

## October Newsletter

Academy Coordinator: Jaime Combs

904.547.8306 | [jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



Academy Students and Parents,

While we're always striving to make sure our curriculum mirrors industry trends in Communications, Engineering, and Hospitality & Tourism, nothing inspires our students more than seeing the skills they learn in the classroom reflected in the real world.

Each year, we work to present opportunities that give our students a first-hand look at the career fields they're studying in an Academy. We bring professionals into the classroom and take students into the postsecondary and business world. This month's newsletter provides information on some of our recent fall field trips and guest speaker events.

Jaime Combs  
Academy Coordinator

### STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT UNF'S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Juniors and Seniors in the Stellar Academy of Engineering travelled to the University of North Florida to get an up-close-and-personal look at the University's College of Engineering. They started the trip with a warm welcome from the Director of the School of Engineering, Dr. Osama Jadaan. He asked the

students about what engineering disciplines they're most interested in, and how those interests translate to the programs offered by UNF. He also shared that UNF's College of Engineering has a near 100% job placement rate for its graduates. Next, the Dean of the College of Computing, Engineering & Construction, Dr. Mark Tumeo, spoke with the students about

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FIRST QUARTER ENDS

October 12<sup>th</sup>

#### HOMECOMING GAME

October 12<sup>th</sup>

#### HOMECOMING DANCE

October 13<sup>th</sup>

#### TEACHER PLANNING DAY

October 15<sup>th</sup>

### ACADEMY REQUIREMENTS

Academy students, as the first quarter draws to a close, remember, Academy students must:

- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0
- Maintain a minimum Academy class GPA of 2.5 (a 75% in the course)
- Avoid school and district rule infractions, which result in disciplinary action

Students who do not meet Academy requirements will be notified of probationary status, which generally lasts one semester. If a student does not improve his/her grades or disciplinary record during probation, he/she can be removed from the Academy program for the following year.

one of UNF's most valuable offerings: a truly hands-on education for engineering students, which is something he said is not offered at larger Universities. Then, the students met with Dr. Paul Eason, Director of UNF's Materials Science and Engineering Research Facility. He noted that everything that's not naturally made is engineered, and materials engineers support all other engineering professionals. He showed the students the power of one of the University's electron microscopes, and answered student questions. Then it was time to move on to a tour of the Universities programs and labs, which take up three floors of a brand-new building. On the electrical engineering floor, students met with engineering undergraduates who are working on research projects with the University, as well as taking part in the Adaptive Toy Car Project. In this lab, students are modifying battery-powered vehicles for young children, so that kids with disabilities can also enjoy the toys. On the mechanical engineering floor, passionate professors showed



## HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

If you work in the field of Communications (TV Production or Digital Design), Engineering, or Hospitality and Tourism, let us know! We would love for you to join our Advisory Board, be a guest speaker, or become a potential field trip site host.

Contact: Jaime Combs

904.547.8306

Jaime.combs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

### PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Lisa Kunze

### ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Ted Banton

Dr. Latasha Bowens

Mr. Jeff Stoddard

### DEANS

Mr. Matt Narin

9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mrs. Kelly Abbatinozzi

10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ms. Becky Burney

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

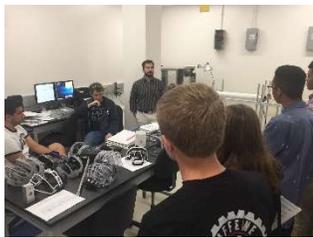
### ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Matt McCool

Athletic Director

Mrs. Gina Hansen

Athletic Secretary



our Academy students how 3D printing, when used in conjunction with electroplating, can be used to create new stronger and safer materials for use in sports, and in everyday life. On the civil engineering floor, students met with yet another professor, and got a first-hand look at a geomechanics and geoinaging lab. In the

lab, earth materials are tested, and the boundaries of aerial imaging are being stretched, thanks to the use of powerful computer science. It was a comprehensive tour, and we thank Advisory Board partner Dr. Jadaan for taking such an interest in our talented Academy students!

## ALLIGATOR FARM WELCOMES COMMUNICATIONS AND HOSPITALITY ACADEMY STUDENTS

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Hospitality and Communications students in Digital Information Technology classes travelled to one of St. Augustine's most notable tourist attractions—the Alligator Farm. Students from the D.I.T. classes had the chance to explore the park, and were assigned to take photos of wildlife for use in future class assignments using the Microsoft Word software they're studying. Meanwhile, Advanced TV Production students also attended the field trip, as an opportunity to sharpen their field production skills. Students were broken up into groups, and each group



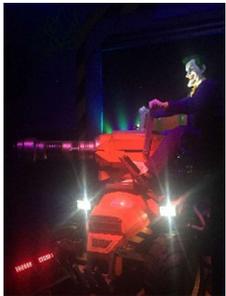
had to pull two genres at random. The students then had to utilize one or both of those assigned genres when creating an original short film project, shot on location at the Alligator Farm.

## STELLAR ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE ENGINEERING BEHIND CREATING THEME PARK RIDES

Recently our Engineering Academy students had the opportunity to tour Sally Corporation, a 40,000-square-foot facility dedicated to designing, creating, and engineering characters and environments for theme park rides. The local company was founded more than 35 years ago and serves clients all over the world. The tour



started with an interactive game experience, which highlighted the type of theme park ride environment the company creates. Then, on to the design office and sculpting rooms, where graphic designers create the theme park ride environments and characters. The most impressive space in the facility is the production floor, where the Stellar Academy students had the chance to see the engineering that goes into the creation of the animatronic characters. On the production floor engineers, carpenters, set



designers, and costume designers all work together to create their characters, which can be as small as an animatronic bird or as large as a full-sized Joker on a tricked-out four-wheeler. Overall, the trip was a fantastic experience that showed how Engineering is used to create magic for theme park fans. Our Digital Design students are headed to Sally Corp next, to learn more about the design process and get a chance to see how graphic design is applied in a unique way.

## DIRECTOR OF FSU'S DEDMAN SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM VISITS NEASE'S HOSPITALITY PROGRAM



It's not unusual for college recruiters to visit high schools and share the opportunities featured at their University. It IS unusual, however, for the Director of a large-scale college to make the trip out to a high school himself. After Dr. Don Farr, the Director of the FSU Dedman School of Hospitality & Tourism, heard about Nease's

Hospitality Academy, he made a point to schedule a visit to learn more about our Academy, and to share details of the Hospitality and Tourism majors offered at FSU. Speaking with students in the hospitality classroom, he explained FSU's Hospitality Management & Tourism major as well as their new Global Club Management & Leadership major. He stressed the global nature of the business, and the school's ability to help students get experience internationally. He also shared that their college has a nearly 100% graduate placement rate in the workforce. We thank Dr. Farr for making the trip from Tallahassee to share all the great post-secondary Hospitality & Tourism opportunities available at Florida State University.



**CAREER ACADEMIES**

of St Johns

Experience. The Difference.

## UPCOMING ACADEMY FIELD TRIPS

**Sally Corporation** – Communications Academy Digital Design students (Oct 9<sup>th</sup>)

**Hilton Garden Inn** – Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Technology students (Oct 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Dream Big: Engineering Our World IMAX Film Event** – Stellar Academy of Engineering students (Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>)

**Hotel and Bed & Breakfast Professional Panel Discussion** – Academy of Hospitality & Tourism (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)

**UNF Communications College Tour** – Communications Academy TV Production students (Oct 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Whetstones Tour** – Stellar Academy of Engineering Introduction to Engineering Design students (Nov 1<sup>st</sup>)

**Icemen Hockey Day & Arena Tour** – Communications Academy Digital Design & Sports Media students, Academy of Hospitality & Tourism Marketing students (Nov 8<sup>th</sup>)

**First Coast Technical College Culinary Program Tour** – Hospitality Academy students (Nov 19<sup>th</sup>)

**WJCT Studio Tour** – Communications Academy Digital Video Tech 1 and Wired students (Nov 29<sup>th</sup>)

**England-Thims & Miller, Inc Engineering Lunch & Learn** – Civil Engineering Students (Dec 6<sup>th</sup>)