Let’s Start Here | Reminder: Take the Survey

With *Let’s Start Here* ([https://www.eng.famu.fsu.edu/news/lets-start-here](https://www.eng.famu.fsu.edu/news/lets-start-here)) we are beginning in earnest a new step in our journey to increase equity, diversity and inclusion on our unique campus. A first important step is a survey to determine where we are in relation to these dimensions, and to hear from all of you about your personal experience at FAMU-FSU Engineering.

You received an email from me on Oct. 1 asking you to participate in this survey, conducted independently for us by the HEDS Consortium. This is not a phishing attempt (I know they happen all the time, sometimes with my email address) or an attempt to “check the box” with regard to these issues. This survey is hugely important because we must hear your voice and understand the issues on our campus and ecosystem.

Please take the survey at the link in your email. The link is unique to you so we can avoid duplication. It will take you only 10-15 minutes to complete, and I hope you do so thoughtfully. You may get a series of reminder emails until you actually click the link and take the survey, so please take it early! This opportunity to hear from you is open from Oct. 1-15 only. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me or [Tisha Keller](mailto:Tisha.Keller@famu.fsu.edu), our survey leader, know.

Let me also reiterate that your response will be anonymous. The survey data is being accumulated by a highly reputable national organization that will only provide us with aggregated information. I hope you will be comfortable telling us how you truly feel and sharing your experiences.

I sincerely appreciate your time and your thoughtful responses. Together, you, me and the Let’s Start Here leadership committee will help take FAMU-FSU Engineering to the next level in which every one of our people feels equally empowered and supported.

Thank-you in advance.

Murray Gibson
Attention required to COVID-19 safety rules that permit us to open up the engineering buildings

First, I want to thank the majority of our students that are wearing their masks and staying 6ft apart while in our building. However, there are a few students each day that choose to sit together or not keep their masks on in the building, violating university policy and CDC guidelines. The policy states that noncompliance may result in a report to the Office of Student Conduct. These violations each day put us at risk of losing the exception Engineering has been given to keep study areas/computer labs open and provide evening and weekend building access to our students. To keep our spaces open, we have been reminding students throughout the building daily and are pleased to see that most are following the policy. For the few that choose not to follow the policy, we will be doing the following:

Actions to reduce mask/social distancing violations and keep our study areas open:

1. **Speak up.** If you see someone not complying with the mask or social distancing policy, please kindly remind them. You have tremendous influence with your peers. Let's use it to for positive results!

2. **Monitor.** To reduce the number of violations, employees and outside security will randomly walk through the building to remind students of the policy. Again, kudos to those that are in compliance. Those that are not will have to present their university ID, which will be recorded in the college. Those who do not have a university ID with them are not permitted to be in the building, unless they are invited by faculty or staff for a specific purpose. Do NOT hold doors open for others that don’t have their ID!

3. **Report.** Students that are repeatedly or severely noncompliant will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. *We need to ensure that the actions of a few students do not take away the privilege of studying in the building from the rest of our students that diligently follow the policy.*

I appreciate the challenges that you face as an engineering student and the extra burdens placed upon you due to COVID-19. Please help us to stay in compliance so we can continue to keep our study areas and computer labs open for your use.

Sincerely,
Murray Gibson
Dean, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

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**Unity in the Community | Free Food Distribution**

**Saturday, October 17th from 9am to 12pm**, Share your Heart organization from Miami and Farm Share are partnering with many Tallahassee churches for a **1-Day event** called UNITY in the COMMUNITY.

This FREE random act of kindness will distribute food to help feed 1,500 families that maybe struggling during this time of crisis.

The distribution site is that the Greater Love Church of God in Christ, located at 524 East Orange Avenue in Tallahassee.

We are encouraging our community that if you have neighbors, coworkers or relatives that are in need but cannot travel to the distribution site to please come and pick up a box and deliver it to them. Join us as we unify to bring HOPE to the panhandle to those who are facing a difficult hopeless time.

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**FAMU Fall Commencement Deadline**

Graduating seniors who are interested in participating in the **Fall 2020 virtual commencement exercises** are encouraged to **apply by Friday, November 6.**
FSU Spring Course Registration to Begin Oct. 26, 2020

Florida State University is committed to offering as many classes face-to-face as we can, safely, in the Spring semester. Planning has been underway for the past several weeks. After thoughtful consideration, the Spring academic calendar was adjusted to remove Spring Break and the semester will end one week earlier, on April 23, 2021.

At this time, and following the CDC guidance, our Spring face-to-face classes will continue to be held in larger spaces to accommodate social distancing, face coverings will still be required, and hand hygiene and sanitization stations will remain available in the classrooms.

Registration will now open October 26
In order to balance these considerations and have more time to update course offerings, the University is delaying the opening of Spring 2021 registration. Here are some key dates you should be aware of. Monday, October 5, the class search was published for students. This schedule is being updated daily. Monday, October 26, the first set of enrollment appointments open. All subsequent enrollment appointments will be adjusted accordingly. Enrollment appointments in Student Central and the Registration Guide have been updated to reflect these changes. Check here to see your specific enrollment window, Spring 2021 course registration will remain open for all students until Friday, December 4, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Tips for Searching Classes

Using Class Search? Use the physical location attribute in the class search to help filter the type of class you are looking for.

Using Schedule Assistant? Search for and add a class, then click on “Sections” (the gear icon) to view the physical location for each course section.

- Tallahassee-MAIN, Tallahassee, Fl-MAIN [Flex], Tallahassee-SW Engineering, Panama City [Flex], FL, Rep of Panama, Sarasota, etc.: The class section has some instructional components that require in-person/face-to-face activities at the campus location listed on the class details. Plan to be in town, interacting with other classmates face-to-face and wearing your face covering. The absence of a room on these class sections does not mean it will be remote. Actual room assignment may occur after October 26 as we work to place classes in rooms appropriate to the enrollment and the social distancing guidelines.

- Remote: The class section has been transitioned to an online version for the Spring 2021 semester and will be held virtually only. There is no distance learning fee associated with remote classes.

- Online: The class section will be taught online and is specifically designed for online delivery. Most online classes have a distance learning fee per credit hour in addition to regular tuition and fees. This supports the additional staff and technologies required to create and teach the online class.

Do you want a scheduled meeting day/time or more flexibility in your remote/online classes?

- For Remote or Online Classes
  - Synchronous: The class will meet at the days/times listed via Zoom or other technologies. The registration system will not allow you to enroll in synchronous classes with overlapping times.
  - Asynchronous: The class will not meet at a specific time. The instructor will use other teaching methods like recorded videos so coursework can be done at your convenience.

Face Coverings and Classes

Registration is your opportunity to make decisions about what the Spring semester will look like for you. Please be aware that the University will continue to require face coverings to be worn at all times when you are indoors and during classes. Students who have a medical issue or a disabling condition that may make wearing face coverings difficult should contact the Office of Accessibility Services at oas@fsu.edu or 850.644.9566 (VRS for D/deaf 850.270.5370).

University Housing Considerations

Students and families with questions about Spring 2021 housing should reach out to Housing directly. Visit https://housing.fsu.edu/fall-20-move-in for more information.
FAMU: CeDAR Hosts Show Me the Money

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Please join CeDAR on Tuesday, October 13, at 3:30 p.m., as we host representatives from Student Accounts and Financial Aid to discuss student finances.
Zoom: https://famu.zoom.us/j/94432246471
FSU: Pre-Defense Manuscript Submission Deadline

Just a reminder that **October 26, 2020 is the Deadline** to submit your Pre-Defense Initial Format Review Manuscript to FSU Graduate School through ProQuest. Please review the details in the link below in regards to your manuscript submission.


Please note that if you do not meet this initial submission deadline, you will not be able to graduate this Fall 2020 term. You can still defend during the Fall 2020 term, but your official graduation will be pushed to Spring 2021.

If you have any other questions about this, please email Clearance@fsu.edu!

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New climate model helps researchers better predict water needs
By Tisha Radulovich

New research from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering combines climate and land use projections to predict water availability, information that is crucial for the preparations of resource managers and land-use planners.

“This research presented a new method that can be used to generate future climate data for the existing hydrological models,” said Gang Chen, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the college. “With the integration of more reliable future climate data, the existing hydrological models can more accurately project future water scenarios in the face of climate change.”

Chen is leading a team of experts to produce new data techniques to improve hydrological modeling that is essential for water resource management planning. Their work was published in WATER.

Read story here.
Limit distractions and maintain privacy in your current surroundings by using a virtual background. Make a good impression and share images of the College from around the campus.

Check out the images available through our online gallery here.

FAMU Suicide Prevention Training - Register by October 20

The Office of Counseling Services wants to thank everyone that attended the Suicide Prevention Training last month.

We know that there were some participants who were not able to enter the training due to a maximum capacity limit. Because of this, we are offering the training one more time.

Please click here to register. Feel free to share this information with your classmates and coworkers. Open to faculty, staff and students.

You are Future Faculty | Register for Upcoming Info Sessions

Do you think you may be interested in a faculty position one day? Whether you love research, prefer teaching, or see yourself as a future administrator, a faculty position may be for you!

To provide information on faculty opportunities in STEM, the Title III Minority Graduate Engineering Program has organized Zoom presentations with schools looking to hire underrepresented PhD’s in Engineering and other STEM disciplines. Don’t worry if you are not graduating soon. Even if you are a first year graduate student, come hear the representatives discuss what their schools look for in faculty hires and what faculty life is like on these campuses!

The upcoming presentations are as follows:
Rochester Institute of Technology. Thursday October 1 at 4:00pm. See attached flyer for Zoom registration or use this link: https://rit.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6eU0rClSk7c1cbz
Stop the spread! Support cybersecurity at FSU

You are essential in stopping the spread of cybercrime. Join FSU for National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and learn how to stay safe online wherever you are connecting, either on campus or virtually. Together, we can help keep ourselves and others safe in today’s virtual world.

Take the [Seminole Safe Exam](https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkdumrpjIqHNRGNspaiwE4R4KyGVeOZDZv)

Join a [Virtual Cybersecurity Session](https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkdumrpjIqHNRGNspaiwE4R4KyGVeOZDZv)

Practice Healthy Online Habits

1. **AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH CYBERSCAMS** Delete phishing emails and voicemails
2. **COVER YOUR PASSWORD** Never share your password with anyone
3. **DON’T UNMASK YOUR IDENTITY** Use 2FA for an extra layer of protection
4. **DISINFECT YOUR DEVICES** Run antivirus software regularly
5. **STAY HOME** Avoid public Wi-Fi or use a VPN to connect if not using your home network

Stop by the [COE Cafe](https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkdumrpjIqHNRGNspaiwE4R4KyGVeOZDZv) and check out the grad-n-go menu options.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**
Monday- Thursday - 9am-3pm
Friday - 9am-2:30pm

Counseling Services Workshops and Groups
COE Workshop Series

I Published, Great! Now What?
September 23, 2020 • 12 PM - 1 PM
Register at: bit.ly/2zcKmNk

Intro to ChemDraw
September 30, 2020 • 12 PM - 1 PM
Register at: bit.ly/2BMIWiP

Intro to Mendeley
October 7, 2020 • 12 PM - 1 PM
Register at: bit.ly/3ha3jkQ

Creating Scientific Graphics with Adobe Illustrator
October 21, 2020 • 12 PM - 1 PM
Register at: bit.ly/3h9iavR

Advanced Patent Searching:
Cooperative Patent Classification System
October 14, 2020 • 12 PM - 1 PM
Register at: bit.ly/2MLJ3YN

Register at: lib.fsu.edu/workshops/all-workshops
WOW Professional Development Program

WOW helps aspiring professionals, from administrators to college students define, communicate, and share their authentic brand story so that they perform, persist, and pivot with confidence in their careers and leadership roles. Click [here](#) for the program overview and information about the eight-week WOW program that launches virtually on October 19.
It could be a good fit for engineering students and PIs. Several women in leadership positions in higher education have enrolled in the October cohort. I would appreciate a referral if there's anyone you think needs help reaching strategic goals, especially in a politically sensitive environment.

Kathy Y. Times  
President, Yellow Brick Media Concepts  
Past President (2009-2011)  
National Association of Black Journalists

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**Hertz Fellowship Application Closes October 23**

There are only two weeks left to apply for the [2021 Hertz Fellowship](#). Please explore these resources and encourage your colleagues to apply.

The Hertz Fellowship provides financial and lifelong professional support for the nation's most promising graduate students in science and technology.

We're looking for visionary leaders who want to apply their research toward solving the world's toughest challenges – from improving human health to protecting the health of the planet.

Hertz Fellows receive up to five years of graduate funding and join an influential community of more than 1200 peers, creating lifelong connections that will accelerate one's career.

**Benefits of the Hertz Fellowship**
- Full tuition equivalent for five years
- $34,000/year stipend - higher if combined with another fellowship
- Powerful community of 1,200+ peers
- Special events, workshops, and networking opportunities

Please reach out to us with any questions at [fellowshipinfo@hertzfoundation.org](mailto:fellowshipinfo@hertzfoundation.org).

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**Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program**

The application period for the [Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program](#) has begun. Regeneron (NASDAQ: REGN) is a leading science and technology company delivering life-transforming medicines for serious diseases.

Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to apply.

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**Opportunity: Machine Learning in Science & Engineering**

*The Columbia University Data Science Institute is hosting a virtual conference and offering a research submission opportunity that may be relevant for students across engineering, math, computer science, and technology disciplines.*

**What:** [Machine Learning in Science & Engineering (MLSE 2020)](#) will demonstrate how data-driven approaches can help solve emerging challenges. With 11 dedicated Tracks,
Event Dates: December 14-15, 2020 - Virtual

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Submit Research. Several MLSE 2020 Tracks are looking for posters, abstracts, panelists, and speakers. We encourage faculty and students from your university to submit research for inclusion. Deadline: Thursday, October 15 (Midnight ET)

Registration is FREE for students! Please encourage students to attend to network with leaders in science and engineering. Undergraduate, graduate, PhD, and postdocs can all register for free. Students can also volunteer for more dedicated networking.

New DOE Graduate Research Fellowship

IBUILD Graduate Research Fellowship

Apply Today!

Application Deadline: December 1, 2020, 5:00 PM EST

The Innovation in Buildings (IBUILD) Graduate Research Fellowship is now accepting applications through December 1, 2020 (5:00 PM EST).

What will I be doing? You will get to advance your graduate research by receiving research and educational support to conduct innovative research at your home institution in an area with demonstrated relevance to building energy efficiency. To ensure an impactful fellowship, you will also gain professional development, mentoring, networking, and support for internship opportunities.

Why should I apply? In addition to advancing your graduate research, you will 1) enhance your education and training in building technologies fields; 2) increase your marketability in these disciplines; 3) gain access to top scientists in the building energy efficiency field; and 4) gain insight into research and career opportunities through your research experiences.

Where will I be located? The IBUILD Fellowship is designed to support research at your home college or university. IBUILD Fellows may be required to take occasional trips to the BTO office or a national laboratory, when applicable, to meet program representatives.

Apply Today!

The details: You will receive a competitive stipend of $35,000, an allowance to offset the costs of health insurance up to $16,000, research travel and materials up to $12,000, and limited tuition allowance up to $25,000.

Fellowship will be awarded in 12-month increments based on an annual review of research progress and sustained alignment with designated BTO research areas.

You must be a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident and be enrolled or intend to
enroll as a full-time doctoral or master’s graduate student at a qualified program requiring a research thesis/dissertation at an accredited U.S. college or university by September 1, 2021 with a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale.

**Program Website**

**Questions?** Email [IBUILD@orise.orau.gov](mailto:IBUILD@orise.orau.gov). Please list the reference code [DOE-EERE-RPP-IBUILD-2020] for this opportunity in the subject line of your email.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Events are indicated as either V = Virtual or F2F = In-person

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**OCTOBER**

**Center for Academic Innovation and Technology Workshop** - Interpreting/Responding to Student Evaluations - Friday, October 16, 1:00 PM, V

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**NOVEMBER**

Thanksgiving Holiday - Wednesday, November 25 thru Friday, November 27, 2020

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**DECEMBER**

2020-2021 Winter Break - Monday, December 21 thru Friday, January 1, 2021

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**JANUARY 2021**

College Reopens - Monday, January 4, 2021

Spring Semester begins - January 6 | All classes will be taught remotely for first 3 days.

MLK holiday - January 18

Spring Break is canceled.

Spring Semester ends - April 23

*Last day of classes is April 16. Exam week is April 19-23.*

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**COVID-19 INFORMATION**

- Florida’s COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard
  Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

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*Want to add something to the next issue?*

**Email us!** Deadline is Friday noon for Monday publication.