



## THE COLLEGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS Memorandum

**DATE:** September 10, 2024  
**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. Gregory, Faculty of Marine Science. Dr. Gregory holds a BS in Biology from the College of William and Mary, an MS in Animal Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida. He specializes in aquatic health science.



Mr. Coy has also joined the Faculty of Marine Engineering, Management, and Seamanship. Mr. Coy is a retired Army Chaplain. He recently graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in Marine Engineering, Management, and Seamanship from The College of the Florida Keys. Mr. Coy holds a BS in Social Work from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Divinity from the United Theological Seminary.



### **Marine Resource Management**

Several members of the senior cohort of the Bachelor of Science in Marine Resource Management (MRM) students have started their capstone experiences with various agencies throughout the Florida Keys. The agencies include the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, the Conch Republic Marine Army, the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, Plant a Million Corals, the National Park Service, and the Mote Marine Lab. Two students, Mr. Cuneo and Mr. Travis, were offered full-time employment upon receiving their bachelor's degrees from CFK.

Over the summer, MRM students Ms. Johnson and Ms. Guzman completed their capstone experiences. Ms. Johnson worked with Dr. Rice on the "Guts to Glory" black grouper project. Ms. Guzman worked with Jessica Keller at FL FWRI, interpreting underwater acoustic recordings to identify the presence of fish and vessel traffic.



**The College of the Florida Keys Capstone Experience:  
From Guts to Glory**

### Introduction:

The From Guts to Glory project is about trying to help grouper populations bounce back in the Florida Keys. Grouper are very economically important species here in Florida and it is important to have a steady and healthy population. We are practicing Conservation Aquaculture through this project. This consists of growing black groupers up to their juvenile stage to be released back into the wild. This project also consists of cryopreservation and in-vitro egg fertilization trials.



Tanks 1-3 where grouper broodstock are kept



Water Tank System

A special thank you to Dr. Patrick Rice at the College of the Florida keys for letting me help with this amazing project. Also thank you to Dr. Matthew Semcheski at the College of the Florida Keys for all his help and support the last 4 years.



Black Grouper

### Capstone Experience:

This capstone experience of helping on the From Guts to Glory project included duties like:

- Inputting water quality data including: nitrate, nitrite, pH, and ammonium levels from 2022-2024
- Inputting feeding and behavioral notes from 2022-2024
- Creating a temperature fluctuation graph, and two nitrate fluctuation graphs for different months



Temperature fluctuation graph from October to December 2023



Nitrate fluctuation graph from January to March 2024

This capstone experience helped me gain more knowledge and new insight on grouper populations and issues they are facing in the Florida Keys. I was also able to learn and navigate excel more comfortably.

## Arts and Hospitality Division

Dr. Weekley and TADA Director Rouge received a Community Projects grant from the Florida Humanities to fund the 6th year of CFK Poetics in 2024-25.

Dr. Weekley was named a 2024 Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellow. The fellowship is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation and each of the fellows receives \$50,000 to lead impactful public poetry programs in their respective communities in the year ahead. Dr. Weekley will immerse the city's youth in poetry. She will offer children ages six through twelve a series of workshops, place the work of these young poets in public spaces, and create new spaces for continued access by installing interactive poetry-making equipment in public parks and building a website that showcases the work of young writers.

Dr. Weekley and the other 2024 poets laureate fellows were featured at the Library of Congress National Book Festival on August 24, 2024, in Washington, D.C. The reading was well attended, including by members of the CFK community.



Dr. Weekley won the 2024 Ralph Angel Poetry Prize, an annual poetry prize from Foundlings Press. Dr. Weekley's poem, "Elegy with Wings," was published in the summer issue of the literary journal Cloudbank.

Dr. Weekley's poem, "The Thrashing," which she read at the 2024 CFK Open Mic, was published in Poets Reading the News.

Dr. Dionne Irving, author of *The Islands and Quint*, came to Dr. Weekley's Beginning Fiction Writing class on September 3, 2024. Dr. Irving presented a lesson to the class on the differences between genre and literary fiction and answered questions related to her story as well as the writing and publishing processes.



## **Sciences and Nursing Division**

### **Nursing**

Graduates from the Spring 2024 ASN cohort were granted access to begin NCLEX testing in the second half of June 2024. As of August 30, 2024, 80% of graduates from Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 (16/20), have successfully been licensed as RNs. Students have up to a year to take the exam.

The program has received 44 completed ASN applications and 27 students are being invited for interviews. Applicants have until October 15, 2024, to be considered for Spring 2025 admissions. Three additional BSN students are planned for enrollment in B-Term Fall 2024.

Five additional students graduated from the ASN program this Summer 2024. Most of the students were completing their FCLE requirements.

Applications are open for one full-time position at the Key West Campus and one full-time position at the Upper Keys Center (UKC). Nurses in the community are highly encouraged to apply for adjunct positions for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

### **Institute for Public Safety**

IPS Assistant Director Jefferson attended the Florida Training Center Director's (TCDA) Coordinator's Professional Development Workshop the week of September 2, 2024. This training brings knowledge of best practices and networking with other Training Center Coordinators.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy #88 graduated on September 6, 2024, at the Coral Shores High School Auditorium. Fifteen students graduated from the academy.

IPMBA Basic Police Cyclist Course will be conducted September 24-26, 2024, in Marathon, for officers looking to patrol on bicycles. There are currently 12 sworn officers scheduled to attend this Advanced/Specialized Training Course.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy #90 will be graduating on October 11, 2024. All 18 recruits are sponsored by either the Monroe County Sheriff's Office or the Key West Police Department.



BLE 88 Academy

### **Emergency Management Services**

A new EMT cohort started in both Key West Campus and UKC for Fall 2024, along with a new Paramedic I cohort in the UKC. The first Paramedic cohort transitioned into Paramedic II in both Key West Campus and UKC this Fall 2024. Some of the students in these cohorts belong to both the Key West Fire Department and the Islamorada Fire Department.

As part of community outreach, all fire departments in Monroe County were notified about upcoming EMT and Paramedic classes offered in Fall 2024 at both Key West Campus and UKC.

### **Learning Resource Center**



Developmental Education Coordinator Gaitan received a Summer 2024 IDN Professional Development Award for his participation in a series of Summer 2024 FL-IDN professional development webinars on various aspects of Artificial Intelligence in academic settings.

Over the summer the LRC transitioned to a new 24/7 online tutoring service, Brainfuse. During the first two weeks of classes, between August 19 - 30, 2024 students used the service 14 times working with a live tutor. Students also submitted 27 papers to the Writing Lab for review.





On August 30, 2024, LRC Director Neihouse welcomed students from the CFK Academy's wellness event. ELA instructor, Dr. Drewel, accompanied three groups of students to the library for quiet reading or journalling time. Students gathered by the picture window or browsed the shelves during their quiet time in the library.

