



STANDING “O” FOR ALUM WILLIAM FICHTNER’S NEW FILM

Alum '76 William Fichtner's latest film, *Cold Brook*, won awards at three different film festivals, in advance of its November theatrical release. At the exclusive Metro-area screening at the Little Theater in Roosevelt Hall, no awards were given, but *Cold Brook* – Fichtner's directorial debut – received a rousing seal of approval.

The near-capacity, enthusiastic audience of faculty, staff, students, and members of the community cheered and applauded loudly when the closing credits began to roll, and again when the credits ended. Then Fichtner was greeted with a standing

turned into an acting career that has included more than 50 films and a role in the hit TV comedy, *Mom*.

When President Nader asked Fichtner what advice he would give to those considering an acting career, Fichtner quipped, “Take criminal justice!” He went on to say that those who want an acting career should not have a Plan B. “If you have a back-up, don't bother,” he said. “A half-foot in the door is about a half-foot forward.”

Cold Brook was filmed in upstate Cortland and Buffalo. The evening ended when a member of the



ovation as he took the stage for a sit-down with President Nader.

Cold Brook is a “buddy movie” in the classic sense, with Fichtner's character and his next door neighbor, played by Kim Coates, practically connected at the hip (the two are best friends off-set, too). But the movie – more than a decade in the making – takes an unexpected supernatural turn – but you'll have to see the film to find out what it is.

During his interview with President Nader, Fichtner was in rare form, inspired by his return to his alma mater. He emphasized more than once his Criminal Justice degree, and the good times had in his dorm, Dewey Hall. He teased the audience about what happened there, except for a tidbit about having once fallen out a window. He also recalled an apple orchard that blocked the view of Route 110, and a corn field where students picked corn – and then flung the ears at one another.

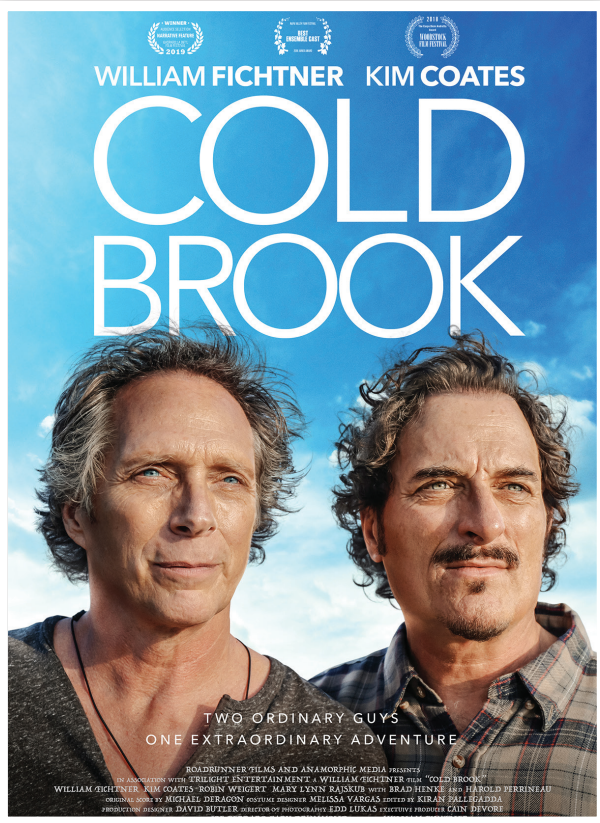
In the audience was Fichtner's first roommate, and Fichtner told the story about the roommate's stereo system being stolen from the room. The roommate made a list of who might have lifted it, and Fichtner revealed his name was at the top of the list.

He also reminisced about Don Harvey, the admissions counselor who recruited him to FSC, and how much he admired him. It was Harvey who took Fichtner to his first play, and planted a small seed that later

audience asked Fichtner if he'd ever film a movie at a college of technology on LI – an obvious reference to FSC. Fichtner replied, “I think about it every day of my life!”

Article Credit: Campus Times

<http://blogs.farmingdale.edu/sites/campus-times/2019/10/07/standing-o-for-alum-william-fichtners-new-film/>



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Kas Carey
Director of Engagement Strategy
careyka@farmingdale.edu

MaryEllen DeCicco
Director of Corporate Engagement
deciccm@farmingdale.edu

Chantal Etrasco
Administrative Assistant II
chantal.etrasco@farmingdale.edu

Michelle Johnson
Director of Alumni Engagement & Stewardship
michelle.johnson@farmingdale.edu

Babette Kastens
Manager of Scholarships & Donor Stewardship
babette.kastens@farmingdale.edu

Ann Noss
Accountant
ann.noss@farmingdale.edu

Magdalena Sanchez Overton
Director of Advancement Services
overtom@farmingdale.edu

Joan Urbanowski
Asst. Director of Advancement Services
joan.urbanowski@farmingdale.edu

Regina Vazquez '76
Asst. Director of Alumni Engagement & Stewardship
regina.vazquez@farmingdale.edu

FRIENDSHIP



ALUMNUS HONORED NYS SENATOR JOHN E. BROOKS, '74 HONORED AT GALA

A lifelong resident of Long Island, John E. Brooks has devoted his life to giving back to his community. For more than 50 years, Senator Brooks has been an active volunteer firefighter with the Seaford, Medford and Lindenhurst Fire Departments and previously served as Seaford's Chief of Department. Senator Brooks served on the Seaford Board of Education for six years, acting as Vice President from 1997-1999. Prior to Superstorm Sandy, he was the Chairman of the Long Island Hurricane Symposium Programs. Senator Brooks is also a member of several community civic organizations.

Professionally, Senator Brooks was an executive in the insurance industry and worked as the Executive Director of Risk Management for Nassau County. Senator Brooks is a veteran of the New York Army Reserve National Guard, having served for eight years as a medic. Currently, Brooks serves as Chairman of the NYS Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs.

Brooks holds a Bachelor's degree from New York Institute of Technology and an Associate's degree from the State University of New York at Farmingdale. He resides in Seaford, and is a proud father and grandfather.



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ALUMNI HAPPENINGS For a complete list of events, go to alumni.farmingdale.edu



CELEBRATING AT THE GALA

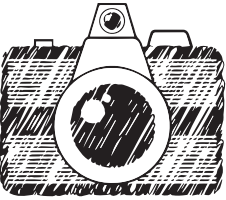
Several members of the Alumni Association Board attended the President's Gala on November 14 at the Crest Hollow Country Club. If you have an interest in joining the board and taking a more active role in the Farmingdale alumni community, please reach out to President William Jimenez '10 at JimenezWilliam15@gmail.com

Pictured L-R standing: Julie Allegretti '07, '09, '10, Richard Lahn '05, Susan Ring '77, Sylvia Nicosia '04, James Durant '68, Diane Ellis '76, Michelle Johnson, Patricia Panetta '80. Seated: Joe Egan '70, William Jimenez '10.



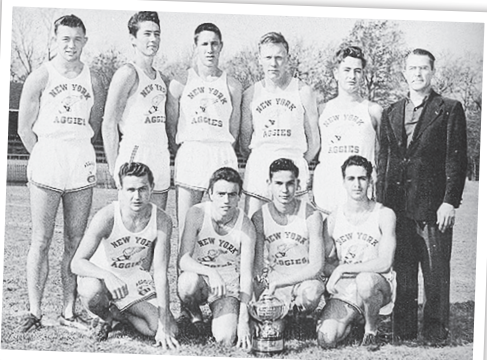
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Alumni, students, veterans, staff and friends of Farmingdale State College sponsored over 150 wreaths for the national Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 14. A dedicated group of volunteers gathered alongside hundreds of others on a rainy Saturday morning at the Long Island National Cemetery to help place more than 45,000 wreaths on the graves of our veterans. This was the first year FSC formally participated in the event to fulfill WAA's mission to remember our fallen, honor those that serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. Thank you to 110 Sand for underwriting the event and to all who supported our campaign to benefit Veterans' Programs on campus.



ALUMNI MEMORIES

Any familiar faces or places? Let us know, we'd love to hear from you. Future issues of the Alumni Rambler will feature photos from yesteryear, so check back for more oldies but goodies. If you have any photos or information to share, please email us at alumni@farmingdale.edu



CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP: A STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Elizabeth Bello '19, recipient of the Christopher Keen Memorial Scholarship

by Dr. Carly Tribull



high performance on assessment, and willingness to help her fellow students by forming study groups and lending a hand when needed.

In Spring 2019, Elizabeth started her research career with Dr. Tribull, simultaneously learning about insect curation by organizing the Entomology Teaching Collection on campus and molecular techniques through DNA extraction and Polymerase Chain Reaction amplification. During the Summer 2019 field season, Elizabeth was an essential part of a Long Island survey of insects as she independently maintained several insect-collecting traps in often tick-infested regions of Eastern Long Island. Through her fieldwork, Elizabeth contributed thousands of insects that will likely form the basis for several research projects at FSC in the future.

In Fall 2019, Elizabeth decided to go a step further as a research intern and developed her own project. Inspired by her observations during the summer, Elizabeth turned

This year, the Biology department selected Elizabeth Bello as the recipient for the Christopher Keen Memorial Scholarship award. In addition to being an excellent student, Elizabeth was selected for her involvement and dedication to biology research. Elizabeth's research career was an outgrowth of her spectacular performance in BIO 198, an entomology course that focuses on insect diversity, evolution, and identification. Elizabeth stood out to her professor, Dr. Carly Tribull, for her excellent insect collection,

“Receiving this scholarship means I can breathe a little easier. I have been working three jobs just to make ends meet. This scholarship is a tremendous blessing.”

—Elizabeth Bello '19

her focus to the Common Eastern Bumble Bee, which can be found throughout Long Island. Since she was taking BIO 414 (Microbiology), Elizabeth decided to explore the external bacterial communities of her bees to see if bacterial diversity would vary between a field low in flowering plant diversity (between Bethpage State Park and the FSC campus) and a site high in flowering plant diversity (the Botanical Teaching Garden on campus). She spent hours collecting bees, swabbing them, learning culturing techniques from microbiology experts on campus, and analyzing her results. While she found no statistically significant difference between bacterial diversity on bees from her sites, the project represents one of the first explorations in external bee bacterial diversity.

Elizabeth presented her research at the 2019 Entomological Society of America conference in St. Louis, MO. While there, the community of entomology students and professionals she met encouraged and inspired her to further her insect studies. Elizabeth is most interested in how we can use a growing knowledge of insects to solve issues that impact humanity, like water shortages and responses to climate change.

Elizabeth is very grateful to the scholarship donors, former FSC President, Dr. W. Hubert Keen and Sally Keen. “I would like to give the donors my sincerest thanks. Being the recipient of this scholarship means the world to me and is a huge financial relief.

Your generosity and contributions to students like myself reminds me of all the good in humanity and that people can be miracles too. Thank you for this gift. It has truly touched me.”

As of January 2020, Elizabeth is preparing to interview for a funded master's program. We wish her the best of luck!



A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU!

The Corwin Family Foundation Scholarship recipients meet the donor at a luncheon hosted by President Nader



The Corwin Family Foundation Scholarship was established in 2017 to honor the legacy of alumnus Arthur Corwin, a 1976 graduate of the Farmingdale State College Construction Management Engineering Technology program. It is supported by donations received from The Corwin Family Foundation, Inc. This scholarship is designated for students in the FSC School of Engineering Technology to assist them in covering their college expenses.

Pictured (L-R): Patricia Christiansen '64, Carol Budinoff '71, Beshram Persaud '20 (Corwin Family Foundation Scholarship Recipient, Electrical Engineering Technology), Alex Ragone '20 (Corwin Family Foundation Scholarship Recipient, Aeronautical Science: Professional Pilot), Art Corwin '76, Ann Corwin '78, President Nader.

GIVING WEEK PHONATHON [APRIL 20-24]

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The College has a variety of programs, both degree and certificate, that offer your employees the skills they need to make them competitive in this ever-changing environment. Whether it be entrepreneurship, technology, leadership or engineering, let us coordinate your interaction on campus. Let’s work together to build a mutually beneficial, long-term relationship.

For more information, contact MaryEllen DeCicco at 934-420-2316 or deciccm@farmingdale.edu.

OPPORTUNITIES



- RECRUIT EMPLOYEES
- JOIN ADVISORY COUNCILS
- START AN INTERNSHIP
- MEET FACULTY EXPERTS
- MENTOR A STUDENT
- REQUEST A CAMPUS VISIT



SAVE THE DATE

2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 5

RAMRUN 5K
The annual 5K held on the FSC campus. For more information call 934-420-2369 or sign up at elitefeats.com?RamRun

APRIL 20-24

PHONATHON
Answer the Call! Support The Farmingdale Fund during our student-to-alumni phonathon. Our new area code is 934

MAY 18

COMMENCEMENT
Rain date May 19. For more information go to the FSC website at farmingdale.edu.

JUNE 8

GOLF CLASSIC
Hempstead Country Club For more information call 934-420-2369 or email alumni@farmingdale.edu.

NOV. 12

PRESIDENT’S GALA
Crest Hollow Country Club For more information call 934-420-2316 or email deciccm@farmingdale.edu.

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FSC ALUMNA OFF INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER

Can a visual communications degree prepare a person for a CEO position in the aviation industry? If your answer is no, then you don’t know Kristen Steinhardt.

Steinhardt, a Spring ’19 graduate, is CEO (the youngest in the industry) and part owner of Gyro Revolution, a start-up dedicated to selling two-passenger gyroplanes and providing flight services in a market that is wide open in the Northeast. The company is based at Long Island’s MacArthur Airport.

Gyroplanes – also known as gyrocopters or autogyros – are recreational vehicles used mainly for leisure travel. Prices start at \$95,000 and run as much as \$145,000. They can reach speeds as high as 120 mph, and are highly fuel efficient, burning 3-5 gallons of fuel an hour (a small turboprop burns about 65 gallons/hr.). Their range is 300-500 miles. Gyro Revolution also offers what they call “discovery flights,” which last from 15 minutes to an hour. Pricing ranges from \$100 to \$220.

“The market for gyroplanes is growing rapidly in the United States, and with our presence I believe we will become one of the leaders of recreational flight on Long Island and the USA,” Steinhardt says. “We have a long road ahead of us. To succeed we are going to follow our mission to create a community, bring in the most innovative products, and provide excellent training and superior customer service. We will also focus on networking with the aviation community and producing strategic marketing campaigns to engage and educate the public.”

And guess who’s going to create those marketing campaigns, thanks to her education at FSC: Steinhardt. “My degree gives me the opportunity to pursue an occupation in many different industries. You can become a marketing professional, an art director, photographer, graphic designer, ux/ui designer, etc. The degree requires you to take classes in all of these subjects. So when you graduate you actually have the skills to start your own business, brand it and market it, or be a valuable asset to an organization. Having all of these skills has saved me thousands of dollars. When I started the company I didn’t have to hire a web designer, a photographer, a social media strategist, or graphic designer. I did everything myself to get the company up and running.”

Steinhardt’s partner and company COO is Robert Lutz, who himself has an FSC connection. He was a lecturer and flight instructor in the Aviation Department in 2003 – 2005, and has been flying since he was 13. He is an airline transport pilot, with experience flying everything from helicopters to seaplanes. He has logged more than 8,000 flying hours.

“The discipline and professionalism I learned at Farmingdale certainly helped prepare me for being a part of, and creating, a professional aviation organization. Discovering gyroplanes made me fall in love with flying all over again. It makes me completely giddy every time I fly one.”

Steinhardt was an outstanding student, graduating with a 3.9 GPA and appearing four times on the President’s List.

“Farmingdale State College was the best decision for me. I have been working since I was 15, and needed a college that was local to Long Island, would have flexible class hours, and of course, a great education. The classes I took in business and design were intense and at times overwhelming but they helped me expand my skillset and prepared me for the real world. I learned much from my professors, who are all industry professionals and very dedicated to their work and supportive towards their students.”

But Steinhardt didn’t wait until graduating to begin pursuing her dream. While at school she and Lutz visited four countries and 11 states to research the gyroplane.

“When people told me I was crazy, it pushed me harder to keep going. When you have a dream and a vision, make it happen. When people doubt you, prove them wrong and exceed even your own expectations. Think smarter, work harder, and work longer than anyone else. When you stay focused and stay hungry you start to see results.”

Article Credit: Campus Times
<http://blogs.farmingdale.edu/sites/campus-times/2019/08/19/fsc-alumna-off-into-the-wild-blue-yonder/>