Phased return to work at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

As you know we have been approved for Phase I of return to work. **No more than 25% occupancy is permitted and social distancing and the use of masks is mandatory.** If you are able to continue working from home you are strongly encouraged to do that and not return to work. **To return to work you must have permission from your department chair or director, and the dean.** We will handle requests differently depending on whether your work will involve research or not. In either case you should approach your department chair to seek their permission. After that:

- For non-research activities, the department chair or director will submit a request to Janine Welch who will grant approval while assuring that the occupancy limits are not exceeded in each office suite, or area.

- For research activities you will have to sign an agreement to indicate your need and how you will control access so that occupancy limits are not exceeded and work is conducted safely. Your department chair will distribute copies of this form. A faculty P.I. will work with their group to assure that no more than 25% occupancy occurs at any one time, and will confirm that in the written agreement. If your research work occurs in a research center outside the college buildings, you will need the center director’s approval instead of the chair’s.

**Effective Monday May 11th** we expect to reauthorize card access for faculty and staff in buildings A and B. You may enter the building briefly to pick up something if needed, but you are not permitted to work in the building without obtaining permission described above. Everyone entering the building must wear a mask, according to FSU regulations, even during a brief visit.

**Graduate students will not be given access until this is requested by their faculty advisor and included in a safe research operation plan.**

I apologize for the complexity but we are obliged to ensure by university and state regulations that occupancy is low, social distancing is enforced and work is conducted safely. You should receive more information about the approval process for returning to work shortly.

**Murray Gibson**

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**Seven FSU students win prestigious NSF graduate fellowships**
Seven Florida State University students have received the highly competitive Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

The group of seven students includes five from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, a record for the college.

"Being selected for the very prestigious and highly competitive NSF Graduate Research Fellowship is a tremendous achievement for any student," Farrukh Alvi, associate dean for Research and Graduate Studies said. "That five students from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering are selected for this honor is remarkable and speaks to the hard work of our students."

Read story here.

Research Participant Recruitment

My name is Jessika Guerard and I am a doctoral candidate in the combined Counseling Psychology and School Psychology program here at FSU. I invite you to take part in my research study because I am collecting data on international students attending FSU to examine the relation between English language proficiency, perceived discrimination, social connectedness on academic achievement and self-efficacy. While there is no direct benefit for participants of this study, it is important to collect data from international students in order to better assist them in their academic journey in the United States.

If you choose to participate in my research study please click on the following link: https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qvb5DffXQSNJmB
Please feel free to contact me at jg15j@my.fsu.edu if you have any questions about my research study. Thank you so much for your time. –Jessika Guerard

Research Survey: Participation Request

My name is Amber Hedquist and I am an undergraduate
researcher in the FSU English Department. I am currently conducting a thesis project requiring survey data from both institutions. My thesis pertains to the railroad dividing FAMU and FSU. I will be taking a theoretical approach and centering the analysis through spatial rhetoric. There is an empirical piece to it as well: I received a research grant from FSU to conduct a survey gauging the perceptions of students and faculty within the Tallahassee community.

I need input from FAMU and FSU faculty, staff and students and am providing survey links below if you choose to participate. Thank you.

FAMU Participant Survey here. | FSU Participants Survey here.

The survey will remain open until May 7th, 2020. If you would like more information about the study, please contact me at anh18c@my.fsu.edu

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**Appropriate Use of Zoom During Business Hours**

*An important message from FSU Office of Human Resources*

This message has been approved by Renisha Gibbs, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Finance & Administration Chief of Staff, for distribution to all Deans, Directors, and Department Heads.

The University is incredibly grateful for the service and effort employees have exhibited in continuing our crucial business operations through remote work. It has been heavily stated already that we are experiencing unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand the stress and uncertainty that this pandemic has elicited.

Now more than ever, we encourage you to connect personally and professionally, and to find ways to continue the close relationships you have fostered in your teams. However, professional boundaries that were established in the office must be adhered to even now. During scheduled work hours, employees are representing the University and should adhere to established policies.

Specifically, the consumption of alcohol during work hours is prohibited. Please refrain from the consumption of alcohol during remote meetings if the meeting is considered work time and mandatory for faculty and/or staff. This does not prohibit you from using Zoom and similar platforms for informal, voluntary gatherings with your team. For gatherings during work time, consider hosting coffee hours and virtual lunch breaks as an alternative to “happy hour” which is only appropriate on personal time. Please see the [Coffee & Conversations infographic](#) for reminders about connecting professionally while working remotely.

Questions? For staff, please contact Tracey Pearson at tvpearson@fsu.edu. For faculty, please contact Rebecca Peterson at rpeterson@fsu.edu.

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**Nominate a Colleague for an Award at NOBCChE 2020**
The effect of COVID-19 on daily life has altered our ability to access and respond to many things we once deemed simple. Keeping the current state of the world in mind, the 2020 Awards Committee invites you to highlight outstanding work in chemistry, chemical engineering, and chemical education. Nominating a peer or colleague for one of the National NOBCChE Awards is an opportunity to acknowledge that person’s extraordinary accomplishments, support the vision of other scientists, and inspire others to strive for excellence in every endeavor.

May 31, 2020 is the extended deadline for the 2020 National NOBCChE Awards nomination period. The NOBCChE Awards committee is dedicated to recognizing the research, career, and service efforts of our peers in academia, industry, and government. At-a-glance award descriptions are attached. For more information on submitting a nomination for a National NOBCChE Award visit www.nobcche.org/awards

2020 Awards Committee | National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers

Final Invite - LEED Training Special - Florida - Summer Online Webinars

I hope this announcement finds you safe and that you have a great summer! This will be my final email reminder and I hope students can take advantage of their time over the summer to advance their knowledge in sustainability. I have transitioned all upcoming in-class LEED workshops in Florida to live webinars so students can participate in the identical training while remaining safe and isolated.

With this being said, I was hoping you could send the updated invite below to the undergrads and grads in The Engineering Department at Florida A&M University - FSU as some have attended in the past. Your students can also use the discount code ‘green’ for $50 off the course price and perhaps your group or department could help subsidize the cost further.

Webinar and Online self-paced options-
I will be offering live webinars that can be streamed on any of the following dates:
1. May 9 2020 – 1:00PM – 5:00PM EDT
2. June 6 2020 – 2:00PM – 6:00PM EDT
3. June 25 2020 – 5:00PM – 9:00PM EDT
4. July 11 2020 – 1:00PM – 5:00PM EDT
5. July 29 2020 – 5:00PM – 9:00PM EDT
6. August 23 2020 – 1:00PM – 5:00PM EDT - OR -
7. September 12 2020 – 2:00PM – 6:00PM EDT
The above options are identical to the in-person workshops.
You can register here for a webinar - https://leadinggreen.com/webinars
FAMU-FSU researcher awarded NSF funding for COVID-19 impact on municipal solid waste management facilities

By: Trisha Radulovich, May 7, 2020, FAMU-FSU Engineering

A FAMU-FSU College of Engineering researcher is studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on municipal solid waste management systems with the help of a Rapid Response Research grant from the National Science Foundation.

“There has been a lack of understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic affects our waste management industry,” Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Juyeong Choi said.

Choi and fellow researcher, Professor of Civil Engineering Tarek Abichou, will examine waste-management system-related challenges in the pandemic environment across several states. They are hoping to produce an informational database that will allow for the development of a more proactive, resilient approach for future pandemics.

[Read story here.]

FSU News: Fundamentals of physics help engineers study mysteries of termite mounds

By Bill Wellock, MAY 8, 2020, FSU News

*The mound of an African giant termite (Macrotermes jeanneli) in southern Ethiopia. (Courtesy of Scilight)*
When FAMU-FSU Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Neda Yaghoobian looks at a termite mound, she sees more than a pile of dirt. She sees an engineered structure. Termite mounds, with their odd shapes, are designed naturally by termites to provide livable spaces for their residents — just like human-designed buildings.

Read story here.

5 things new graduates should do to plan their careers

Today’s graduates start their job search with a belief that they should enter their company or industry of choice immediately after graduation. At least that’s what we’ve observed in our experience advising thousands of college students over the years on how to launch their careers.

Research has shown that younger millennials and older Gen Zers — that is, those born between 1990 and 1998 — are motivated by roles that are meaningful and where they can be given responsibility quickly. They tend to change jobs often and are looking for ways to move up the ladder and increase their salary at a faster pace than other generations currently in the workforce.

Read story here.

FAMU-FSU: Mental health services for our students

Below you will find information about services offered, how to make an appointment and the Welltrack app. Our students wellbeing is vital to their success at COE and beyond. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am here to help.

FAMU:
http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?Counseling&OurServices
Phone: 850.599.3145
Email: counseling@famu.edu

FSU:
https://counseling.fsu.edu/
Crisis support: 850.644.TALK (8255)
Email not provided. Students directed to call number above.
6 Ways to Find Purpose in a Time of Social Distancing

By Marcus Griswold, Medium.com

Just before COVID 19, I was feeling anxious. Anxious about the loss of self — a commute that's too long, a work schedule that was too rigid, lack of positive feedback, and what felt like a detour in my life — a loss of the future self I had imagined as a child.

A child that spent every day running through the woods and streams and spending summers exploring National Parks. Yes, I knew I wanted to be a nature nerd from nursery school, and still do. This was and is what I believe to be my heart-centered work.

As I have talked with friends over the past month, I've realized I am not alone in this realization. This self-isolation is giving us the needed break, the one I was prepared to take on my own had this pandemic not happened. A break to recharge, rethink, and regroup.

Read Story here.
Try YouTube Kids

MagLab: Online Teaching tools, Zoom backgrounds and science distancing

This is a cool site for setting your kids up at home to do hands-on STEM activities.

And here's a link to the virtual museum tours.

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CLC: Miniature Filmmaking with William!

Explore miniature film-making with William! Learn different techniques you can try at home and see how the professionals behind-the-scenes of the Star Wars movies bring battling spacecraft to life. May the Fourth Be With You!

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @ChallengerTLH for updates on when new virtual lessons are available and other engaging content.

More virtual lessons here.

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STRESS AND COVID-19

Resources for Living: COVID-19 Resources


Employee Assistance Program Available Services

An important message from FSU Office of Human Resources

Florida State University values employees and the work that they do. Because of this, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was created in the spring of 1995 to improve the well-being of FSU employees by providing assistance through personal and/or workplace difficulties.

To ensure the health and safety of both counselors and clients during this emergency period, all services are being offered via phone and video. Requests for in-person appointments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. EAP’s highest priority is to continue our commitment to FSU employees by providing the following services:

Confidential Counseling Sessions

Employees and their dependents have access to confidential and timely problem identification/assessment services. Through constructive confrontation, motivation, and short-term intervention with employee clients, these sessions address problems that affect job performance. When necessary, clients are referred for diagnosis, long-term treatment, monitoring, and follow-up services.

Confidential Supervisor Consults

Consultation, training, and support are available to those who manage employees seeking assistance from the Employee Assistance Program.
assistance (VP’s, Deans, Directors, Department Heads, Department Chairs, managers, and all other supervisory personnel). The goal is to enhance the employee’s work environment and improve job performance and satisfaction.

Mediation/Guided Discussion Services

Sometimes, parties need help to resolve their differences. When employees need help in resolving conflict, they may turn to the EAP Conflict Resolution Program which includes free, confidential Mediation and Guided Discussions to help resolve disputes.

Emergency Loan Fund (ELF) Program

EAP administers FSU’s Emergency Loan Fund (ELF) which was established to aid employees facing unexpected financial emergencies. If eligible, an individual may receive an interest-free loan of up to $1,500, which is repaid through payroll deduction. Additionally, EAP has partnered with Debt Management Credit Counseling Corporation (DMCC) to assist those in the FSU community who may be struggling with debt or wanting to increase their credit rating. DMCC has a host of resources that can assist you in regaining the road to financial solvency, including Debt Management Plans and Online Financial Literacy Programs.

Resources

EAP is available 24/7 to respond to any emergency. For assistance by phone, call (850) 644-2288 or toll free at (877) 246-4679. For assistance by email, please click here.

For tips on managing stress amid the COVID-19 pandemic, please read Coping with Stress and Anxiety during the Coronavirus.

Want to add something to the next issue? Email us! Deadline is Friday for Monday publication.