



FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2019

### WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Welcome to the Alumni Newsletter - a new publication from the Five Towns College Career Services Center/Alumni Association.**

We hope this will be a place to share alumni news and continue professional conversations about industry trends, accomplishments and interesting opportunities. Many exciting things are happening on campus, including the focus on improving the facilities i.e. the new television production studio and radio station, new sets in the film/video studios, the opening of the Studio theatre, new classroom furniture and modern updates to many of the offices in "The Main" and exciting live broadcasts of the Sound athletic program. All in all, it has been an outstanding year at Five Towns College!

As we continue to thrive, we want to invite you to become more involved with all that FTC offers. We are eager to hear about your professional successes. Similarly, we want alumni to know that the Career Services Center and Alumni Association is here to provide support and resources for career placement, job transition and/or just for questions and advice. Please feel free to join us by attending any of the exciting events planned for the Spring 2019.

Thank you for choosing to create your future @ Five Towns College!

With pride and continued success,

Krysti O'Rourke, M. P. A.

Director

Career Services Center and Alumni Association

CAREER SERVICES CENTER AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
IN NEW OFFICE- ROOM 108A



*Director Krysti O'Rourke & Associate Director Ryan Schimmenti*

At last, after the long wait, The Career Services Center has a new home in the 100 wing of the College a/k/a The Student Success Center. In addition to the beautiful office with updated furniture and new look, Five Towns College also has a new staff member in the Career Services Center, Associate Director Mr. Ryan Schimmenti, who will also be charged with facilitating alumni communications, networking, and events. So, get psyched for what should be an exciting launch of alumni activities!



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### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Katelyn Nudo-Drozd** is 2007 alum of Five Towns College where she received a B.S. in Mass Communication with a concentration in Journalism. While at Five Towns College, she wrote extensively for the FTC student newspaper and also won “Screenplay of the Year” at the 2007 “An Evening of Cinema” event. Through the Five Towns College Career Services Center, Katelyn was able to solidify internships with Billboard magazine and The ConneX List magazine, where she was able to interview and write about mainstream and underground Hip Hop/R&B artists as well as publish a songwriting column.

As an undergraduate, Katelyn collaborated with fellow alum, Joey Martino, to write and record 50+ original pop songs many of which they recorded in their dorm rooms! Since graduating over twelve years ago, Katelyn has held roles as an entertainment journalist, a ghostwriter for self-published authors, and also lived in Indonesia with a Top 40s band where she sang for people from all over the globe. Using her interview skills, honed while working as a journalist, Katelyn then went into recruitment and on to grad school to receive her M.S. in Global Talent Management from N.Y.U.

She has built a career in Human Resources (HR) over the last nine years, with a strong focus on global talent acquisition and management, employer branding and engagement, unconscious bias training for managers, creating an incredible candidate and new hire experience, and building out U.S. student programs. Throughout her life, Katelyn has had incredible mentors, strong female role models, and family and friends who have helped to shape her unique career path.

Today, Katelyn works as the Director of U.S. Talent Acquisition at Warner Music Group. There, she combines her background in music & HR to work on some amazing projects that contribute to the company’s people strategy and culture.

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## 45TH ACADEMIC SESSION OPENING CONVOCATION



*Honorary Doctorate Recipients,  
Norm Lewis and David Benoi*

Five Towns College opened the Academic Year 2018-19 with a new tradition filled with much pomp and circumstance –Convocation! Dignitaries, students and staff attended the ceremony conducted in the Five Towns College Performing Arts Center. In addition to the day's general festivities, Honorary Doctorates were awarded to two distinguished guests: Grammy nominated composer/arranger /Pianist David Benoit and Tony award winning Broadway musical actor, Norm Lewis. They both graciously accepted and shared personal stories that brought them to this great day.

## EMPLOYER MIX AND MINGLE

On Wednesday November 7th, the Career Services Center held an *Employer Mix and Mingle* for potential employers, students and alumni in the Downbeat Café. Students and alumni were encouraged to come interview ready (well dressed with resume in hand) so that they could network with potential employers. Some of the participating companies were Cox Media (WBAB, 106.1BLI), Mason Technologies,



Sun Dial Brands, FC Barcelona, The School of Rock and many more. Refreshments were served and contacts were made. Two lucky alumni got Fader T-shirts as swag!

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## FALL 2018 MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY SEMINAR (MEIS)



On November 16, 2018, Business Division Chair Kate Kimmel, Professor Ed Crocoll, adjunct faculty member Barry Heyman, Esq. and several other members of the Business Division re-vamped the *Music and Entertainment Industry Today- Fall Seminar* that will now be a bi-annual event here at Five Towns College.

This year's event focused on new frontiers and challenges within the music industry. The seminar consisted of panel discussions that ran all day in the Downbeat Café and covered a lot of ground. The panel topics ranged from Building the Artist's Team to Contemporary Music Licensing and Copyright Law to Making Money through Endorsements, Sponsorships and Placements as well as Modern Music Distribution and Consumer Consumption.

Panelists ranged from long time industry veterans to recent FTC Alumni. Panelists included Lou Plaia (co-founder ReverbNation), Ryan Mactaggart (300 Entertainment), Suzanne "Suz" Paulinski (The Rock/Star Advocate), Karl Groeger, Jr (Looney Tunes and Brookvale Records) as well as some FTC Alumni including Erica Munday (entertainment One), Emmanuel Peguero (Audiam) and Howard Greene (entertainment One).

## ROUNDTABLE SERIES: GET HIRED EMPLOYER BUZZ

The Career Services Center has continued to showcase its speaker series under the *Roundtable Series* label. With about four-five specific events consisting of professional panelists who are currently experts in the entertainment industry field, this series provides on-site education and insight from industry specialists. If you are working in the industry and are interested in being featured in a *Get Hired: Employer Buzz* series event, please email us at [alumni@ftc.edu](mailto:alumni@ftc.edu).





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### WRITER/PRODUCER BEN MOSES SCREENS: GOOD MORNING VIETNAM

Ben Moses, writer/co-producer of the film, Good Morning Vietnam, starring Robin Williams was the Five Towns College Artist-in-Residence a/k/a Visiting Professor on campus during this past Fall 2018. In addition to hosting a screening of the award winning film, he engaged Film/Video and Mass Communication students in Master Classes and sessions for several days. Following the screening, Mr. Moses shared stories with students about the film writing process, including its inspiration, which was based on his and a friend's (Adrien Cronauer) experience when stationed in Vietnam as Radio DJ's in the U.S. Army. There was a Q & A with the students following the viewing of the film and opportunities for the College's constituents to learn about the movie-making business first-hand from an expert. It was a terrific visit from a celebrity producer and students and faculty enjoyed the collegiality.



*Movie Producer Ben Moses and FTC President David Cohen*

### THEATRE ARTS DIVISION MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS



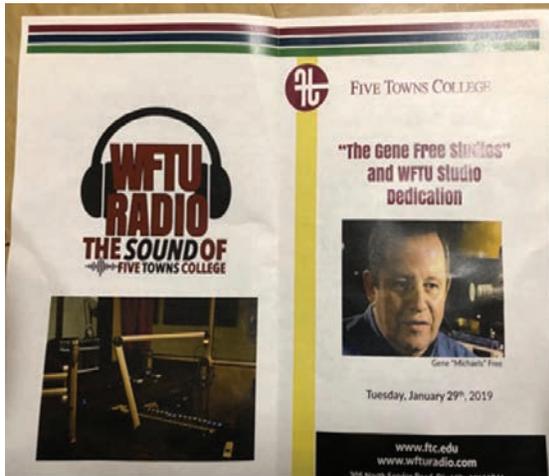
*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, cast*

Alumni are always invited to attend the Main Stage productions of the Theatre Arts Division. This fall brought the hysterical musical comedy, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, to the Performing Arts Center with packed audiences enjoying the event over a period of four performances. Five Towns College has resurrected the small black box theatre in a new space called the Studio Theatre. Here, acting students produced the Pulitzer Prize winning, Disgraced and delved into some serious conversations about diversity.

Alumni are encouraged to visit [www.ftc.edu/ftcpac/](http://www.ftc.edu/ftcpac/) for upcoming shows and events.

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THE GENE FREE STUDIOS



Five Towns College and WFTU dedicated the On-Air Broadcast Studio to the memory of cherished Five Towns College Instructor and WFTU radio advisor, Gene Free, on Tuesday January 29th. Professor Free was a long-time faculty member and a beloved individual at the college who passed away last year after a long illness. His spirit lives on in the wonderful legacy of broadcasting and journalism that he taught and shared here.



Five Towns would like to take a moment to congratulate the Men's and Women's basketball teams, The Five Towns Sound, on a great season. Both teams worked incredibly hard this season and the entire faculty, staff and student body would like to take a moment and say thank you and great job!

The 2019-2020 year will also be the first season of Five Towns College new soccer team. Stay tuned for more details.

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## UPCOMING SPRING 2019 ALUMNI EVENTS:

- Tuesday February 26: Get Hired: Employer Buzz Series Event
- Tuesday March 19: Get Hired: Employer Buzz Series Event
- Friday April 12: Music and Entertainment Industry Spring Seminar
- Tuesday April 16: FTC Career Fair
- April 25 -28: Theatre Division production-A Midsummer Night's Dream; and
- Tuesday April 30: Get Hired: Employer Buzz Series Event
- Thursday June 13th: Alumni Mixer/BBQ-

For more about upcoming Alumni events, email [alumni@ftc.edu](mailto:alumni@ftc.edu) or call (631) 656-2146.

## THE FTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As a graduate of Five Towns College, you instantly become a member of the Alumni Association. While the college provides the means for personal enrichment and the realization of educational and career goals, the Alumni Association gives you an opportunity to enhance the value of your Five Towns College education. Through your active networking and participation, you can amplify its contributions toward the strengthening of Five Towns College and the college's ability to continue its tradition of excellence. We welcome you to all that is going on!

## STAY CONNECTED @ FTC!

The Alumni Affairs team is looking to increase its alumni membership and involvement. Stay connected with FTC and former classmates! Participate in alumni activities and events! If you would like to be included in ongoing Alumni events, please contact Ryan Schimmenti at [alumni@ftc.edu](mailto:alumni@ftc.edu).

