Welcome new Phi Theta Kappa inductees!

by Amy Radke

Photo of inductees lighting their “candle of knowledge.”

Congratulations to the SSA’s new Vice Chairman, Robert Chapderlane and Secretary, Berthina Rene!

Telemmedicine Systems integration at FM

by Devin O’Shaughnessy

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How will SUNY campuses handle minimum wage?

by Winnie Blackwood

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There has been a rise in the past two years, going from $8 to $8.75 an hour on Dec. 31, 2014. Then from $8.75 to $9 an hour (the college’s current minimum wage) on Dec. 31, 2015.

The only employees at FM who are earning minimum wage are the student workers, such as tutors and lab aides.

According to Swanger and Lee Kosiba, FM’s representative of the Civil Service Employees Association, the rest of the staff is being paid around or over $12 per hour as of right now.

Kosiba said, “Our group does see it as we are not getting a raise, and everybody else is. We negotiate with the college and some people for 50 cents an hour maybe, and they are jumping up $4 in a couple years, so is it fair to us? I don’t really think so, but what can I do?”

This was another concern of Swanger’s, if the minimum wage

Navigating the new news

by James Swanger

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March is Women’s History Month and FM will celebrate with the event, “Sugar, Spice and Everything not so Nice,” an evening dedicated to the topics everyday women struggle with, from jealousy to pregnancy and everything in between.

Students from on and off campus and staff of all ages will speak during the event.

FM student Asia Knight is the mastermind behind “Sugar, Spice and Everything not so Nice.”

“This event is to empower women, to uplift women and to raise awareness for Women’s History Month because a lot of people don’t know about it,” Knight said.

The movement for women’s rights has changed so much, but the work isn’t over yet. There is still a fight for fair wages between men and women, breastfeeding in public and so much more.

Friends of Knight, along with Gwendolyn Ossenkop, FM’s coordinator of student activities and the director of the College Union, and Jean Marie Reinke, FM’s coordinator of outreach and retention have helped with the effort.

“I thought it was going to be hard to find people because many people don’t like to speak in front of crowds. I didn’t know it was going to get this much feedback. I want people to leave knowing they aren’t alone and that there are people going through the same things as you,” Knight said.

If you’re a woman you should come to the event to be empowered, and if you’re a man you should also come to be enlightened about the struggles of women.

“Sugar, Spice and Everything not so Nice,” will be held from 6-8 pm March 11 in Raider’s Cove.

Telemedicine Systems
cont.
send it to a local pharmacy and you could pick it up.

The pilot system would include a room, located in the Public Safety office, which is always open, and would feature a laptop computer.

This laptop would then be connected to a Telemedicine network, where a doctor would be available to consult with a patient regarding whatever the problem may be.

“We had to find a room that could be private when it was needed for that, and we looked to Public Safety, and there was actually a camera, which we removed from the room,” said Swanger.

When considering these new systems, a few questions have been proposed, such as whether or not the patient will get to choose a specific doctor in the area, or if it was limited to the county’s doctors and nurses on hand.

Swanger also had the same questions, and revealed that any student can indeed choose a specific doctor that they feel more comfortable with.

“…In talking to several doctors, many have said that they don’t necessarily need to see or touch the patient. If they talk to the patient, they can pretty much figure out what’s going on,” said Swanger.

The college has been approached about Telemedicine a few years ago, although Swanger revealed that “[w]hen we looked at what the gentleman was offering us, we would have had to charge a pretty substantial fee to students to be able to afford it, and we didn’t want to do that.”

This is not the only model that can be available for Telemedicine. There is another model which can be accessed through any mobile device, and can easily connect you to a doctor, nurse, or nurse practitioner regardless of location, or time.

The system that is currently being considered here at FM is a pilot program, and Swanger stated that he would like to see it get to that point further down the road.

“I haven’t been given an official notice, but I think that the department of Public Health is going to get the grant which means they’re going to put it out here,” said Swanger.

A task force, Clear the Air, has been created at FM in order to address smoking and tobacco use, as well as with the goal to make the campus tobacco-free in the future.

According to FM’s smoking policy tobacco use is permitted outside of the college in designated spots and prohibited in all of the college’s buildings.

The policy also states, “For the purpose of this policy, tobacco is defined as any type of tobacco product including, but not limited to, cigarettes (commercial, handmade, electronic), cigars, cigarillos, pipes, hookahs, oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff), vaping, or any other smoking material or device.”

Lead by Lisa Hirder, secretary to the Vice President for Administration and Finance, the task force as of right now has distributed anonymous surveys to staff, faculty, administration and students at FM through the website Survey Monkey.

This will allow Hirder and the task force to better understand and determine what the best policy for FM is. The survey was also created to hear from both sides of the issue concerning tobacco use and attitudes toward it.

“One of the things that we really want to emphasize is that we’re respecting others and the environment. We all know that smoking is an addiction; it doesn’t make them bad people,” Hirder said.

Other elements of the project the task force is working on includes activities that will educate individuals about smoking and secondhand smoke and treatments to help those addicted. The project received a grant from Truth Initiative.

Imran Suhail, chairman of the Student Senate Association and a former cigarette smoker, who now uses a vape pen, said this is a mental and physical issue. He believes FM shouldn’t focus on becoming a tobacco-free campus, but instead on helping those beat the addiction.

“People smoke on the walkway. That’s the real problem. It’s not the fact that we have a problem with our smoking areas…[T]he hats are pointed towards the doors, when they should be pointing the opposite way,” Suhail said of the smoking hats near the library.

Robert Richardson, deputy of Public Safety and a smoker himself, said he doesn’t have a problem when he asks individuals smoking to move to the designated areas.

After a warning or two, Suhail said there should be a penalty or a fine if someone isn’t complying.

According to Hirder, if it is determined the task force wants to go ahead with making FM a tobacco-free campus after compiling all the data by the end of the year, the next step would be to go to FM’s President Dr. Dustin Swanger and the Board of Trustees. This could take another year.

The anonymous survey is available to those willing to take it until March 17.
Leo finally wins!

by Marissa Nellis

The 88th annual Oscars aired Feb. 28, resulting in some surprising winners, shocking upsets and Leonardo DiCaprio’s first Oscar win.

The biggest winner of the night was, “Mad Max: Fury Road,” which took home six Oscars: Sound Mixing, Sound Editing, Production Design, Film Editing, Makeup and Hairstyling and Costume Design.

The film, however, did not win Best Visual Effects.

In a surprising upset, “Ex Machina,” a film about a humanoid robot, beat out both “Mad Max” and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

Leonardo DiCaprio has been long overdue for an Oscar and this was certainly his year as the academy finally gave him his moment.

His win became the most tweeted about moment in Twitter history as fans expressed their love and support for the famed actor.

“Spotlight” won the biggest prize of the night with Best Picture.

Though it had been the front-runner in the category, viewers were still shocked that “The Revenant” didn’t take home the prize as Alejandro González Iñárritu won for Best Director.

In one of the most shocking upsets of the night, Sam Smith’s “Writing’s On The Wall” beat out Lady Gaga’s “Til It Happens To You” for Best Original Song.

Just before the award was announced, Lady Gaga gave a heartfelt performance, which included an introduction by Vice President Joe Biden and a finale of various sexual assault survivors coming together on stage and holding hands.

Before Oscar nominations were announced, Carol, the love-story between two women in the 1950s, was poised to be a big winner this year, but didn’t take home a single Oscar.

The film missed out on nominations in two of the biggest categories, Best Director and Best Picture.

Chris Rock tackled the Oscars controversy head-on and gave, arguably, one of the best opening monologues in Academy Awards history.

He used bold comedy to drive home some very important points about the lack of diversity in Hollywood.

In one of his best lines, he said, “Is Hollywood racist? Is it burning-crosses racist? No. It’s not the kind of racism that you’ve grown accustomed to. Hollywood is sorority racist. It’s like, ‘We like you Rhonda, but you’re not a Kappa.’”

SUNY minimum wage cont.

increased to $15, then the rest of the employees who are earning more then the minimum wage will need to increase to $15 for the next year.

Laurence Zuckerman, FM’s assistant professor of accounting and business, said there are both positive and negative impacts that could come from Cuomo’s proposed model.

“The (students’) wages would go up and to the degree that helps them by earning extra money. That actually helps FM because if students are making more money to spend here at the bookstore or the cafeteria that’s good for them and that’s good for us,” he said.

He added, “There’s a negative side to that, though, because when wages go up sometimes the hours that employers make available to workers go down.”

Swanger said this is a possibility for FM’s student workers, as well as the possibility of having to cut jobs. An increase in tuition and fees is another possibility if this comes to fruition.

Rauch said, “If we were to go to the very top at $15 an hour, as of now that would cost annually another $94,000 - plus for the college.”

If Cuomo decides to create a law, Swanger doesn’t know where the extra money will come from. He only has three revenue sources, the students, the counties and the state.

There is also only so much money from the federal government.

“The pot of money is the pot of money,” he said.

For the past two semesters, Eleanor Hovak has been both a PERKS tutor and lab aid for the Digital Multimedia Transmedia department.

She said she is happy to see a raise. Hovak believes student workers do deserve to make $15 an hour.

“I think that tutoring and lab aiding and the other sorts of tasks that students get paid for around campus are valuable skills,” she said.

Appreciation for the “diner” things

by Foody Moody

For your next meal out, if you’re looking for a place with more character than fast food chains, but less formal than a fine restaurant, then a diner is the perfect choice.

Diners are nostalgic and memorable. They offer good selection, and are often open when other places are closed.

Here are reviews of three meals at three diners located within 10 miles of FM:

Breakfast
Miss Johnstown, 28 East Main Street Johnstown, Open 24/7.

Miss Johnstown is a small trailer with vintage fixtures and a kitschy atmosphere. The staff is friendly.

The coffee arrived fresh in a heavy ceramic mug – no free refills, but a second cup is just 50 cents. French toast, available in thick or thin, was moist and fluffy. The sausage patty was flavorful and did not taste processed. The highlight of breakfast was the generous serving of fresh -cut home fried potatoes Right-sized cubes were cooked to perfection with whipped topping – but it is free-

Lunch
Palace Diner, 62 South Main Street Gloversville, Open Monday to Friday 7am -3pm; Saturday 6am-12pm; closed Sunday.

Purchased in 1923, this old railroad car is busy and fun. The staff is attentive and talkative. The roast white meat turkey was fresh and tender; with a sagey white gravy on top. The cucumber salad, a Palace specialty, was refreshing but a little too sweet. Coffee is brewed strong.

The Communications Club meets every Wednesday during common hour in room N009. Come show us your talent!
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

March 2016

If you ask any child what they want to be when they grow up, some will say, “I want to be a firefighter,” because their heroes are firefighters.

Extinguishing a fire, rescuing someone, or getting to drive a firetruck is so exciting to some people. To those who know what it’s like to be a firefighter, they see their job a little different.

Hannah Sowle, a General Studies major, is an active firefighter in her local community. She is a member of the Sir William Johnson Volunteer Fire Department.

When she first joined the fire department, she was a probationary firefighter. “If we got a call, I was the one running back and forth between the scene and the trucks getting tools. I was on a probation period, I couldn’t do much,” Sowle said.

Sowle has been with the fire department since she was sixteen. When asked why she wanted to become part of this force, she explained that it was something she had always wanted to do because she grew up around it.

Serving as a firefighter is the Sowle’s family tradition. Her grandfather, father and younger brothers all served as firefighters.

Sowle has taken classes in Vehicle Extraction and more recently finished training in Fire Police.

“All hands on deck” is especially important in a volunteer fire department. On campus, she is part of the American Sign Language club. Off campus, Sowle holds a steady job, while maintaining relationships around her, yet she still finds time to help where there is a need.

“Occasionally I like to use the gender neutral bathroom because it’s easier for me. Sometimes I will use the men’s bathroom and students will see me and walk out, or they’ll see me at the urinal and they leave probably because I’m gay. I think they’re uncomfortable being in the same space as a gay man because we are so exposed, but I’m just trying to empty my bladder.”

Humans of FM

Get MORE from your college experience.

MORE Choices
60 undergraduate programs on 2 campuses
25 graduate programs at 3 graduate schools
17 linked and accelerated programs

MORE Personal Attention
12:1 student-to-faculty ratio
Average class size of 18
Caring, accessible faculty

MORE Opportunities
Internship placements for every student
60+ clubs and organizations
2 art galleries and 2 theatres on campus
15 NCAA Division III sports teams

MORE Results
99% of graduates surveyed are employed or in grad school within 6 months

THE SAGE COLLEGES
ALBANY | TROY | ONLINE