

## June 2025



# CONVOCATION 2025

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

### Save the Date for Convocation 2025

Please join us for Convocation 2025 on Thursday, August 21 in the South Campus Gymnasium. This annual event serves as a kickoff to our academic year and it's a great time to reconnect with colleagues and hear the latest updates from across the College.

Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the official program will begin at 9:45 a.m. Plenary begins at 1 p.m.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to donate for the FSCJ H.O.P.E. Food Pantry!

## News and Updates

### Join Us for Open House

Make plans to join us at South Campus on Saturday, June 21 for our largest new student recruitment event. The event opens to attendees at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m.

Last year, nearly 1,000 eager community members joined us, ready to become part of the FSCJ family. Guests included families seeking information to guide educational choices, recent high school graduates exploring their next steps, adult learners looking to pursue further education or advance their careers, and high school juniors and seniors hoping to learn more about the College and career pathways.

Attendees can register to attend [here](#) or click on the button below. You can also read the Recruitment Update below for more information.

[Learn More](#)

### International Education Conference Coming this October

Join the FSCJ Center for International Education on October 2-3 for the 4th annual International Education Conference. This event will include networking opportunities and dynamic learning focused on the topics of study abroad, citizen diplomacy, community and global learning. Presentations, exhibits and roundtable discussions will be provided by FSCJ students, faculty and staff, local authors, and community organizations. Submit a presentation proposal [here](#).

Learn more about upcoming study abroad programs, scholarship opportunities and global experiences at our study abroad info sessions. These virtual sessions are offered every Wednesday from 10-10:45 a.m. and the second Thursday of each month from 6-6:45 p.m. Contact StudyAbroad@fscj.edu with questions.

[Submit Presentation Proposal](#)

### Alumni Spotlight: FSCJ Was Here for Brooklyn

You may remember Brooklyn Schaffer from her feature on digital billboards, ads and the FSCJ homepage in 2022. In the "FSCJ is Here" campaign, we highlighted her as not only a student and athlete but also a future doctor. Well, here she is, one step closer.



Last month, Brooklyn graduated from the University of South Florida. As a result of her hard work, she was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Nutrition. She's now gearing up for her next stop: medical school! She's taking the MCAT this month and will be submitting her application in the coming weeks.

While at FSCJ, Brooklyn served as the Spirit Club President, she was the first FSCJ athlete to earn the NJCAA National Player of the Week award and volunteered more than 100 hours at Mayo Clinic's Surgery Unit in Jacksonville.

Whether on the volleyball court, in the classroom or the community, Brooklyn is making strides toward her dreams of one day becoming Doctor Schaffer.

### FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports

The annual FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports wellness initiative provides College employees with enjoyable co-ed recreational sports opportunities through August 14. Participation is open to all employees, and no sign-up is required.

Basketball – Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; South Campus Gymnasium  
Pickleball – Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; South Campus Gymnasium

Employees are encouraged to join the FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports Channel on Microsoft Teams (click the button below) for discussions and real-time updates on summer activities.

[Join the Teams Channel](#)

### Seeking Alumni Nominations for Anniversary Celebration

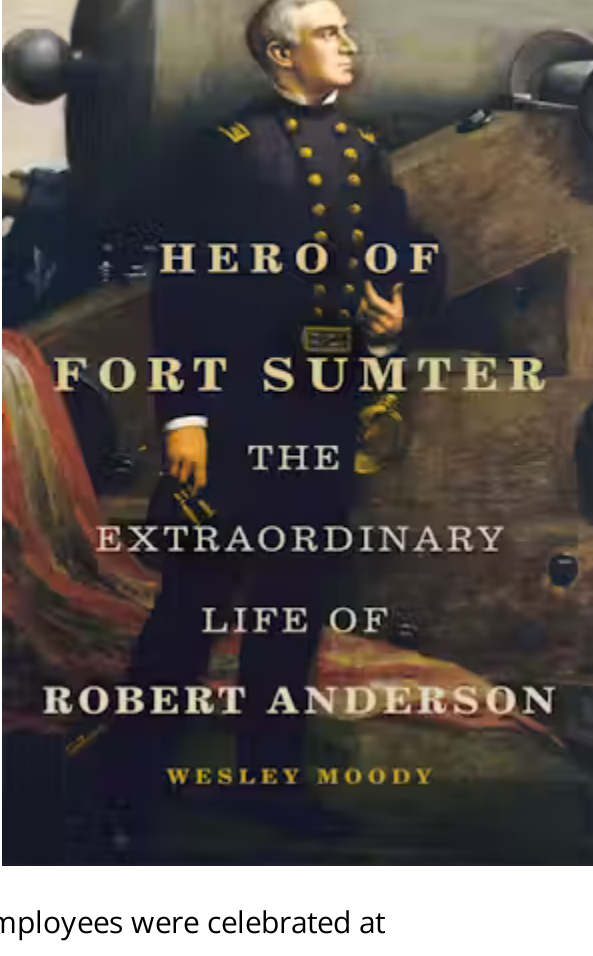
FSCJ's 60th Anniversary begins August 2025! As part of our celebration, we'll be celebrating our alumni. We are collecting nominations for alumni features throughout the year. Please nominate alumni including fellow employees, yourself, retirees and anyone you can think of from the past six decades. Submit a nomination [here](#).

Faculty and staff are also invited to share their ideas and input to help develop a fitting celebration. If you are interested in participating in a committee or have an idea to share, email [communications@fscj.edu](mailto:communications@fscj.edu).

### Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

FSCJ Professor of History Wesley Moody's book, "Hero of Fort Sumter: The Extraordinary Life of Robert Anderson," was recently published. Professor Moody is the author or editor of several books on the Civil War, including "Demon of the Lost Cause: Sherman" and "Civil War History."

About this book: As the commander of the U.S. garrison at Fort Sumter in the fateful early hours of April 12, 1861, Robert Anderson (1805-71) played a critical role in the unfolding of the Civil War. Although his leadership and his courage under fire catapulted him into national recognition, the attack on Fort Sumter was just one chapter in Anderson's story. That story, told here in full for the first time, offers a unique lens on the development of the U.S. military and the country itself before and during the Civil War.



Congratulations to our 2025 FSCJ Employee Graduates! These employees were celebrated at Commencement with special graduation honor cords (green, black, white) to wear during the ceremony.

Amavi Akpadjavi, Bachelor of Science  
Lithal Asoullina, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Abby Bowden, Bachelor of Science  
Jennifer Derival, Bachelor of Science  
Valeria Farias-Millan, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Bridgette Faulkner, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Madison Fuoco, Associate in Arts  
Eriana Gaskin, Associate in Arts  
Samantha Hazelwood, Bachelor of Science  
Chance Labombarbe, Bachelor of Applied Science

Maiah Leon, Bachelor of Science  
Jerry Morgan, Associate in Science  
Latoya Neri, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Jenny Nguyen, Bachelor of Science  
Paul Nuccio, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Juliette Patterson, Bachelor of Science  
Daija Rodgers, Bachelor of Science  
Jaquaris Striggles, Bachelor of Applied Science  
Megan Weaver, Associate in Arts

### Recruitment Update

Open House is June 21. This annual event invites the community to visit campus, where hundreds of prospective students spend part of a weekend day discovering more about their community's college. It also provides an opportunity to showcase our programs, facilitate on-the-spot application submission and build new relationships with prospective students.

Based on college readiness and preparation sources, the following questions reflect the curiosity of prospective students:

General-What are your school's strengths?  
Admissions-Is there an opportunity to sit in on a class before enrolling?  
Financial Aid-Do you offer scholarships for my desired program of study?  
Housing-Do you have housing?  
Career Services-What options are there for service learning in the community?  
Experiential Learning-What study abroad opportunities do you have?  
Athletics-Do you have sports teams?  
Student Success-What's the graduation rate for my program of study or the college?

#### Upcoming events:

6/12: Why Choose FSCJ at Strengthen for Success Summer Camp  
6/18: Girls Inc. of Jacksonville at North Campus  
6/24: Lawtrey Re-Entry Seminar  
6/26: Duval County Public Schools ESOL Department Meeting (10-11th grade)  
6/26: FC2 Youth College & Career Fair

#### Recruitment by the numbers:

Events: 34  
Student Connections: 1,142  
Individual tours: 11  
Attendees: 21

If you're interested in participating in recruitment events, please contact us at [fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu](mailto:fscjrecruitment@fscj.edu) with the subject line Dive into Manta Ray Nation.

[Read More](#)

### Invite Rayzor Ray to Your Event

Bring some extra excitement to your events with Rayzor Ray! Our beloved mascot is ready to make appearances that will energize the crowd and create unforgettable memories. Don't miss out—bookmark the Rayzor Ray Request Form today and secure a visit!

[Request Form](#)

### Get to Know Your CEC Colleagues: Johnathan Pierce



June's Career Employees' Council (CEC) spotlight features Curriculum Services Specialist Johnathan Pierce. He began his career at FSCJ in September 2023 as the QEP Administrative Assistant, a part of the QueST program in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

In April 2024, he became the Curriculum Services Specialist. In this role, Johnathan researches, coordinates and drafts information in proposals, while also updating and validating data in systems for all curricular changes. In addition, he assists in several ongoing projects, one notably being the College's transition to the Coursedog platform.

Johnathan has a bachelor's degree in Latin and Greek from Florida State University and a master's degree in Latin from the University of Georgia. He also achieved a minor in Spanish, with undergraduate coursework in Education as well. In his post-graduate career, Johnathan had the opportunity to instruct undergraduate-level Latin, Greek and Mythology classes. He also taught high school Latin for two years.

Johnathan's an avid cook and gamer. He enjoys cooking his classic favorites and is involved in online gaming communities, where he gets to meet and game with like-minded individuals across the world!

[Learn More](#)

### Board Highlights

Review the highlights of the June 10, 2025, meeting of the FSCJ District Board of Trustees:

- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's Comprehensive Safety Review for FY 2025.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the Salary Index as part of the Pay Plan.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the FSCJ ACCESS Program for Fall Term 2025.
- The District Board of Trustees approved Amendment No. 3 to the FY 2024-25 Operating Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved Amendment No. 4 to the FY 2024-25 Capital Outlay Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's 2025-26 Operating Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Outlay Budget.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- The District Board of Trustees approved FSCJ's Naming Policy.
- The District Board of Trustees approved the College's Project Priority List for submission to the Division of Colleges.

You can find more information on the Board of Trustees meeting on our [website](#).

### Facilities Updates

The Facilities Team has been hard at work, updating and upgrading spaces across the College. Check out some highlights below:

Recently completed	Downtown Campus:	South Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nassau David Yulee Room Furniture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multipurpose Room Renovation</li><li>• Building Envelope</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• ADA Signage</li><li>• Fire Alarm System Replacement</li><li>• Childcare Center Renovation</li><li>• Parking Charging Stations</li><li>• Cancer Survivor's Park Lighting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• Lighting Controls Upgrade</li><li>• Fire Alarm System Replacement</li><li>• Childcare Center Renovation</li><li>• Men's Locker Room Renovation</li><li>• Parking Lot Lighting</li><li>• Restroom Renovation</li><li>• Legacy Walk Benches</li><li>• Gymnasium Bleachers</li></ul>
Ongoing Collegewide:	Kent Campus:	In planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Door Access Control Upgrades</li><li>• Elevator Door Lock Monitoring Systems</li><li>• Emergency Responders Radio Communications System</li><li>• Fire Alarm Replacement</li><li>• Scan/Digitize Facilities Plans</li><li>• Science Lab &amp; Classroom Renovations</li><li>• Wayfinding, Monument Signs</li><li>• Memorial Benches/Legacy Walk</li><li>• Energy Initiatives</li><li>• Classroom USA Flag Replacement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addressable Device Upgrades</li><li>• Science Lab Upgrades</li><li>• Auditorium Dressing Room Renovation</li><li>• Student Life Common Area</li><li>• Bus Route Improvements</li><li>• Barbershop Renovation</li><li>• Hot Water Loop Replacement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deerwood Center: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parking Lot Repair</li></ul></li></ul>
Deerwood Center:	North Campus:	Downtown Campus:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classrooms to Computer Labs Renovation</li><li>• Deerwood Conference Center Renovation</li><li>• Stairs, Curtainwall and Balcony Repair</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science Lab Remodel &amp; Furniture</li><li>• Door Access Control Upgrade</li><li>• Fire Alarm Replacement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warehouse Building Assessment</li><li>• VERC Renovation</li></ul>
	South Campus:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Services Renovation</li><li>• Allied Health Program Renovation</li><li>• Elevator Modernization</li><li>• ADA Monitoring System</li><li>• Individual Addressable Monitoring System</li><li>• Signage</li><li>• CJC Pavilion, Lobby Breakroom Furniture</li><li>• Boiler Replacement</li><li>• Athletics Renovation</li><li>• Tower Stairwell Paint</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wilson Center Architect Assessment</li><li>• Honors Program Expansion</li><li>• Security Renovation</li></ul>

### Upcoming Events



**Next Call:**  
**August 13, 2 p.m.**

Call notes available at [myFSCJ OnPoint Quick Link](#)



**Stay a Manta Ray!**

**Fall registration is open now!**

Check out the events calendar to view more events and access the form to submit your College-related events: [fscj.edu/events](#).

[View More Events](#)

### Quiz

Quiz winners will be selected at random from entries with all questions answered correctly. You have until 6 p.m. on the day the newsletter is distributed to email your answers to [newsletter@fscj.edu](mailto:newsletter@fscj.edu). Three winners will receive a Manta Messenger prize pack! Please note: Previous quiz winners are not eligible to win for six months.

1. When and where will Open House be held?
  - a. June 21/Downtown Campus
  - b. June 21/South Campus
  - c. June 22/Deerwood Center
  - d. July 21/South Campus
2. What year was Brooklyn Schaffer featured on digital billboards, ads and the FSCJ homepage?
  - a. 2022
  - b. 2023
  - c. 2021
  - d. 2020
3. Johnathan Pierce minored in what language in college?
  - a. Latin
  - b. Spanish
  - c. Greek
  - d. French
4. When is the next OnPoint call?
  - a. August 21
  - b. June 21
  - c. August 13
  - d. August 6
5. FSCJ Employee Recreational Sports is offering which two sports opportunities through August 14?
  - a. Baseball and Basketball
  - b. Pickleball and Softball
  - c. Volleyball and Basketball
  - d. Pickleball and Basketball