

# What's New?

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## FSU Use of College Learning Assessment Plus to Help Students Improve Critical-Thinking and Problem Solving Skills Noted in National Media

FSU Academic Affairs has utilized the College Learning Assessment (CLA) tool for several years to advance and assess critical-thinking skills by using this nationally recognized test. The current CLA+ "is a performance-based assessment that measures critical thinking, problem solving, scientific and quantitative reasoning, writing, and the ability to critique and make arguments." Graduating seniors at FSU are required to complete the CLA+ as a means "to ensure that students graduate with the tools they need to be informed professionals and citizens." <http://www.uncfsu.edu/uts/test-offered-at-fsu/cla>

In June 2017, FSU was noted in the Wall Street Journal (Online) and featured in the HBCU Digest (Online) for not only being one of approximately 200 colleges and universities in the U.S. that uses the CLA+ as a "mastery of skills" assessment tool, but also for being the only HBCU "included in the survey's final results." FSU "responded to the [Wall Street] Journal's request for feedback on the test's validity."

Dr. Jon Young, FSU Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, initiated use of the CLA at FSU in 2005 and in 2013 the Faculty Senate approved a recommendation to require graduating seniors to complete the assessment. Excerpts of his recent response to the Wall Street Journal capture the importance and success of the CLA at FSU as one of the ways it continues to assess and enhance the academic curriculum and learning outcome goals.

"We administer the CLA at FSU because the learning outcomes it assesses—critical thinking and written communication—are important to our overall educational mission....The primary purpose of administering the CLA for us is to guide improvements of student learning [such as] faculty redesign of courses with the goal of improving students' critical thinking and written communication skills....the CLA results of first-year students compared to seniors are very useful to us in measuring growth of these skills."

Dr. Young also provided feedback indicating that FSU has initiated its own methods to assess student mastery of seniors' skills, using "faculty-development assessments embedded in respective disciplines." FSU has found these institutional approaches "to be more reliable measure than the CLA." Findings from both methods provide rich assessment data that FSU uses to guide future curriculum planning in the best interest of its students.

## Faculty Senate Approves Schools of Education and Business to be Colleges at FSU

The Faculty Senate recently approved the School of Education becoming the College of Education and similarly the School of Business and Economics becoming the College of Business and Economics. These new college nomenclatures reflect the collective importance of each unit in terms of its array of course delivery, variety of degrees, and multiple disciplines offered.

Dr. Marion Gillis-Olion will continue as Dean of the College of Education as will Dr. Pamela Jackson of the College of Business and Economics.

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## Save the Dates: Bronco Kickoff 2017 is August 7-15

Bronco Kickoff 2017 will begin Monday, August 7 and end August 15 when classes begin. More information will be sent to all employees as part of FSU News and later this summer when the website goes live.

The two major meetings are **Academic Affairs General Meeting** on August 8 at 8:00 am and the **All-Employees Meeting** on August 9 at 10:00 am. Colleges, Schools, and Academic Department meetings, along with Professional Development workshops, Student Affairs and Residence Life activities will also be included. *Stay tuned!*

## First Steps New Student Orientations for Fall 2017 Continue

The remaining First Steps one-day programs that provide information and acquaint new fall 2017 students to the campus will be held on:

- June 23
- June 24
- July 15
- August 5

**For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 910-672-1371.**

## Admissions Fall Preview Recruitment Event September 30, 2017

The Office of Admissions announces that the annual Fall Preview recruitment event for 2017 will be held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Fall Preview is for high school juniors and seniors and transfer students. It begins with early morning tours followed by a program and informational activities for prospective students and families that include Academic Departmental visits. This year, visitors will have the option of attending the FSU football game vs. Bowie State University. Admissions will provide more details prior to the event.

## Staff and Students on the Move

- Congratulations to **Mrs. Kamesia House**, Executive Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid, for being appointed to serve as the **North Carolina State Representative on the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) 2017-2018 Conference Committee**. Mrs. House was recently appointed by Dr. Sharon Oliver, SASFAA President.
- **Dr. Cevdet Akbay, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics**, is pleased to announce the following **Chemistry** majors who are participating in a wide range of research internships this summer:
  - **Carlin Ashford**: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at the University of Houston
  - **Marissa Baccas**: Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (MBG REU) at Cornell University
  - **Ky'ara Carr**: New York University School of Medicine Sackler Institute's 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) in the Biomedical Sciences
  - **Daniel Loeven**: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at Tuskegee University.
  - **Laura Lovell**: The Department of Energy's (DOE) Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
  - **Zaniya Mark**: Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP) at the University of Miami
  - **Lenore Miller**: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at Tuskegee University
  - **Zariana Mobley**: 2017 Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Summer Research Program for Historically Black Colleges & Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI)
  - **Amani Rashad**: Colon Cancer Center for Research Summer Program at University of South Carolina (USC)
  - **Khya Stewart**: Department of Energy Environmental Management Division (DOE-EM) Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program (MSIPP) Summer Internship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on Hazardous Materials Management Internship
  - **Chibu Umerah**: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at Tuskegee University
  - **Obumneke Umerah**: Summer Research for Undergraduate Fellowship (SURF) in the Institute for Regenerative Engineering at University of Connecticut CONN Health
  - **Kimberly West**: The Medical Education Development (MED) Program in the Schools of Medicine at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

## Students on the Move *(continued)*

- **Dr. Radoslav Nickolov, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science**, is pleased to announce the following **Computer Science (CSC)** majors and **Mathematics (MATH)** major who are also participating in a wide range of research internships this summer:
  - **Michael Backus (CSC)**: NASA, Johnson Space Center (Kennedy Space Center)
  - **Natasha Law (CSC)**: Army Research Laboratory
  - **Joshua Cohenour (CSC)**: Army Research Laboratory
  - **John Futrell (CSC)**: Army Research Laboratory
  - **Casey Lorenzen (CSC)**: Lawrence Berkeley Livermore Lab
  - **Catherine Cooper (CSC)**: Lawrence Berkeley Livermore Lab
  - **Brittany Jennette(CSC)**: Lawrence Berkeley Livermore Lab
  - **Samantha Halam (CSC)**: Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, Norfolk State University
  - **Samuel Cooper (CSC)**: National Science Foundation REU site, University of Miami
  - **Edward Peterson (CSC)**: National Science Foundation REU site, East Carolina University
  - **Briana Williams (MATH)**: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, GIST Group

## Upcoming Events – *Note: Summer School, First Steps, Bronco Kickoff, Sesquicentennial and other Fall Dates*

- **June 5 to June 30**: Summer I Term
- **June 5 to August 1**: Eight Week Summer 2017 Term
- **June 23**: First Steps New Student Orientation
- **June 24**: First Steps New Student Orientation
- **July 5 to August 1**: Summer II Term
- **July 15**: First Steps New Student Orientation
- **August 5**: First Steps New Student Orientation
- **August 7-15**: Bronco Kickoff Week – Fall 2017
- **August 10**: Fall 2017 Registration begins
- **August 15**: First Day of Class – Fall 2017
- **September 14**: Fall Convocation and Sesquicentennial Launch Events
- **September 30**: Fall Preview 2017
- **October 21**: Homecoming 2017
- **November 9**: Sesquicentennial Commemoration Ceremony