florida Tech memory is the sights and sounds of campus. From the early sounds of frogs and birds to the early morning humidity while walking over the bridge from the student center to Evans Hall for breakfast, it all still brings me back to campus.

What have been the highlights and milestones of your life and career so far?

While my family is, by far, the best milestone and highlight of my life, I have been fortunate to build on three great careers to chart a professional path that combines all of my passions together. As I transitioned from the Army to a 12-year consulting career at Booz Allen Hamilton, I found my passion for running again and became a volunteer coach with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team in Training campaign. That volunteer role provided an avenue in my life that I didn't know would touch me so profoundly. I was able to help myself find a center of balance and meet my amazing partner in life, Robin. Also, over the next decade, I was able to help thousands of people achieve their personal endurance and fundraising goals while supporting countless patients and their families.

That volunteer role led me to find an opportunity to take my management and leadership skills from the military and at Booz Allen to leading the LLS Maryland chapter as an employee. After five years as the Maryland executive director, I transitioned to LLS' human resources team, combining my love for human resources with the mission that changed my life. I am now honored to lead LLS' Organization Development and Workforce Planning Center of Excellence. I am also grateful to continue my lifelong learning journey for my career by obtaining a master's degree in organizational change from Hawaii Pacific University and a Senior Certified Professional certification (SHRM-SCP) from the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM). Also, I am a member of the SHRM Executive Network.

What advice do you have for current COPLA students who want to make the most out of their time at Florida Tech?

While studying and attending classes are key to your success at Florida Tech, so are the opportunities outside of the classroom. The experiences from applying my studies to volunteer work, campus projects, ROTC activities, social events, internships and relationships with others are what helped me learn the most about myself and how I wanted to succeed in both life and my career. Always find opportunities to push yourself beyond your comfort zone and learn from them.



PANTHERS ON THE RISE



1 CRAIG S. FABRIKANT '83 PSY.D.

Fabrikant was elected president of the Florida Psychological Association.

2 RUSS A. RASMUSSEN '89 M.S., '90 PSY.D.

Rasmussen, in partnership with Jeff Sievertson, released a book titled *Becoming One as Husband and Wife: A Self-help Novel*.

3 SHARON EVANS '90, '92 PSY.D.

Evans welcomed another beautiful grandchild, Yair Yehuda.

4 KIMBERLY MUSSELMAN '92

Musselman was installed as a Brevard County Court judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit in an investiture ceremony Sept. 8 at the Brevard County Government Center in Viera, Florida. An assistant state attorney with the Brevard County State Attorneys Office from 2004 to 2022, Musselman was elected to the bench in November 2022.

5 ALCYIA PARDOE '08 M.S.

Pardoe graduated from Walden University with her doctoral degree in developmental psychology. She is a writing instructor and adjunct professor at Florida Tech.

6 JORDAN SYMONDS '17

Symonds is head of communication at Casi.auto in Oslo, Norway.

7 APRYL ALEXANDER '09 M.S., '12 PSY.D.

Alexander was presented with an American Psychological Association presidential citation for her substantial contributions as an early-career psychologist. She was also recently appointed to the board of directors for Envision: You, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving behavioral health outcomes for LGBTQ+ individuals.

8 CHANDEL ADAM '11

Adam recently joined TaylorMade Golf as a safety and sustainability program manager. Before her current position, she completed two environmental-based master's degrees and worked as a consultant, as well as within the industry.

9 ADAM PAULASKAS '12

Paulauskas recently returned from Europe, where he served as the logistics officer for the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine mission. He now works as the 254th Transportation Battalion's personnel officer with the Florida Army National Guard.

10 JOEMARIE REID '17

Reid has joined Kemp, Ruge & Green Law Group as a litigation associate in Tampa, Florida.



11 PAUL BERSOUX '18

Bersoux is celebrating 10 years with L3Harris Technologies Inc. and received a promotion to deputy operations manager.

12 BRANDON CURRIE '19 M.S.

Currie is manager of training and development at Brevard Health Alliance.

13 SGT. SUSAN HEYSE '20 M.A.

Heyse and her husband, Kenneth Bouchard, are proud to announce that their son Brendan has been accepted to study biomedical engineering at Florida Tech.

14 ZACHARY BEHLOK '21 A.S., '22 A.A., '22

Behlok published his latest book, *Questioning Death and Other Essays*, which is a collection of 11 previously unpublished critical and creative essays that he wrote during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2021. He also established an online academic journal titled *Modern Rebellion*, which is published monthly.

15 SIERRA KUCINSKI '22 M.A.

Kucinski is a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA). As such, she creates programming to address skill deficits and increase overall independence within tasks for children ages 2 to 18 with autism.



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EXPERT PERSPECTIVES



Felipa T. Chavez and colleagues were featured in the Philadelphia Eagles Autism Foundation sponsored grants showcase after receiving a \$25,000 grant from the organization. The funds fuel the dissemination of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy training to Black and Latino clinicians servicing Black and Latino families with a child diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum.

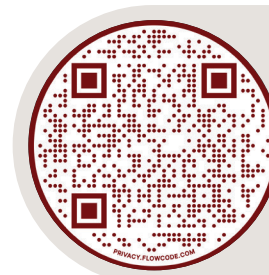


Robert Taylor penned the article "Florida in the Civil War," included in the recently released anthology, *Once Upon a Time in Florida: Stories of Life in the Land of Promises*. The book is curated from the archives

of *FORUM*, the award-winning magazine of Florida Humanities. Taylor spoke about the article at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum in Tallahassee in November as part of a statewide tour for the richly illustrated book.



Wanfa Zhang presented "American Domestic Politics and Its Impact upon US-China Relations from Trump to Biden," at the 2023 Meeting of Chinese Community of Political Science and International Studies (CCPSIS), Tsinghua University, Beijing, in July. He also attended the World Peace Forum there before the conference. In August, he was an invited lecturer on "Geopolitical, Cultural and Ideological Causes of US-China Strategic Predicament and Implications for the World" at the Sino-American Symposium on Academic, Economic, and Cultural Collaboration sponsored by American Federation of International Students Associations.



Scan here for a full listing of recent faculty accomplishments.