

Good afternoon,

As we are approaching final exam week, here are a few updates:

Commencement. Our two commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 20. We will award an honorary Doctorate of Science in the morning ceremony to Mr. Paul Petzrick. Mr. Petzrick has helped in securing over \$6 million for our GIS Center and employing over 30 student workers in the past two-plus decades. His early research was on underground mines in Western Maryland, and he currently works for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Award Ceremonies. The FSU Alumni Association held its annual awards banquet last Friday evening, with numerous individuals being honored. Tracee Wilkins, DC's News4 Investigative Reporter, received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement award. Congratulations to our student veterans who were honored at the annual award dinner sponsored by SALUTE, the national honor society for student veterans. The Athletic Department also held its annual award ceremony this week. Lastly, Ms. Rachael Michalski, SGA President, received the Civil Citizen Communicator Award.

Weekend Dedications. Mr. Don Swogger was recognized for his many contributions by having the SAFE Office in Pullen named in his honor. Current and alum BURG Peer Education Network members were there to honor Don. We also dedicated the Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center at the Lincoln School on Saturday. We hope to see this center become the hub for many of our multicultural and diversity efforts on campus, as well as with the community.

This past weekend. While we had many things to celebrate this past weekend, the incident Sunday morning was a tragic event that continues to weigh on our minds. Thank you again to those that have helped through the aftermath. The Offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs and CAPS have been working with students seeking help. Thank you to SGA for organizing Monday's healing forum. The police are continuing their investigation and are asking for anyone with information to help. Chief Smith sent an email earlier this week on how to provide information anonymously. As I mentioned yesterday, we must continue to come together, support one another and find strength in our FSU community.

Personal Note. I began my 8th year as FSU's President on Tuesday. I want to thank the campus community for its support over the past seven years. We've made significant strides, can see physical changes to the campus, have worked through challenging times, including the Covid-19 pandemic, and are working our way through some current challenges. In all cases, the positive outcomes we have experienced result from the contributions of so many individuals. Thank you for the opportunity to be the FSU President.