

*A Foundation for Excellence*

FDU UNDER PRESIDENT CAPUANO 2016-2021

# Moving Forward Together

## FDU Under President Christopher A. Capuano 2016–2021

“It is hard to believe that five years have passed so quickly. It seems like yesterday that I was humbled and honored to accept the presidency at this great institution. I have been a part of FDU for well over three decades, and there have been many incredible memories that I have cherished. But especially in the last five years as president, as I have worked with so many people across the entire institution, I have developed an even stronger appreciation for the special mission we have, an even more heartfelt connection to the people who make this University so extraordinary, and an even greater determination to build upon our storied past, further distinguish FDU and forge a future that will transform many more lives.



# DETERMINATION

FDU has risen more than 30 spots in *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings... that is remarkable.

Five years is not a very long period of time in an institution's history, but these past five years have been critically important for our institution, and we have accomplished a great deal that we can all celebrate and take pride in. The fundamental driving force was the development of our strategic plan, which focused on enhancing the value of an FDU degree and providing greater access and opportunities for students from all walks of life. The plan was the roadmap for the last five years and led to key initiatives such as creating and strengthening centers of excellence, restructuring academic units to better align programs across campuses, offering new and innovative programs including more online options, reducing tuition costs and providing discounts and significant financial aid to help students and their families, improving and adding new facilities that better serve students and make our campuses more attractive and making tremendous progress on the largest capital campaign in University history.

We all know higher education is in a period of great change and increased scrutiny. So we continue to plan and be proactive to ensure our institution is ahead of the curve and in a strong position to not only compete in the marketplace but to stand out from the crowd for the value we offer. While many rankings are not accurate reflections of a college or its programs, some of them do provide important measurements and recognition that are trusted by prospective students and families. That is why it was very significant that FDU last year reached for the first time the Top 50 in the north region in the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best College rankings. FDU has risen more than 30 spots in these five years, reaching the Top 50. That is remarkable.

Even more importantly, those rankings place FDU near the top in the region in Best Value Colleges. That value was also cited by *Money* magazine, which has twice recently named FDU among “The Best Colleges for Your Money.” We will do everything possible to continue to gain prominence and increase our reputation for the value we provide.

There are things you can plan, and then there are things you must overcome. The global pandemic that has so shaken our world has presented many challenges for FDU and every college and institution. The financial impact has been severe, the stress on our community has been overwhelming, and the health and safety concerns have surpassed everything else. Each day of the crisis has been difficult, but the silver lining has been the commitment of our community to do everything possible to continue to serve and support our students. I am distressed that we have had to deal with this crisis, but I've never been more proud of our community than now. To see so vividly on display how our faculty, staff and especially our students have overcome such adversity and displayed such resilience and fortitude has been incredibly inspiring. Thanks to all of your efforts, we have united in so many wonderful ways and our University is emerging from this ordeal stronger than ever before.

We will do everything possible to continue to gain prominence and increase our reputation for the value we provide.

As many of you know, I enjoy athletics, and I've always thought of FDU as one outstanding team with so many great people playing so many important roles. I am honored to be leading this team, and I can try to offer

direction and guidance when possible; but none of this is about me. None of the highlights featured in this report nor the many multitudes of activities that daily make such a powerful difference at FDU can be traced to any one person. No one person can accomplish very much in a vacuum. It truly takes a team. It would be impossible for me to thank all the many individuals who have helped me in the past five years, but please know you all are valued and appreciated. Each of you working together provides the momentum for our success.

No one person can accomplish very much in a vacuum. It truly takes a team.

Please know something else. We have only just begun. We have only just scratched the surface of our potential. What I have seen over the many years I've been here, and especially what I have seen the last five years, continually reinforces for me that we have more room to grow. We have more heights to climb. And I will do everything I possibly can do to help us continue our growth and reach our potential. We talk all the time about how we transform the lives of our students, and nothing could be more powerful and more true. But we also are slowly transforming our University to become an even more influential force in higher education.

The first five years and the first strategic plan set the stage and put some key pieces in place to strengthen our foundation. We will soon have a new strategic plan, and we will build on the past five years to continue to transform our institution. Moving forward together we will create an indelible legacy.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chris Capuano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



# A Pivotal Period 2016-2021

Beginning with the appointment of Christopher A. Capuano as Fairleigh Dickinson's 8th president on July 1, 2016, the University moved quickly into a new era and began developing an impressive foundation for even greater things to come. Capuano initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process that built on FDU's longstanding strengths and values, and inspired renewed efforts across the University to not only transform the lives of students but to help transform the University itself. From academics to athletics, from facilities to fund-raising, and from student support to special services, the University has taken great strides to rise to a new level of excellence.

“ We must stay true to our values, adapt when necessary and always do what’s in the best interests of our students...We will honor our past while building a brighter future.”

CHRISTOPHER CAPUANO, FDU PRESIDENT

## A Few Historic Moments

### Capuano Inaugurated as 8th President

President Christopher Capuano stands with Board Chair Patrick Zenner, MBA'75 (Ruth), after being given the presidential medal.

### A Record-Breaking Campaign

President Christopher Capuano addresses FDU supporters during the 2016 celebratory kickoff of the largest capital campaign in University history, One University Many Dreams. The target started at \$75 million and now has expanded to \$125 million.

### Silberman College of Business Turns 50

The Silberman College of Business anniversary gala took place at The Pierre Hotel in New York City on September 27, 2018, and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy delivered the keynote address. President Christopher Capuano greets Gov. Murphy as he arrives.

### Personal. Global. Transformational.

FDU debuted a new tagline in 2018 that truly defines the essence of what makes an FDU education so special.

### Bon Jovi Takes the Stage

Bon Jovi surprised the 2017 graduates by gracing the Commencement stage and singing “Reunion” from their latest album. Jon Bon Jovi told the graduates, “Choose your words wisely — not only the ones you’ll say to others, but also the ones you say to yourself.”

### FDU Makes the Top 50

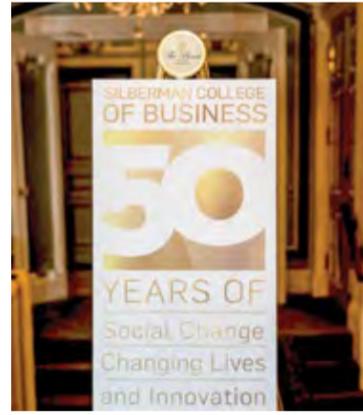
For the first time, Fairleigh Dickinson University reached the “Top 50 in the North” in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2021 college and university rankings.

### Happy 75th Birthday

Courageously conceived in 1941, at the dawn of World War II, Fairleigh Dickinson opened as a small junior college in September 1942. Over the decades, the institution has grown into a comprehensive University with programs and partnerships throughout the world. In 2017, FDU celebrated the 75th anniversary of the University's founding and commemorative banners were displayed throughout its campuses.



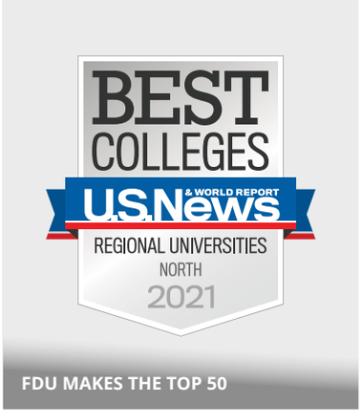
SILBERMAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS TURNS 50



A RECORD-BREAKING CAMPAIGN



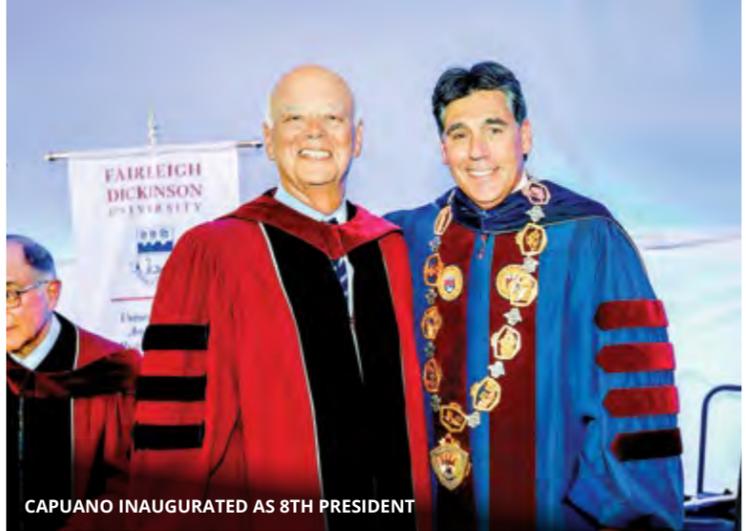
BON JOVI TAKES THE STAGE



FDU MAKES THE TOP 50



DEBUTING A NEW TAGLINE



CAPUANO INAUGURATED AS 8TH PRESIDENT

## *At the Heart of Our Mission*

### Academic Accomplishments 2016-2021

The heart of FDU is the academic mission, which has been the main focal point of strategic planning under President Christopher Capuano and University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gillian M. Small. Small joined FDU in 2016 and led many critical efforts in the last five years. The primary initiatives have included enhancing and developing centers of excellence, creating new innovative offerings, restructuring and aligning academic programs within the University and building a new online division.

“We have made important strides in the last five years. FDU has long been known for academic innovations and with these initiatives the University can provide students with even more exciting opportunities to gain a transformative education.”

**GILLIAN SMALL, UNIVERSITY PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

What’s remarkable is that FDU has taken these strides and continued with strategic efforts while enduring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which faculty had to adjust their classes to online formats. “I can’t say enough about the talent and dedication of our faculty,” Small says. “Their commitment to our students is tremendous and their contributions to the University have been immense. They have proven they can withstand the most difficult challenges and continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.”



### Academic Restructuring

As part of the strategic plan, the University undertook a comprehensive analysis of every program and implemented a significant restructuring process with the goal of creating centers of excellence, better aligning particular programs across University campuses and better focusing resources to serve students.

The new structure was launched in fall 2020 and established independent professional schools and united several units into one college of arts and sciences (Becton College) that resides on both New Jersey campuses.

“We believe the synergy produced by this new structure will greatly benefit our students,” Small says. “Faculty are now more extensively collaborating across campuses and within disciplines.”

In addition to the Maxwell Becton College of Arts and Sciences and the Silberman College of Business, FDU has established as separate entities seven newly independent professional schools:

- Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health
- Lee Gildart and Oswald Haase School of Computer Sciences and Engineering
- International School of Hospitality, Sports, and Tourism Management
- Peter Sammartino School of Education
- School of Psychology and Counseling
- School of Public and Global Affairs
- School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

FDU also created a new Hispanic Center within Becton College that will house the University’s groundbreaking Hispanic programs, including Latino Promise, *Puerta al Futuro* and *Hacer*.

### Vancouver Campus

The Vancouver Campus embodies FDU’s international mission and spirit of innovation. The past five years have seen significant enrollment growth, the introduction of new programs and continued expansion of teaching and learning spaces. Building on the success of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, FDU Vancouver has recently been approved to offer a Master of Science in Applied Computer Science through the Lee Gildart and Oswald Haase School of Computer Sciences and Engineering.

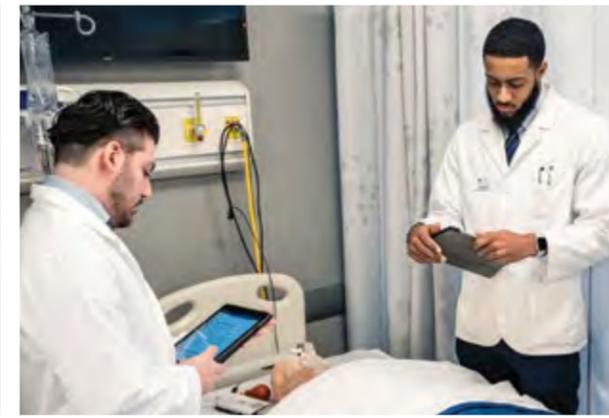
Academic programs offered on the Vancouver Campus have benefited from the restructuring of FDU. The Master of Hospitality Management Studies is now offered directly by the International School of Hospitality, Sports, and Tourism Management and the Master of Administrative Science is now offered by the School of Public and Global Affairs. The Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies is now part of the Maxwell Becton College of Arts and Sciences. The restructuring increases support for both faculty and students.

### Wroxton College

While Wroxton College’s unique study-abroad offerings were disrupted by the pandemic, the University resumed operations this fall. The programs (and particularly the fall and spring semesters) continue to incorporate the various features that together make up what has become known as “The Wroxton Experience” — features such as incorporating live theater into the academic offerings; academic site visits to the Houses of Parliament (where students meet with members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords), to the BBC, to the great national art collections and to Northern France to visit some of the sites (battlefields, war graves, memorials and museums) of the first World War; class sessions with distinguished visiting speakers; as well as various trips to places of general interest (London, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, Cambridge, etc.).

## Centers of Excellence

Fairleigh Dickinson has continued to develop new and innovative programs that respond to real-world developments and that provide students an important edge for career success and a lifetime of opportunities.



### ► Public and Global Affairs

Coinciding with the start of the University's strategic plan, FDU formed the School of Public and Global Affairs, which brings together several important graduate programs that help working professionals advance their careers in governmental and nonprofit administration. Following the academic restructuring, programs in the school now include the M.S. in Cyber and Homeland Security Administration, the Master of Administrative Science and the M.A. in Higher Education Administration, which join the pre-existing Master of Public Administration and the M.A. in Global Affairs.

**“The school upholds public service as a calling, embraces public administration as a necessity and maintains that public-regarding citizens are essential to a healthy and sustainable society,”** says Peter Woolley, founding director of the school.

The school also houses the widely acclaimed FDU Poll. Daniel Cassino, professor of government and politics, was appointed executive director of FDU Poll in 2020. Cassino has served as the poll's director of experimental research since 2009 and led some of the poll's most widely reported research. The FDU Poll has repeatedly achieved the highest marks from statistician Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight pollster ratings and is poised to continue strong research on the most important issues facing our region and nation.

### ► Hospitality

Long one of the University's most highly ranked programs, the School of Hospitality has expanded to incorporate the sports management program. Now called the International School of Hospitality, Sports, and Tourism Management, the school, under the leadership of John Niser, is focusing on further differentiating its programming. Recent changes include renaming the B.S. degree as the B.S. in Luxury Hospitality Management to reflect its strength more accurately in the marketplace. Also, the B.A. degree is now the B.A. in Hospitality and Tourism Innovation and Excellence. A new minor was established in restaurant entrepreneurship in collaboration with Silberman College of Business. And a new and unique certificate/minor in hotel and restaurant franchising has been established for spring 2022. The school is also adding an immersive experience in 2022 in which students will spend a semester living and working in a luxury resort or club.

“In the past couple of years, we have successfully pivoted our programs highlighting the life choices, the people, places and work environments that tourism, sport management and hospitality can offer young people,” says Niser. **“These are industries that thrive on creativity, diversity and imagination. Most importantly, the tumultuous times we have all lived have allowed students, professionals and our own faculty and staff to display grit, resilience and motivation.** We have all become stronger and although our students are tired and wanting to be back to normalcy, I also know they have come out better prepared for life.”

### ► School of the Arts

In September 2018, Fairleigh Dickinson University inaugurated within Becton College the School of the Arts, a robust center of learning that combines a strong liberal arts education, hands-on creative work, valuable opportunities for internships and an integrated new approach to arts entrepreneurship.

The academic programs housed in the School of the Arts include creative writing, film and animation, graphic design, fine arts and theater arts. Students can also take classes in music and dance, pursuing those disciplines as minors. Previously, these programs were not grouped together and fell directly under the heading of arts and sciences. **Now writers, animators, filmmakers, actors, directors, painters, musicians, designers and other artists come together in an interdisciplinary environment that encourages collaboration and skill building.**

In addition, many new programs have been added throughout the colleges and schools. Going forward, the University plans to start several interdisciplinary programs that will be offered across two or more colleges or schools. FDU also plans to create targeted pipeline programs that will create a focused career ladder for students with a high-school degree, an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree.

### ► Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Among the many key additions in the last five years is the expansion of health sciences programs. To reflect this emphasis in one important way, the School of Pharmacy was renamed the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has added the Master of Public Health program offering four distinct tracks — health analytics, health policy, population health in addiction and recovery and a generalist track. The school has also added a fully online Master of Social Work, with the first class starting in fall 2021, and has applied for accreditation for a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program and an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program, both with anticipated starts in 2022.

“We are excited to build new programs that provide distinctive and unique opportunities for interprofessional education among our students in pharmacy, public health, social work, physician assistant studies and occupational therapy, focusing on how to train students to become health care professionals,” says Michael Avaltroni, dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Avaltroni added that **“these programs provide a dynamic platform, creating ways for students to enter professional programs from all undergraduate disciplines through accelerated and combined degree pathways that offer unique opportunities for their health science career aspirations.”**

### ► Business

Other efforts have also followed to advance particular areas of excellence. The Silberman College of Business has new leadership in Dean Pierre Balthazard, and the college has focused on continuous improvement, engagement, innovation and impact, which are the key themes of AACSB accreditation. “Our faculty, students, staff and alumni have achieved great success, and Silberman College continues to make a positive impact on its various stakeholders. While we continue to develop and deliver outstanding academic programs to our students, I am most proud to note that our engagement with our alumni and the business community has actually strengthened during this pandemic,” says Balthazard.

He also notes the events and strategic efforts of the college to improve the economic development of FDU's service region. **“I'm particularly happy with the efforts supporting family business, veterans and urban entrepreneurs that recently earned our Rothman Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship a best practice accolade by the AACSB,”** he adds.

# INNOVATION

## Honors Academy

The newly established FDU Honors Academy emboldens an exclusive cohort of motivated students from a wide variety of disciplines who work closely to explore and address common problems and critical global issues such as sustainability, human rights and the impact of technology on modern life. **Students take a five-semester series of courses together and benefit from a rigorous, unique curriculum that includes applied research opportunities, creative projects and partnerships with faculty and industry professionals.**

The first graduating class includes Kesha Patel, who graduated with a degree in government and politics and with a 4.00 GPR (grade point ratio). She worked as a student ambassador for admissions for several years, played volleyball and served as a teaching assistant in the sophomore-level honors course in her third year. Patel applied for a Fulbright to travel to Greece and completed an honors thesis on the intersections of climate change and human trafficking, which she presented at Honors Research Days as well as the Northeast Regional Honors Council's annual conference. Three other students from the first cohort are beginning their studies at Lake Erie College of Medicine in fall 2021 as part of the 3+4 program, officially earning their bachelor's degrees in spring 2022. All three completed honors thesis projects in chemistry. Notably, the retention of Honors Academy students at the University is 98%.

“My experience at FDU has helped me grow and evolve. It has helped me understand myself better and I think it was the opportunity presented to me and the relationships with my professors that make me say, ‘I wouldn’t change it for the world.’ I’m so grateful for the experience.”

**KESHA PATEL, HONORS ACADEMY GRAD, BA’21**

“The Honors Academy was created to serve a small group of truly exceptional students,” says Provost Small. “It provides an intellectually rigorous and personally fulfilling experience and is an ideal alternative for ambitious top-tier students who seek academic rigor and one-of-a-kind opportunities.”



## Online Division

**Recognizing the critical importance of providing flexible and convenient offerings for students, FDU began a partnership with the Learning House, subsequently acquired by Wiley Education Services, to create a more robust online division.** In particular, Wiley is active with recruitment and marketing efforts and a new online division website was created. Enrollments are growing steadily, and the future prospects are extremely promising.

Among the online offerings in this division are pre-existing programs such as the Master of Administrative Science, M.S. in Cyber and Homeland Security Administration and M.S.N. in Family Nurse Practitioner, as well as new programs including a Master of Public Health, Master of Social Work and Doctor of Education in Higher Education.

## Sustainability Initiative

Shortly before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, **the University created an FDU sustainability task force to help shape a vision and action plan for a sustainable university.** The task force includes faculty, students and staff across all FDU campuses and is committed to creating programs and curricula that develop the values and skills to be responsible global citizens and stewards for the well-being of current and future generations. The task force will work toward ensuring that FDU community members, facilities and operations cause no harm to the environment and work toward enhancing the health and quality of life for the broader community. The task force has created four working groups addressing academic programs and research, community engagement and social issues, facilities/operations and sustainable living on campus.

## Faculty Research Grants

In the last five years there has been increased activity regarding external proposals for grants and contracts to support faculty research, academic programs and student research. This has led to external support for many research projects, as exemplified by some of FDU's most recently tenured faculty.

For example, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Hyunah Cho received a Maryland Technology Corporation Grant for her work with a start-up company on the optimization of thermosensitive hydrogel formulations (used for combination drug delivery). Associate Professor of Computer Sciences and Engineering Alevor Rao is a co-principal investigator on a project led by Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Kalyan Mondal and funded by the Department of Defense to promote and encourage eligible students in the cybersecurity area through scholarships and internships. Associate Professor of Psychology Linda Raffaele Mendez received a significant award for a collaborative project with the Newark (NJ) Board of Education titled, “Supportive Schools Newark: Building supportive school communities through integrating trauma-informed care and tiered systems of mental-health support,” funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Mental Health Service Professional Grant Program.

## Women in Science

As a scientist herself, and a board member for the National Association for Women in Science, Provost Small has been an advocate for women in science (WIS) for many years. **The WIS initiative was established at FDU to promote the interests of female, transgender and nonbinary scientists and create networking opportunities both within and outside of FDU for faculty and students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).** The FDU WIS events are open to all who share an interest in STEM and in promoting gender equality in science and research. Events to date have included external speakers, panel discussions and research presentations by FDU science faculty.

# Creating Greater Access & Opportunity

## Enrollment Highlights 2016-2021

Since its founding in 1942, FDU has prided itself on providing exceptional opportunities for students to seize the benefits of a transformational education. Under President Capuano, the University has strengthened its commitment even further to increasing access and affordability while improving student success and retention.

**“We are very excited by the recent momentum the University has achieved. We have taken many important initiatives to help attract high-achieving and strongly-deserving students who will make important contributions to the campus communities and then their chosen professions after their graduation from the University.”**

**LUKE SCHULTHEIS, V.P. FOR ENROLLMENT,  
PLANNING AND EFFECTIVENESS**

From significant measures to keep tuition costs down to enhanced recruitment efforts, from greater support to increase retention and graduation rates to technological enhancements to improve prospective student experiences, and from special initiatives for specific populations like student veterans to added career services for all, FDU has taken new approaches to serve students from all walks of life.

The following is a selection of key enrollment initiatives and updates from the last five years:



### Tuition Reduction

Starting this fall, Fairleigh Dickinson University reduced the undergraduate tuition rate for new students by approximately 25%, to \$32,000 per year at the two New Jersey campuses. “We anticipate that the reduced tuition level will enable prospective students and their families to realize that enrolling in a prestigious private university is possible,” says Luke Schultheis, Vice President for Enrollment, Planning and Effectiveness. “Many students did not factor in the significant financial aid and awards available at the University when exploring their options. We believe that the new rate brings greater transparency and clarity to the actual costs of an FDU education and will make us more competitive and attract even more students to our programs.”

At the same time, the University for the second consecutive year froze the tuition rate for students on the New Jersey campuses and will continue to provide the generous financial aid for continuing students that has made attaining a degree at FDU affordable for so many over the years.

FDU also restructured and in many instances reduced tuition for most students enrolled in graduate programs. This has made understanding tuition levels much more clear so that confusion no longer exists in regard to varying discounts and scholarships. Consequently, graduate enrollments appear to be increasing in both the on-campus and online learning modes.



### Winter/Summer Special Pricing

In an effort to increase the number of students who enroll in summer and winter sessions and to help them complete their degrees in a more timely manner, FDU recently provided two consecutive years of tuition discounting. These affordable options resulted in significant enrollment boosts as students were looking to stay on course to graduate on time or even accelerate their degree programs.

Students are increasingly aware of the many benefits that come with attaining a degree in a timely manner. Whether they are looking to jump-start their careers or they are eager to enter graduate or professional programs, these summer and winter programs can help considerably and have proven very popular.

As Schultheis notes, “The benefits of earning a college degree include increased earnings, better access to health care and safety and having more family members who also pursue higher education. We want to do all we can to help our students advance their degree programs and start reaping the value of their degrees.”



### Student Services for Veterans

Fairleigh Dickinson University has long supported student veterans, and those efforts have accelerated recently as FDU remains among the most veteran-friendly universities in the region. Four years ago, the Office of Veterans Services was restructured, resulting in new leadership and new student lounges on both New Jersey campuses. Enrollment has grown, and the University now serves 217 student veterans or dependents. The Student Veteran Association was developed, has represented FDU at conferences and has become a very active organization, serving student veterans and dependents as well as honoring current and former veterans. The office has further incorporated the U.S. Army in providing team-building activities for a number of administrative units on campus as well as three months of resiliency training for staff leaders.

These intense efforts are gaining widespread recognition. For example, FDU has risen to number 23 out of 176 colleges in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best for Vets 2021, North Region. In 2018, FDU was recognized as the first Purple Heart University in Northern New Jersey by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In 2020, FDU became a chapter of SALUTE National Honor Society. Last year, 37 student veterans were inducted, followed by an invitation in 2021 to 81 student veterans to join the chapter. This year, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy will be presenting FDU with the We Value Our Veterans Award.

OPPORTUNITY

COUNTRIES ENROLLED

60-70

86%

Graduates  
Secure  
Employment

\$52k

Average  
Salary of  
FDU Graduate

PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

\$11M

Awarded Annually



### Financial Aid

Over the course of the last five years, the Office of Financial Aid has received nearly 125,000 completed Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). **The University has awarded more than \$11 million in Federal Pell Grants each of those years to thousands of undergraduate students.** Students have also been awarded New Jersey Tuition Aid Grants and a variety of other federal and institutional scholarships and grants, all of which have made attending FDU more affordable. Additionally, the generosity of the many donors to the institution, as well as the availability of student and family loans, have provided access to the University for large numbers of students.



### Technological Enhancements to the Prospective Student Experience

**Over the last several years, but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, FDU introduced a number of new technological platforms to help engage prospective students. While these platforms were essential to communicating with families at a time when campus visits were not possible, they will remain important communication vehicles for the University moving forward.** A visit to campus can now start from the comfort of one's home utilizing interactive campus maps and virtual tours. These tours highlight buildings, important sites and where services are offered through pictures and videos. Interactive meetings with students and their families are now held with admissions staff, financial-aid officers and the faculty, both in group settings as well as private meetings through various software. There remains strong interest in coming to on-campus open-house events, but these new remote opportunities can bring the University and families together much more often with greater flexibility and convenience: virtually.

For example, Admitted Students Day programs are now offered online with videos, live meetings and a multitude of resources accessed through the computer or phone. In addition, virtual town hall meetings are now also more regularly available to update families on important events, activities and information. Many more programs can also be created to help provide more opportunities for students to interact with FDU representatives and virtually visit the University campuses.

In addition, FDU was selected as Partner of the Year with Student Bridge, which provided many new technology platforms. Finally, in another technological innovation, through the chat program Unibuddy, available on the FDU website since November 2019, FDU staff regularly interact in real-time with prospective students and have answered nearly 15,000 questions online!



### Marketing and Promotion ... Go FDU

Over the last several years, FDU has worked hard to better promote itself so that more families are aware of the many opportunities available. "We have too often been one of the best kept secrets in the region," Schultheis says. A major part of the University strategic plan sought to change that by prioritizing the development of branding and marketing efforts to better promote FDU.

Led by Schultheis, a marketing office was created, and significant steps were taken, including developing a new brand promise and a tagline that summarizes the essence of the FDU experience: Personal. Global. Transformational. A powerful new marketing campaign with the theme "Go FDU" was launched to attract undergraduate students to the University.

**In addition, the marketing efforts now feature digital and print advertising, radio, billboard, social media, connected TV, streaming audio, email, video, virtual platforms, direct mail, chat, text, phone and more — so FDU is now able to connect with the right audience at the right time.**

Student events, both in-person and virtual, continue to play a large role in engaging audiences at every stage of the admissions process. "Through consistency in messaging and presence, our marketing will continue to become a stronger voice to families," Schultheis says.

15,000

Questions Answered Online

94%

Pursuing Grad School Are Admitted



### International Students and Services

**FDU has been enrolling international students for many years; however, over the last five years, the University has seen steady enrollment from between 60-70 countries each year. New relationships have been forged with some nations that sponsor students to specifically study at FDU, and then these students return home to put their education to use serving their home nations.**

The University has further combined the international admissions and student services offices to provide full support from one staff so that students can meet with individuals whom they initially worked with when entering the institution, thereby forging strong personal relationships that so often make a difference.



### Graduation Rate Increases

Undergraduate students at FDU have graduated in greater percentages over the course of the last five years, with the most recent rate being approximately 60% in six years. **A variety of interventions aimed at supporting students to graduate in a timely manner has helped raise this number. The improvement is reflected by FDU's significant rise in the U.S. News & World Report college rankings, which are heavily weighted by graduation rates.**

Increased graduation rates also reduce a student's overall cost of attendance. Students who are identified as Pell Grant recipients, racial/ethnic minorities or first-generation college students, or a combination of those, constitute 85% of Metropolitan Campus students and 59% of Florham Campus students. FDU's commitment to supporting these students through timely graduation rates continues to be a priority as even more support services are adopted.



### Career Services

Preparing students for entry into the workforce or graduate and professional school is a core effort executed by the Career Development Center. Presently, of those who desire to enter the workforce upon graduation, 86% secure employment and 94% of those pursuing graduate and professional school are admitted. The average salary of new graduates has been increasing and is now slightly above \$52,000. FDU alumni are found in leadership positions throughout every sector of employment. Connecting students with these alumni for mentoring, guidance and even employment is a major effort of the office. **To further bolster these efforts, FDU recently introduced Handshake, a technological platform connecting employers with FDU students and alumni seeking employment.**



### Noncognitive Assessments and Success Coaching

**FDU has also developed important initiatives to improve student retention.** Three years ago, the University began assessing noncognitive variables among incoming students. These data provide insight into a student's likelihood to persist in the face of adversity and offer a strong predictor on retention that cannot be totally determined from cognitive or academic records. A volunteer cadre of nearly 50 faculty and staff from across the University were trained in reading student responses to four short-answer questions. Those who had low scores were assigned a success coach who maintains contact with the students throughout their first semester, the most critical term, and helps them work through any potential barriers to enrolling in their second semester.

# Building a Culture of Philanthropy

## Milestones in Giving 2016-2021

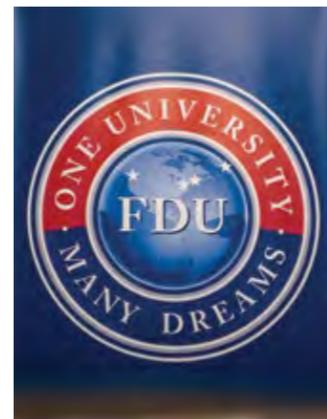
The University has experienced significant growth in philanthropic initiatives since President Capuano became the eighth president of Fairleigh Dickinson University. The Office of University Advancement has expanded outreach to donors, including alumni, friends, foundations and corporations, which is reflected in the long-term trend of increased giving to the University.

**Perhaps most notably, President Capuano led the launch of One University Many Dreams, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the University's history. Since its launch, the University has secured more than \$75 million in commitments toward the campaign goal of \$125 million.**

"President Capuano has enthusiastically embraced University fundraising, encouraging others in the University's leadership to do the same," noted Rick Reiss, who served as Senior Vice President for University Advancement until his retirement in June 2021. "He has fostered and invigorated a culture of giving through increased outreach and stewardship efforts."

As a consequence, giving to the University has averaged nearly \$9 million a year from the philanthropic community in each of the past five years, representing an increase of 60% over the five years before President Capuano's appointment. Recently, as a response to the global pandemic, the University has shifted its philanthropic priorities to focus on securing greater support of student scholarships to ensure that all students have a financial safety net in uncertain times. Under the new leadership now of Jason Amore, the Office of University Advancement is poised to continue the momentum.

The following is a selection of notable contributors and gift initiatives that have enriched the University community during President Capuano's time in office.



# GENEROSITY

### Greg Olsen

Alumnus Greg Olsen, BS'66, BS'68, MS'68 (Metro), has donated more to Fairleigh Dickinson University than any other person. His extraordinary generosity helped to create the University's campus in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. His gifts have further enabled the University to provide scholarships and construct new buildings. Olsen, a successful entrepreneur, was the third private citizen to journey to the International Space Station in 2005. Reflecting on his journey through space, he often cites his FDU education as the reason for his success in life. "As I was orbiting Earth, I realized that it all began for me at Fairleigh Dickinson University." His philanthropy has inspired students to explore their interest in science and math.



Olsen's most recent gift of \$5 million will help to construct The Olsen Center at the Metropolitan Campus, where students, faculty and staff can gather to share, learn and grow in a new campus hub. **"FDU is a dynamic University creating new opportunities for thousands of students a year. I'm proud to be a graduate and a trustee, and I look forward to the University's ongoing development,"** he says.

### Marye Trinkle Ruzila

The late Marye Trinkle Ruzila, BS'58 (Ruth), was deeply committed to her alma mater. Her expression of that commitment resulted in a \$1.1 million gift to the University that will have a lasting impact on future generations of students. Ruzila met her husband, John Robert Ruzila, BS'56 (Ruth), when she was a student at Fairleigh Dickinson College in Rutherford. Her connection to the University was reflected in her philanthropy, and Fairleigh Dickinson students are better off thanks to the hard work and generosity of "Aunt Marye and Uncle John." It was Ruzila's desire "to help students who are not 'A-students,' but students whose efforts are outstanding, and working to get themselves through college," says her niece, Rosemary Trinkle Baran, BS'83 (Ruth).



Ruzila hoped that her generous gift would inspire others to support the One University Many Dreams campaign. Her extraordinary gift established an endowed scholarship in the Silberman College of Business. **Additionally, the Career Development Center on the Florham Campus will be named in memory of John Robert and Marye Trinkle Ruzila in recognition of the couple's commitment to the University.**

# GRATITUDE

## Edward L. Hennessy, Jr.

The Florham Campus Division III athletics program has been significantly enhanced by gifts from two former trustees of the University. Edward L. Hennessy, Jr., BS'55 (Ruth), a trustee emeritus, donated \$1 million to establish the Elizabeth Ruth Hennessy Field, a synthetic multipurpose field that serves the lacrosse, soccer and track-and-field programs. It is surrounded by a 400-meter, NCAA-compliant, eight-lane track, with areas for throwing and jumping events and a state-of-the-art video scoreboard. The project also includes new perimeter fencing, a small parking lot and a new monument sign. It is a new face to the community, clearly visible from the Madison Avenue campus entrance, creating an impressive first impression for visitors to the Florham Campus.



The field is named for Hennessy's daughter. Hennessy is a former board chair and longtime benefactor of the University. The Vanderbilt Mansion on the Florham Campus bears his name in recognition of his many years of generous support.

## Vincent J. Naimoli

Trustee Vincent J. Naimoli, MBA'64 (Flor), who passed away in 2017, was a longtime fan and supporter of FDU baseball and, in 2011, made a gift to the University to build the Naimoli Family Baseball Complex at the Metropolitan Campus. His wife, Lenda, wanted to preserve Vince's legacy on both New Jersey campuses and made a gift of \$1 million to create the new baseball field on the Florham Campus that bears both their names. The new facility, the Vincent J. and Lenda F. Naimoli Ballpark, includes permanent bleachers, a press box with storage, fencing, ball-stopper netting, batting tunnels and a modern scoreboard. Additional parking, walkways and site lighting will also be added.



**“We continue to be extremely proud of our historic relationship with FDU. Under President Christopher A. Capuano, the University has built upon a rich legacy of service and innovation and is poised for many more great accomplishments in the years ahead.”**

**VINCENT FORLENZA, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,  
BD (BECTON, DICKINSON & CO.)**

## The Helene Fuld Health Trust

The Helene Fuld Health Trust is the largest charitable trust in the United States devoted exclusively to supporting student nurses and nursing education. In 2018, the Trust pledged \$750,000 to Fairleigh Dickinson University to establish an endowment fund for scholarships for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program. In addition, the Fuld Trust pledged \$150,000 for scholarships for ABSN students. Since 2018, more than 30 ABSN students have benefited from Helene Fuld Health Trust scholarships. The income generated from the endowed scholarship fund will continue to provide scholarships for future ABSN students. Helene Fuld Health Trust scholarships enable the Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health to recruit motivated students from diverse backgrounds with career goals in nursing.



## BD (Becton, Dickinson & Co.)

BD and FDU share a deep connection to Colonel Fairleigh S. Dickinson, and our intertwined histories are an example of a fruitful corporate/higher education partnership. BD has made a \$2 million grant to fund a variety of initiatives at the University, including scholarships for students in FDU's nursing, pharmacy and public-health programs, clinical placements for pharmacy faculty to mentor Pharm.D. students and seed money for a new science facility on the Florham Campus. In addition, FDU has placed several post-doctoral fellows and interns at BD, and the company has hosted and participated in multiple events with alumni, faculty and students.



## Krystyna Doerfler

Krystyna Doerfler's late husband, Ronald Doerfler, BS'65, MBA'72 (Ruth), was a passionate advocate, supporter and trustee of FDU. When he passed away suddenly in 2013, the University created a scholarship in his memory that was bolstered by gifts from friends, family and colleagues. Today, the Ronald J. Doerfler Memorial Scholarship supports students studying in the University's highly regarded MFA program in creative writing. For Krys Doerfler, the scholarship launched a new level of engagement. "First, I met the faculty. Then, I met the students. What I quickly realized was just how wonderful and talented everyone associated with the School of the Arts was," she says.



Doerfler became the founding chair of the School of the Arts Advisory Board. Her passion for the arts and her generosity toward the University is helping to fuel a resurgence in the arts at FDU. She made a \$150,000 gift to install a new studio dance floor in the Ferguson Recreation Center at the Florham Campus. She also made a \$650,000 gift to create the new animation lab in Dreyfuss Hall, while continuing to provide support for scholarships. Now her focus is the future renovation of Dreyfuss Hall, with a particular emphasis on reimagining the theater. "One of my happiest days was when the University made me an honorary alumna. As a proud alumna, I want to give back to my University to ensure that our students have the best opportunities to succeed."

## Wroxton Now & Forever

Among the most passionate of FDU's alumni are those who studied at Wroxton College, the University's campus in England. The Wroxton Advisory Committee has embraced as its mission the goal of ensuring that FDU students, now and in the future, have the opportunity to study at this unique facility. Kathryn K. Campbell (Wroxton, Spring, 1982), a member of the Wroxton Advisory Committee, says, "Wroxton College in England remains a powerful experience in the lives of thousands of alumni." Campbell is a co-chair of the Wroxton Now & Forever campaign. Begun in December 2020, the campaign has already raised more than \$265,000 to help maintain the college and assist students who wish to study there.



Peter Maramas, BS'82 (Flor), a cofounding principal of Maramas & Smith, LLC, a private wealth-management firm based in Pennsylvania, and his wife, Karen, have made substantial gifts to the Wroxton Now & Forever campaign because studying at Wroxton had a profound effect on Peter's life. "Attending Wroxton College was the capstone experience of my FDU education," he says. "It changed my worldview and helped me define what I believe and who I am as a person."

## 42 Hours of Giving



As an homage to 1942, the year the University was founded, 42 Hours of Giving, an annual event, has become a time for the entire FDU community to unite in a common goal: to help FDU soar. Members of the FDU community from around the world are encouraged to make gifts during the fundraising event's window. **In April 2021, more than 1,300 alumni and friends supported 58 different areas of the University. A total of \$182,273 was raised in a little less than two days. Money raised during the 42 Hours of Giving campaign has increased 628% in the last three years.**

## The Week of Gratitude

The Week of Gratitude, an annual celebration of the donors who create opportunities for FDU's students, continues to educate FDU students on the importance of philanthropy, through an impactful stewardship experience. Students are given the opportunity to say thank you by producing handwritten and personalized cards that are sent to the thousands of alumni, parents and friends who support their dreams. In 2021, the Office of University Advancement used social-media platforms to extend the reach of the Week of Gratitude and engage with students, alumni and friends worldwide. A Week of Gratitude giveaway contest garnered the attention of 6,600 followers via the University's Instagram account. Moving forward, the event will adopt a hybrid model to continue engaging with the University community both in person and digitally.

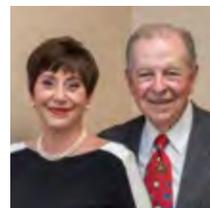
## James Orefice

James Orefice, MA'91 (Metro), earned a master's degree at FDU while working as a commodities trader on Wall Street. Although his degree was not, strictly speaking, directly related to his work, he says that he gained insight into global politics from three professors in particular — Dr. Nasrollah Fatemi and his son, Dr. Faramarz Fatemi, and Dr. Helen Brudner — who helped him anticipate swings in the commodities markets and made him a better trader. The insights that he gained were the impetus for a \$2.5 million pledge to FDU made by the Orefice Family Foundation as well as the University's inclusion in his estate plans, all of which are earmarked to support scholarships and programs at FDU's School of Public and Global Affairs. "Giving to FDU is giving someone the means to obtain an education," Orefice says.



## Frank and Rosemary Santoloci

One of the most generous things a person can do is include the University in their estate plans. And that's just what alumnus Frank, BS'61, MBA'65 (Flor), and Rosemary Santoloci did. They wanted to do something significant, something that would really make a difference in the lives of students. The estate plans of Frank and Rosemary include a multimillion-dollar bequest for the University to create an endowed scholarship fund that will bear the family name. In recognition of their wonderful generosity, the University named the Student Center at the Florham Campus the Frank Santoloci Student Center.



## Gratitude Dinner

The annual Gratitude Dinner is one of the many ways in which the University thanks its donors. Generous benefactors are invited to celebrate all that is wonderful about Fairleigh Dickinson, while at the same time meeting the students who are the beneficiaries of their generosity. Although postponed in 2021, the 2020 Gratitude Dinner brought together more than 350 donors and students to hear firsthand the enormous impact that philanthropy has on the life of the institution and the lives of its students. The University looks forward to reconvening in person soon to once again convey gratitude to the many generous supporters who selflessly give to FDU.



## Charter Day 2021

For more than 30 years, FDU's signature fundraising event, Charter Day, has raised money for scholarships to provide critical support to deserving students. Generous donors empower scholarship recipients, who go on to make enormous contributions in their careers and in their communities. And even though, for the second time in as many years, the 2021 Charter Day was a completely virtual event, the University's generous alumni and friends made this the most successful Charter Day in FDU's history. For the first time in the event's 30-year history, donors gave over \$1 million, all of which directly funds scholarships.

**"There has never been a time when the need for scholarship support was greater," says FDU President Christopher Capuano. "Our wonderful trustees, alumni and friends know this and have made this year's Charter Day an incredible success. On behalf of our students, thank you to each and every donor. Your generosity continues to amaze me and make me proud."**

The 2021 Charter Day honoree, Marta Tellado, BA'81 (Flor), is a role model for FDU's students. As president and CEO of Consumer Reports, she leads America's foremost consumer organization. Born in Havana, Cuba, she emigrated with her family as a child and grew up in New Jersey. She attended FDU and later earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. from Yale University. Among the many dignitaries congratulating her during the virtual event were former Senator Bill Bradley, for whom she worked as a senior adviser, and Craig Newmark, the CEO of Craigslist.



As the University honored Tellado, it also bid a very fond farewell to Patrick J. Zenner, MBA'75 (Ruth), the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees. Zenner led the University through a period of enormous change and growth. His wisdom, acumen and generosity have greatly benefited FDU.



# CHARTER DAY

LIVE 2021



# Our Living & Learning Environment

## Major Facilities Upgrades 2016-2021

FDU boasts multiple homes away from home for thousands of students, faculty and staff, and the University is committed to making sure those homes look good, provide modern features and offer comfort and convenience.

Under President Capuano, important improvements have been made throughout the campuses in the last five years.

**“We are committed to providing students with the best living and learning environment possible,” Capuano says.**

“We made great strides recently in making our campuses more attractive and enhancing facilities to make the student experience as strong as possible.”

“There is always more to be done,” he adds, “and we have many critical goals ahead, but I’m very proud of the work done so far.”

“ We so proudly welcome this beautiful new footbridge to campus. It is an important literal and symbolic force uniting the campus. It’s a way to get across, certainly, but it’s also a destination to enjoy and a meeting place to gather.”

**CHRISTOPHER CAPUANO, FDU PRESIDENT**

## Metropolitan Campus Footbridge, Perimeter Signage and Landscaping

Perhaps the most impactful facilities improvement in the last five years is the newly replaced footbridge across the Hackensack River at the Metropolitan Campus. This new bridge is not only a passageway, but a destination and attractive focal point in itself. The bridge received the Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter Professional Award. The Society of College and University Planners also awarded the bridge the Merit Award for Excellence in Landscape Architecture for General Design. Featuring several different types of seating areas — some shaded; functional and cosmetic lighting; along with “green-roof” style planting beds, the crossway allows members of the University community to enjoy scenic river views and cool breezes.

This joins with new, inviting campus perimeter signage and plantings to bring the riverfront feel to the entire campus. The River Road frontage on the Teaneck side of campus features an illuminated wall sign and landscaping to the center of campus with monument signs on either end of the University property. On the Hackensack side, a new monument sign with a digital display along Hackensack Avenue at Temple Avenue welcomes students and visitors to the campus and promotes events and programs. The sign is surrounded by a floral and fauna planting that extends to the psychological services building, beautifying the formerly empty portion of the campus entryway.

The entire campus has established vehicular and walkway differences to improve the safety and serenity of students traversing campus. A University Walk stone-wall sign rests outside the George and Phyllis Rothman Center, and the walkway extends through new landscaping outside Dickinson Hall to the footbridge.



# WELCOME

## Florham Athletic Fields

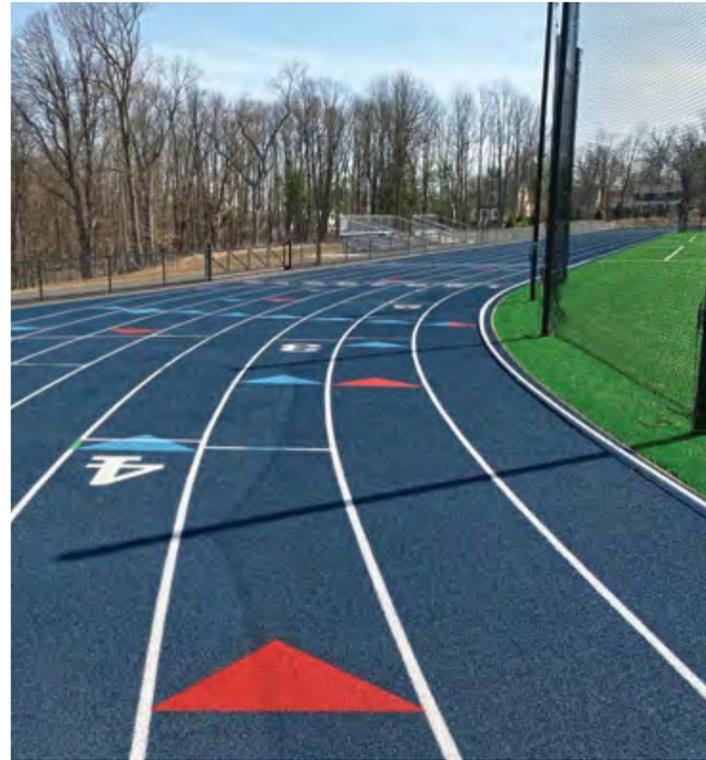
At the Florham Campus, the most prominent development is the new athletic fields. The Elizabeth Ruth Hennessy Field, a synthetic multipurpose field, serves the field hockey, men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's soccer teams. It also has made possible the addition of men's and women's track and field teams, which will begin competing in 2022. The field is surrounded by a 400-meter, NCAA-compliant, eight-lane track, with areas for throwing and jumping events and a state-of-the-art video scoreboard. The project also included new perimeter fencing, a small parking lot and a new monument sign. It is a new face to the community as well as creating an impressive first impression upon entering the campus.

This was followed by a renewed, synthetic surface baseball field, the Vincent J. and Lenda F. Naimoli Ballpark, which opened for play in the spring of 2021. Included are permanent bleachers, a press box with storage, fencing, ball-stopper netting, batting tunnels and a modern scoreboard. Additional parking, walkways and site lighting will be added.

Another facilities upgrade was the resurfacing and branding of the five tennis courts on the Florham Campus. With a generous donation from Northern Jersey Tennis Academy, the tennis courts are now among the best within the Middle Atlantic Conference.

“The fields not only provide beautiful new homes for our athletic teams, but they represent a new face for the campus as they will greet visitors who drive through the Madison Avenue gate.”

CHRISTOPHER CAPUANO, FDU PRESIDENT



## Labs and Learning Spaces

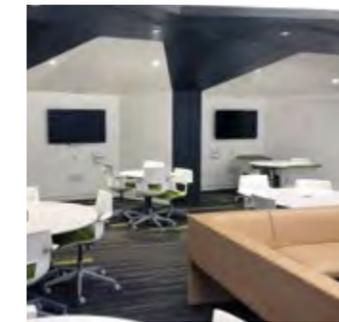
Becton Hall on the Metropolitan Campus underwent the completion of 13 state-of-the-art engineering labs, two physics labs and one digital arts lab. In addition, building accessibility was improved with the addition of an elevator, a lift and additional restrooms.

The Hearst Foundation and BD funded the complete renovation of two of the natural sciences laboratories in Dickinson Hall, using state-of-the-art fixtures and equipment as well as creating an enhanced active-learning environment. Additional science lab renovations, with the purchase and installation of significant teaching and research equipment, were completed at the Florham Campus, including the anatomy and ecology labs. In addition, the Science Building lecture hall was renovated.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences once again expanded, this time to include a third floor. This included the design and construction of active-learning classrooms and labs, including a simulated cadaver lab to accommodate additional health sciences programs as well as enhance existing programs. This lab features six high-tech, simulated cadaver tables and is required for upcoming accreditations. Nursing teaching facilities were also added.

FDU's animation lab on the Florham Campus underwent a floor-to-ceiling renovation and upgrade. The enlarged space sports a brand-new contemporary look, and the equipment upgrades give students the opportunity to use the latest technology in an exciting work space. The new modern furniture and optimized room layout provides a comfortable learning environment that incorporates a glass-enclosed 3D printing booth, dual high-resolution teaching monitors and upgraded computers with dual drawing tablet/monitors on movable arms mounted on sit/stand desks. The room now incorporates a flexible space to produce motion capture and virtual reality, as well as a place to host group meetings in order to promote collaboration and sharing of knowledge.

Other recent improvements at the Florham Campus include the Doerfler Active-Learning Classroom in the John and Joan Monninger Center for Learning and Research and the Hennessy Hall Smart Seminar Room.



## Wroxton College

There has been a significant upgrade of both infrastructure and equipment throughout Wroxton College. A major project was the renovation and refurbishing of all the bedrooms and bathrooms in the Abbey. The college also completely upgraded its computer network/Wi-Fi systems with high-speed internet connectivity and audiovisual and IT facilities and services.

In addition, Seminar Room 1, the Conference Room, the Reception Office and the Student Kitchen were completely refurbished. Historically-in-keeping lighting (chandeliers) were installed in the Great Hall, the Reading Room, the George III Room, the North Library, the Pope Library, the Garden Lobby, the South Stairs and the Walter Savage (faculty) Lounge.

New shelving was installed in the Reading Room to house the Austin Mitchell Hansard Collection, the Baroness Hayman Hansard Collection and the Lord Pendry Hansard Collection — each collection having been donated by the individuals concerned.



## Additional Projects

The Office of Veterans Services has a spacious new suite on the first floor of Dickinson Hall at the Metropolitan Campus. The 1,000-square-foot suite includes a reception and study area, a break/copy room, a “flex” room and offices for key veterans services personnel.

A generous donation by alumni Robert and Susan Wallach, both BS'61 (Metro), allowed the Office of Veterans Services to establish the Wallach Veterans Lounge on the second floor of the Martin F. Stadler, Patrick J. Zenner, Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. Academic Building at the Florham Campus. Once a conference room, this space has been converted into a suite for students to study, hold meetings and share meals together. It has multiple desktop computers, a printer, a flat-screen television, a refrigerator, a microwave, a coffee maker and a water cooler.

In addition, the Career Development Suite at the Metropolitan Campus library has been refreshed to be better able to serve students as they plan for their lives after college.



## Vancouver Campus

Building on past expansion of the Vancouver Campus at its main location on Cambie Street, the Vancouver Campus has again expanded, this time to an additional location on Georgia Street. This has increased the floor space of the Vancouver Campus by about 50% and added five classrooms, two labs, 12 offices and student social and informal learning space. This new expansion will allow growth of the Vancouver Campus to about 1,250 students. Beginning in fall 2021, the Georgia Street location supports students in the new Master of Science in Applied Computer Science program.

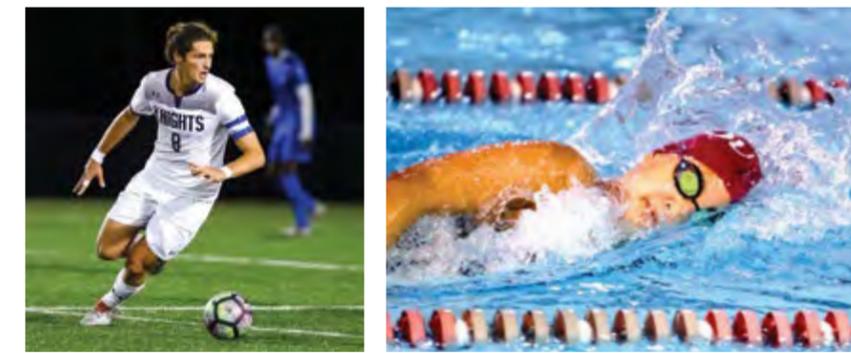


# Let's Hit the Highlight Reel



“ Our student-athletes have thrived in the classroom. I'm extremely proud of the work they continue to put forward to earn 38 consecutive semesters of a GPA above 3.0.”

BRADFORD HURLBUT, DIRECTOR OF DIVISION I KNIGHTS



## Athletic Triumphs 2016-2021

During the last five years, the FDU Knights and Devils have completed historic seasons, earned championships and brought esteem to their programs. The top highlights include:

- **Knights men's basketball** reached the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament twice in four years. In their first appearance since 1996, the Knights defeated Wagner University in the 2016 Northeast Conference (NEC) championship game to advance to the First Four entrance game in the NCAA tournament, where they faced Florida Gulf Coast. The Knights won their second NEC championship under Head Coach Greg Herenda in 2019, taking down Saint Francis University. They once again received a bid to the First Four where they faced Prairie View A&M, winning their first-ever NCAA tournament game. Then they received the No. 16 seed and faced the No. 1 seeded Gonzaga.
- **Devils women's basketball** won their sixth straight Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom championship in the 2017-2018 season, heading to their sixth NCAA tournament appearance.
- **Knights men's soccer** won the program's ninth NEC title after defeating LIU Brooklyn in 2019, and advanced to the first round of the NCAA tournament, where they faced the University of New Hampshire.
- **Knights men's golfer** Florian Schoedl won the NEC individual title and appeared at the NCAA championships for individual play.
- **Devils swimmer** Molly Miller won the first-ever MAC swimming championship in school history claiming first place in the 1,650-yard freestyle.
- **Devils field hockey** won their second MAC title in 2019 advancing to the NCAA tournament where they took their first NCAA win, advancing to the Sweet 16.
- **Knights women's track and field** in 2020 won their first NEC indoor championship since 1999. The team brought home three gold medals and four bronze in individual events.
- **Knights men's track and field** freshman Salif Mane took first place at the 2021 NEC outdoor championship and also broke the NEC championship triple jump record. Mane also took first place at the ECAC/IC4A championship. Sophomore Taeco O'Garro took second place at the ECAC/IC4A in the triple jump. Both jumpers qualified for the NCAA outdoor championship.
- **Knights women's bowling** won their fifth NEC tournament in 2021 to advance to their 13th NCAA tournament. Head Coach Mike LoPresti became the winningest women's bowling coach in NCAA history after claiming his 1,500th win in 2021.
- **Knights men's tennis** captured the 13th NEC championship in program history in the 2021 season.
- **Knights women's golf** has won multiple NEC crowns and has reached the NCAA tournament in five of the last six seasons. Senior Julia Warke took home the 2021 individual NEC champion title.
- **Devils women's lacrosse** won the program's fifth MAC title in six seasons, reaching the 2021 NCAA tournament with an undefeated record of 16-0.
- **Devils football** linebacker Isaiah Turner was named First Team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association in 2018. He was the fifth in program history to be named All-American, and first to be named to the First Team.



## Leading the Charge

With the vision of rising further in prominence among intercollegiate athletics in the New York Metropolitan area, new leaders emerged in the University's athletic departments. These new leaders have worked during their time at FDU to improve the athletic experience for the student-athletes and coaches, as well as expand the program offerings available to incoming students.

In the spring of 2018, Jennifer (Jenn) Noon was named the new director for the Division III Devils. Noon became the program's fourth athletics director after serving in various roles in the athletics department for 13 years. She joined FDU in 2004 as an assistant field hockey coach and women's lacrosse coach. Noon also coached the women's golf team since its inaugural season in 2011.

"It has been an honor to serve as the director of athletics for the Devils family over the past three years. I am grateful to work under a president who embraces the role of a 'student-athlete' through academic excellence and athletic achievement by allowing our department to provide a transformative environment," says Noon. "The support from President Capuano is unwavering; his passion and loyalty to FDU is just beginning to scratch the surface of tremendous success."

In the winter of 2019 Bradford Hurlbut was named the new director of the Division I Knights. Hurlbut came to FDU following a tenure at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., where he served as deputy director of athletics. Prior to coming to Sacred Heart, Hurlbut spent time working in the West Coast Conference commissioner's office, after a 17-year stint on the executive athletics team at Northwestern University.

"When I was hired by President Capuano, it was clear that our visions aligned for the future of Knights athletics," Hurlbut says. "Through great teamwork with the president and other leaders across FDU, we have already achieved several goals. I'd be remiss not to mention the major athletic achievements in my brief time here — NEC championships in women's golf, women's indoor track and field, women's bowling, men's soccer and men's basketball. The men's hoops team would go on to win the first NCAA tournament game in school history, a moment Knights fans everywhere will remember forever."



DIRECTORS OF ATHLETICS JENNIFER NOON AND BRADFORD HURLBUT



## The Future

### Knights add 20th and 21st Programs

In the winter of 2021, Hurlbut announced the addition of two athletic programs — men's volleyball and women's lacrosse. These two new programs will bring two highly in-demand and sought-after sports to the Knights. "The future looks bright and I'm thrilled we will be growing our department," Hurlbut says. "It is great to begin men's volleyball and welcome the first team to campus in the fall of 2021. And then a year later, we will introduce women's lacrosse as our 21st sport. It is a true accomplishment to expand and increase the number of great student-athletes who will compete and be a part of our Knights family. I look forward to working with President Capuano in the days, weeks and years to come."

#### ► Women's Lacrosse

"FDU is proud and excited to welcome women's lacrosse, the 21st Division I athletics program on our Metropolitan Campus," comments President Capuano. "The introduction of this great sport, on the heels of the addition of men's volleyball, illustrates the strength and continued growth of our athletics program. An added benefit of these two new programs is their popularity within New Jersey and the possibility of keeping more New Jersey students close to home to study and compete."

"I am so excited that Fairleigh Dickinson University has announced the addition of women's lacrosse as its 21st Division I sport," said Noreen Morris, Northeast Conference Commissioner. "As one of the fastest-growing sports for women, the addition of FDU's program will allow so many more student-athletes to showcase their talents at the collegiate level and in the hotbed of lacrosse."

# ACTION

#### ► Men's Volleyball

A \$200,000 grant from First Point Volleyball Foundation was obtained to aid in the establishment of the men's volleyball program. The grant will be provided over four years to assist with programmatic needs.

"We have been so impressed by the vision and leadership of President Capuano and Director Hurlbut. First Point is honored to partner with an institution building momentum through athletics. It is really exciting to think that young men from all over the country and all over the world will soon be in Hackensack competing in volleyball and enjoying the unique student-athlete experience FDU is providing," says Wade Garard, CEO of First Point Volleyball.

#### ► Division III Track & Field

In the spring of 2021, Noon announced the addition of its newest programs — men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field — to the list of sports available at the Florham Campus. The addition of these programs increases the Devils current offerings from 19 to 23. The newly completed Elizabeth Ruth Hennessy Field is home to a brand new 400-meter, NCAA-compliant, eight-lane track in preparation for the start of competition in 2022.

"It is a very exciting time at Fairleigh Dickinson University, especially within the athletics department," says President Capuano. "The future of Devils athletics is bright, and we look forward to continuing to expand opportunities and attract high-caliber student-athletes to pursue their dreams at FDU."



## Academic Achievements

The Knights and Devils athletic programs have had a long history of not just athletic excellence but also outstanding academic excellence. Between the years of 2016–2021, the student-athletes have been named consecutively to the Middle Atlantic Conference and Northeast Conference honor rolls for the fall and spring semesters. This includes more than 1,600 student-athletes. Teams also received individual accolades for their academic success, including the Knights women's golf, men's tennis and women's soccer teams. "Our student-athletes have thrived in the classroom," Hurlbut says. "I'm extremely proud of the work they continue to put forward to earn 38 consecutive semesters of a GPA above 3.0. Additionally, we have had NEC scholar-athlete award winners in women's soccer, baseball, and men's golf."

The Devils women's cross-country team had the second highest GPA in New Jersey in the fall of 2020 with a 3.76 and was honored at the New Jersey Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (NJIAIW) National Girls and Women in Sports Day in 2021. "NCAA Division III athletics emphasizes the importance of being a complete student-athlete," Noon adds. "Our student-athletes routinely engage in high-level intercollegiate competition while excelling in the classroom — evidenced by the combined 3.36 GPA achieved by our athletic teams this past fall. We had 301 student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher and 25 student-athletes who achieved a 4.0."

## Community Service

- The Fairleigh Dickinson University Knights athletics department earned the 2019–2020 NEC Building Communities Award. The award, which was created in 2010 by the NEC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), recognizes the institution that demonstrates the highest dedication to making an impact in the community. The Burgundy and Blue totaled 3,275 hours over the course of the academic year and more than 250 student-athletes participated in community service at over 51 locations. Each student-athlete averaged approximately 13.1 community service hours, which led the Northeast Conference.
- In 2019, the inaugural Fuel to the Fire Leadership Academy brought together team captains and veteran student-athlete leaders to participate in advanced leadership training and support. This academy taught student-athletes the critical team leadership skills and insights necessary to be effective vocal leaders as they manage and conquer the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of leadership. In addition to the education, the leadership academy also provided student-athlete leaders with a strong peer network to lean on and learn from throughout the academic year.
- In 2020, Devils student-athletes began two initiatives in light of social justice issues plaguing the country as well as mental-health issues that student-athletes face, Athletes for Change and Equality (A.C.E.) and Sporting Strong Minds. A.C.E. was developed to focus on issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice. Its mission statement is "A.C.E. is dedicated to acknowledging and accepting differences within our very own community. The group is a safe space for those who have felt alienated to feel accepted, heard and empowered." They educate on the racial and cultural injustices that still burden our country today and work together to incite change and seek justice. Sporting Strong Minds, a student-led initiative, helps to support and discuss the importance of mental health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, student-athletes gathered on Zoom to discuss their struggles with mental health.
- During the pandemic, members of both athletic departments gave back to the community, donating their time and supplies to those in need. For example, the Devils sports-medicine team donated much-needed supplies to the Morristown Medical Center, while members of the Knights staff came together to help pack dinners for families in Newark, NJ.
- The Student Athlete Advisory Committees and athletic programs on both New Jersey campuses have worked to give back to a multitude of organizations and causes including: Juvenile Diabetes, Sneakers for Funds, Special Olympics, ovarian cancer, VS.Cancer, Center for Food Action, Grow A Row, Goodwill NJ/NY and the Boys and Girls Club of Lodi and Hackensack.



**NEC Scholar-Athlete Awards**  
 Women's Soccer  
 Men's Golf  
 Baseball

**3.76 GPA**  
 Devils Women's Cross-Country  
 NJIAIW HONOREES

**3.36** GPA of Devils Athletic Teams Combined

**38** Knights Student-Athletes Consecutive Semesters with GPAs of 3.0+

**301** with 3.0+ GPA  
 DEVILS Student-Athletes  
**25** achieved 4.0 GPA

2016-2021 Honor Rolls  
 MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE & NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Knights Academic Accolades  
 Women's Golf  
 Men's Tennis  
 Women's Soccer

## *In Their Words...*

“ President Capuano is a dynamic and visionary leader who has inspired many strategic initiatives that have propelled the University to higher academic rankings, a stronger overall reputation and an enhanced student experience. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, President Capuano and his team have worked tirelessly with students and faculty to ensure that the highest possible academic standards would be upheld and to ensure that FDU’s students would continue to receive the educational experience so necessary for their future success. Under President Capuano’s exemplary leadership, the University foundation is strong, and we are excited and determined to build on this and to further distinguish this great institution.”

**ROBERT J. ZATTA, MBA’77 (METRO)**  
Chair, FDU Board of Trustees

“ I have had the great pleasure of serving as a trustee at FDU with Chris Capuano as University president. In the several years we have worked together, I have learned from him as a leader, an educator and a friend. President Capuano consistently leads by example. It is clear to all that he puts his heart and soul into making FDU optimal in every way. The well-being of our students is his top priority, and that intense focus extends to his faculty, staff and trustees. I trust his judgment implicitly because his motives are always clear. Simply put, it is his goal to make FDU one of the great universities. And I have no doubt, under his leadership, that we will get there.”

**LINDA BOWDEN, MBA’83 (METRO)**  
Vice Chair, FDU Board of Trustees; Former Regional President at PNC Bank; Inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame (2020)

“ During my time at FDU, as a community, we have been thrown many curveballs. Though obstacles came our way, the adaptability of the administration has allowed us to overcome them. By creating a one university initiative, students are now able to be exposed to different courses, events and networks all together. As we continually encourage the world around us to be more just, the creation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Council allows that same accountability to occur at our campuses. The systematic restructuring to form a united university will enable FDU to continue to make important progress.”

**MAAME MENSAH, BA’21 (METRO)**  
Student Government Association President

“ The last five years under President Capuano have been marked by a once-in-a-generation restructuring and a once-in-a-century pandemic. Yet FDU is poised to come out of this leaner and more agile, with a clearer branding of what makes each New Jersey campus unique while sustaining Vancouver as a source of new students and Wroxton as an asset that draws new students to choose FDU in New Jersey.”

**GARY H. DARDEN**  
Associate Professor of History;  
Chair, Department of Social Sciences and History

“ At the time we selected Chris Capuano to be president of FDU, the Board was looking for a high-energy leader for the University. We needed our new president to create a forward-looking strategy that would leverage the strengths of the University and bring sharp focus to growing and strengthening areas of excellence. His vision for the future of FDU is inspiring and has led to a restructuring that will allow us to compete in the rapidly changing and challenging higher-education market. All of this was put to a big test during the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire University rose to the occasion and did a remarkable job on behalf of our students. President Capuano has great passion for FDU and has built a strong team around him to lead the University into the future.”

**PATRICK J. ZENNER**  
**MBA’75 (RUTH)**  
Chair, FDU Board of Trustees (2003-2021);  
Now Chair Emeritus

## MOMENTUM

“ **D**uring the last five years, we have taken great strides and provided the foundation for even greater things to come. Our progress has been forged by the collaboration and commitment of an extraordinary team. Thank you one and all for making the highlights in this report possible!

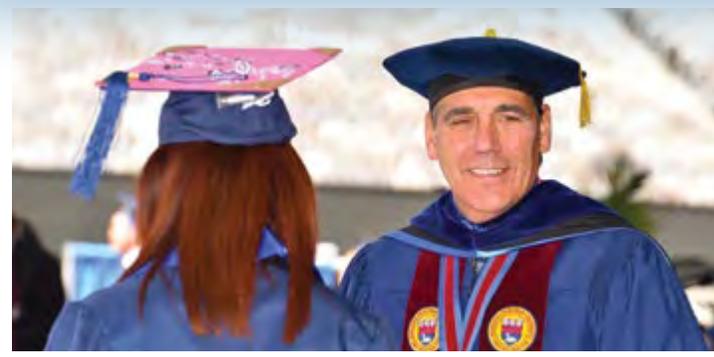
Because of our devoted faculty and staff, we are poised to reach new levels of excellence and distinction. I look forward to continuing to work closely with each area of the University to build on our progress and pursue new goals that will set us apart as an institution and help us serve students in exciting new ways. Together we will continue our momentum, distinguish our University and, above all, transform the lives of our students!”

**CHRISTOPHER A. CAPUANO**  
FDU President





# *Toward New Heights*



**FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
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