



THE COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS
Memorandum

DATE: January 17, 2025
TO: District Board of Trustees
FROM: Monekka Munroe, Ed.D., Vice President, Academic Affairs
DEPARTMENT: Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Division Report – Monekka Munroe, Ed.D.

Marine Science and Technology Division

The Division of Marine Science and Technology is pleased to welcome Dr. Luiz Fernandes, Faculty, Marine Science. Dr. Fernandes has 30-plus years of post-secondary teaching experience in Brazil, California, and Florida. He holds a BS in Biological Sciences, an MS in Marine Sciences, and a PhD in Biological Oceanography. Dr. Fernandes has published numerous journal articles, books, and book chapters. He specializes in marine aquaculture.



Marine Resource Management (MRM)

MRM students Kacy Sparrow and William Reese were awarded two of only 20 available scholarships from the National Parks Conservation Association to attend the annual Everglades Coalition Conference in January. This year's event will be at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. The scholarship includes free conference registration, all meals, a hotel room, and a pairing with a mentor from within the non-governmental organizational community to help with networking at the event.

MRM Student William Reese was awarded the Shark Lab internship at the Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation in the Bahamas. Mr. Reese will begin his internship later this spring.

Arts & Hospitality Division

New Interim Dean and Director

The department of Arts and Hospitality has bid farewell to former Dean, Dr. Michael McPherson on his new journey into retirement. His contributions to the College were impactful and he will be missed. The College has promoted Director of Arts and Hospitality, Mr. Joe Gormley as the new Interim Dean for the department. Before joining the CFK family a year ago, Mr. Gormley was the Hospitality Management Chair at the College of Southern Nevada and a small business owner. Some of his business ventures include JJ's Italian Ices, JJ's Snack Shacks, and his proudest

accomplishment, Moose's Beach House Bar and Grill. Mr. Gormley has earned an MBA in Finance, from UNLV and is currently working towards a DBA in Marketing.

We are pleased to welcome our new Director of Art and Hospitality, Mr. Bryan Gaitan. Mr. Gaitan has been a member of the CFK family for the last 14 years. Mr. Gaitan began his career as a work study, a tutor, and eventually joined the library staff while simultaneously teaching courses as an adjunct instructor. Bryan has a bachelor's degree in English, graduating Cum Laude from UMass Lowell, and is currently working on his master's degree in English from Arizona State University.

Project ACCESS Honored in New York

The Project ACCESS team traveled to New York City with Dr. Gueverra to attend the National Retail Federation Foundation (NRF) award ceremony where The College of the Florida Keys was the recipient of the RISE Up Partner of the Year award. An NRF film crew came to the Key West campus to record a video highlighting how NRF Foundation RISE Up training is used by CFK, and the positive impact the program is having on students, retailers, and the larger community. The final product was a feather in CFK's cap.



Sciences & Nursing Division

Nursing Admissions

- **ASN:** 38 New Students Enrolled of the 45 accepted offer letters.
- **BSN:** 7 Students were admitted to the BSN program; 3 students are recent graduates of the ASN program.

Nursing Faculty

Michelle Ho was hired as an Upper Keys Center full-time nursing faculty. Her assigned courses include Fundamentals of Nursing and Clinical Nursing 2 clinical instruction.

La Quinta Robers was hired as an Upper Keys Center full-time nursing faculty. Her assigned courses include Pharmacology for Nursing, Clinical Nursing 1 and 2, and clinical instruction.

Professional Development

Nursing and EMS Faculty completed a simulation training session on the use and design of SimMan scenarios provided by Laerdal.

Learning Resource Center Division

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, CFK Academy ELA Instructor, Dr. Drewel brought four groups of her students to the library to conduct research focused on Homer's *The Odyssey*. Students spent time on the computers, in the stacks, or working with LRC staff to find materials and sources focusing on various projects relating to Ancient Greek history and culture including mythology, architecture, weapons, music, food, poetry, plays, language/linguistics.

During the Fall 2024 term students utilized Brainfuse Online Tutoring for 67 sessions of live help and submitted 280 papers for review to Brainfuse's Online Writing Lab. LRC staff and tutors provided 148 sessions of in-person tutoring.

During the first week of January Assistant Director, LRC Gonzalez packed 760 of the inventoried cassette tapes that had been donated by Bill Becker, former news director for U.S. 1 Radio. The cassettes were then shipped to Preserve South to be digitized. This is part of *The Bill Becker Tapes: A Florida Keys Radio Retrospective*, a project funded by the Division of Historical Resources Historic Preservation Grant Program.

Institute for Public Safety (IPS) Division

IPS applied for the five-year recertification to continue to be an FDLE certified Criminal Justice Training Center which expires June 30, 2025. The recertification application will be presented at the February Commission Meeting in Lake Mary, FL.

Key West –Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) Academy #92 began November 13, 2024, and has nine Monroe County Sheriff Office (MCSO) sponsored recruits. This academy is full-time.

The BLE #92 MCSO sponsored recruits volunteered during the Winter Break to assist with the MCSO animal farm.



Image: Students volunteering at the MCSO Animal Farm.

Key Largo – Jasmine Jefferson, IPS Assistant Director, will be attending the February Commission Meeting in Lake Mary, FL, the week of February 3, 2025.

BLE #89 Academy will be starting their last block of training before graduating March 7, 2025.

Emergency Management Services (EMS) Division

Program Development

The EMT and Paramedic program passed the state audit in December by the Department of Health. The Paramedic II and III cohort will begin this month in both upper and lower keys.

Community Outreach

The EMS program will be attending the 1st Annual Community Day on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the Key Largo location, where we will be exhibiting the Sim Rig along with information on our upcoming Paramedic and EMT cohorts.

Certificate of Approval

For the
**Emergency Medical Technician
Education Program**
Sponsored by
College of the Florida Keys # 59

*This approval is for the period beginning on
November 11, 2024 and ending on November 11, 2026.*

*This certificate is issued as approval and recognition that this program meets
the standards as specified in Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.*



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight


Steve McCoy
Bureau Chief

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Certificate of Approval

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