



## Dangerous mold found in student housing

*Exposure to some forms can lead to illness, doctors say*

*Columns editorial staff*

A potentially toxic form of black mold has been discovered in FSU student housing, leading to concerns about health safety and inspection procedures.

Independent testing by The Columns revealed the presence of *Stachybotrys chartarum* in Prichard Hall. Swab samples taken in bathrooms of three separate residence buildings were submitted to a West Virginia services company and the results compiled by a laboratory in Florida. Two samples showed the presence of non-toxic forms of mold.

Black mold can cause health defects ranging from ear infections to dementia and those issues can include death in extreme cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website said. However, laws requiring inspections for mold are either lax or nonexistent when it comes to universities.

The West Virginia Code of State Regulations establishes Division of Public Health inspection policy 64-18-4.1, which requires state or local health officers inspect most facilities at least once a year. However, the regulation indicates that general sanitation inspections of colleges and universities may occur only upon complaint. However, exposure to mold does not guarantee those exposed to it will become sick as a result.

"The body's actually very well adapted to reacting to the mold," said Dr. Robert Smith of the Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in an interview. "If you live in a place that has mold in it and you are breathing it in every single night, then it becomes a different game because it can accumulate over time. The most common symptoms are respiratory problems because that is where the contact occurs."

"The biggest thing is if you are inhaling it over a long period of time. If you are sitting in it and breathing it in all the time, then anyone can get it because it'll accumulate and it overwhelms your immune system's ability to fight it."

People can be exposed to mold through direct contact or by breathing in mold spores and mycotoxins, harmful toxins released by fungi. Exposure can also cause respiratory issues including swelling and bleeding of the lungs, the World Health Organization (WHO) website said. Mold can also cause heart damage and liver disease, the site said.

Respiratory problems are the most common health defects, Smith said.

It is possible for the spores to reproduce in the lungs of people who have previously suffered from pulmonary disorders or diseases, the Cleveland Clinic website said in an index where it discusses various diseases and conditions.



PHOTO BY TYLER WILSON

*The moisture that collects around pipes and in utility spaces can provide a breeding ground for various forms of mold. Any mold found collecting in those areas must be properly removed.*



PHOTO BY TYLER WILSON

*The moisture that is usually in the air of residence hall bathrooms can make them an ideal place for fungi to grow.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRMONTSTATE.EDU

*'Our students' safety is of the utmost importance.'*

*- FSU President  
Dr. Maria Rose*

Although not all mold spores reproduce, *S. chartarum* can do so, said Dr. Ronald Gots, CEO of the International Center for Toxicology and Medicine in Palm City, Florida.

"Certain mold spores of specific infectious molds can but these do not include any common indoor molds and do include those molds (e.g. *Stachybotrys*) commonly called 'toxic black molds,'" said Gots, who also teaches environmental toxicology at Georgetown Medical School, in an email.

All molds should be taken seriously and cleanup is important to prevent toxic spores from entering the body and causing health issues down the road, said Dr. Chandra Kumar, an allergist at the Asthma and Allergy Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

"You still don't want to have mold in your house," said Kumar in a phone interview. "It's not healthy. Moisture is what leads to mold, so if you have mold, it needs to be removed. Whether or not it causes serious diseases, you need to get rid of the mold."

However, some people believe it is unclear whether or not *S. chartarum* has adverse health effects, Kumar said.

Once someone is exposed to mold, one of the first things to be done is to remove the mold and ensure the area where it was found is properly sanitized. When dealing with mold growing on more porous materials such as carpet, leather or wood, it is strongly recommended that it be completely removed, a CDC mold remediation guide said. The guide encouraged the use of bleach when dealing with hard surfaces like countertops, floors and appliances.

Moisture in the area should be monitored along with temperature because mold thrives in areas where those factors combine, said Dr. Donald Trisel, FSU's dean of science and technology and a professor of biology, in an interview. This helps prevent a recurring mold-growth problem, Trisel said.

"There are thousands of molds and lots of them get clumped together under black mold," Trisel said. "There are lots of different species that can put one in the hospital, produce all kinds of toxins and can be a big problem for humans and other creatures as well."

Despite the risk to health that mold can represent, the onus for ensuring inspections of buildings are performed is on the institution. FSU's Physical Plant department is in charge of handling campus building inspections and general maintenance.

"Environmental health inspections are performed at multiple levels including, but not limited to, Safety Department, Facilities Department, Housing Department, Custodial Services, & housing occupants," said Stephanie Slaubaugh, FSU's construction manager, in an email. Slaubaugh also oversees safety and environmental issues.

"When specifically responding to air quality concerns, investigation comes first followed by air sampling and testing," Slaubaugh said. "Depending on the situation students may be relocated as a precaution or other precautionary measure taken."

FSU conducts monthly environmental health inspections in buildings across campus and the pace of inspections can be stepped up if

problems persist, Slaubaugh said. FSU has policies and procedures in place that are in line with applicable state and federal standards and are designed to handle mold or other moisture concerns either in-house or through a third party, she said.

"If remediation is required the third party consultant will include their professional recommendation," Slaubaugh said. "Remediation can range from basic cleaning to the removal of building materials. Remediation may be performed in-house or contracted out depending on the scope of work required."

Astar Abatement Inc. of Charleston, a private company, has worked with Fairmont State as a third-party environmental consultant on remediation issues for seven years, said Greg Pauley, Astar's vice president of abatement operations. Astar declined to provide the total number of times it has worked on campus and it is not known whether the company has done abatement work in Prichard Hall.

"We have dealt with some mold issues with them as far as remediation," said Pauley in a phone interview. "Most of the ones we have done have been little remediation projects and nothing major as far as that goes."

FSU administrators said any issues brought to their attention would be taken seriously and any problems found would be dealt with accordingly.

"If there are potential issues, the university will certainly hire a reputable company to come in and do testing and we'll address the issue," said Dr. Maria Rose, president of Fairmont State, in an interview. "Our students safety is of the utmost importance. We feel like we did that when potential problems in College Park were brought to my attention and we'll certainly do that now if there are some issues in Prichard or any other area."

Previous mold removal work has helped administrators gain more knowledge about issues related to that process, said Alicia Moore, FSU's housing director.

"There are ways to remediate black mold and after we

*'It's not healthy. Moisture is what leads to mold, so if you have mold, it needs to be removed.'*

*- Dr. Chandra Kumar*

went through things in the fall with College Park I also have a better understanding," Moore said in an interview. "I think once you go through that you have a better understanding about it. While black mold to a lot of people can be very scary, a lot of times it can be remediated with the right company."

West Virginia Board of Governors policies applicable to Fairmont State are available online and they identify policies relating to remediation, Slaubaugh said. They are not easy to find. Although Slaubaugh provided a direct Internet link, online searches failed to turn up such a policy document after reporters spent hours looking for them.

Conversely, an Internet search for similar policies applicable to West Virginia University located its Environmental Health and Safety Department's Standard Operating Procedures for Mold Remediation policy in less than a minute.

The Marion County Health Department (MCHD) is rarely involved in the inspection process and does not have jurisdiction over campus buildings. FSU is responsible for providing the department with necessary information which is typically related to pool-water analysis, according to MCHD officials. County officials haven't conducted mold-related tests on the Fairmont State campus in decades, said Lloyd White, the MCHD's administrator.

"I've been working for the health department for 25 years and FSU has never

contacted us regarding an environmental hazard," said White in a phone interview. He confirmed that the MCHD does routine inspections of pools and food-services areas on campus.

The Environmental Protection Agency maintains an Internet site with recommendations on "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" for building managers, custodians and others responsible for school maintenance. The information is intended to "serve as a reference for potential mold and moisture remediators," the site said.

The agency recommends communication with building occupants "throughout [the] process as appropriate to [the] situation." It also stresses the importance of addressing all occupant concerns. Some FSU students do not think administrators make much of an effort to solve such problems but instead attempt to sweep them under the rug.

Riley Lloyd, a junior exercise physiology major, found what he thought was mold in his room's air conditioning unit and shower vent, he said in an interview. Lloyd had to clean the unit himself because he felt the issue wouldn't be addressed in a timely fashion, he said.

"The mold is still growing in the vent and my AC unit," Lloyd said. "The administration didn't, and doesn't, seem too worried about it."

Other students said they experienced similar problems. At least seven have related tales pertaining to suspected mold growth to Columns editors in recent months.

Among them was James Jesmer, a sophomore architecture major, who said he got sick early in the school year from what his doctor said could have been related to mildew or mold in his room in Prichard.

"I wouldn't be that surprised" if black mold was found, Jesmer said in an interview. "In the past, I've seen mold buildup in the bathrooms - the shower curtains and the like. If there is mold, they need to admit that there is a problem and clean it up. Hiding the problem isn't solving the problem."

### The Word:



Faith Lough, senior English education major

*"The road crew needs to better accommodate for traffic to the university."*

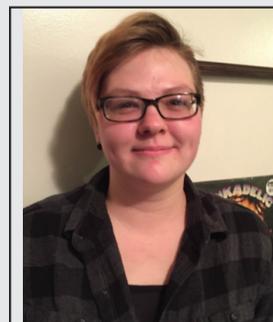
#AlwaysLate4Work.

### What do you think of the road work on Locust Avenue?



Alex Henderson, sophomore studio art major

*"It takes up extra time trying to get to school, especially if you're running late."*



Jessica Ralphsnyder, junior biology major

*"The road work makes it harder to get into school during the day."*

# Iran nuclear deal may lead to reduced tensions

Krysta O'Connor

Iran reached an agreement with a group of six nations, accepting constraints on its nuclear program for the first time in a decade in exchange for partial relief from economic sanctions.

The deal, signed March 30, marks perhaps the most significant foreign policy achievement of Barack Obama's presidency, the guardian.com reported. The accord is the most significant agreement between Washington and Tehran since the 1979 Iranian revolution, the British newspaper's website said.

The cooperation between all parties involved is what made the agreement significant. Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - plus Germany completed the framework of a final nuclear deal. The parties hope to reach a full agreement by June 30 that would potentially put Iran's most sensitive nuclear activities into mothballs for at least 10 years in exchange for a gradual end to economic sanctions that have damaged the Iranian economy, Reuters.com reported.

There were some issues in the process. Nearly four dozen Republican senators wrote to Iran's leaders, saying any agreement between the White House and Tehran could be quickly nullified or changed once President Barack Obama leaves office. Obama said the lawmakers were aligning themselves with Iranian hardliners who oppose any kind of deal, said marketwatch.com. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told Congress that an



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANAMOTOR.IR

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif were among the negotiators.

Iran nuclear deal would not be legally binding, meaning future presidents could ignore it, Reuters.com said.

The White House denounced the letter, with Vice President Joe Biden saying in a statement that it not only undercut presidential authority but was "beneath the dignity" of the Senate, said marketwatch.com. Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, didn't sign, along with Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Dan Coats of Indiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, said Washingtonpost.com.

The proposed agreement was achieved through strenuous negotiations that reflected the importance of the matter.

"I think there was a seri-

ousness of purpose," Kerry told CNN.com in an interview after the framework was announced. "People negotiated hard. It was a very intensive process because the stakes are very high and because there is a long history of not talking to each other."

The parties negotiating with Iran sought to ensure Iran could not assemble a nuclear weapon in less than a year. The Iranians insisted they had no such ambition. U.S. officials complained that the Iranians refused to compromise on a few points. However, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif claimed the opposition was making excessive demands, said BBC.com. Zarif said the real difficulties would lie in the months ahead when negotiators would have to hammer out the technical issues.

# Yemen descends further into sectarian conflict

Tyler Wilson

A Saudi-led coalition of Middle East states has been supporting efforts of forces loyal to Yemeni president in exile Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who are making significant gains in the Yemeni city of Aden.

The Houthis seized Sanaa, Yemen's capital, in February and forced Hadi to flee to Aden. They then besieged Aden last month and caused Hadi to retreat again, this time to Saudi Arabia.

The Houthis revolted due to issues with the current administration under Hadi and the desire to see the northern part of Yemen returned to its prior status as an independent state or, at the very least, be made an autonomous region. Iran is backing the rebels because they ascribe to Zaidi Islam, an offshoot of the Shia Muslim sect.

Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen at Hadi's request and claimed they did so to support the legitimate Yemeni government, the BBC reported. Militias have formed in cities threatened by the Houthis in defense of the government and to protect themselves.

Within Aden, mosques of the Sunni Islamic sect have called for citizens to rise in defense of the city, the BBC cited residents interviewed by the Reuters news agency as saying.

The issue in Yemen is exacerbated by the presence of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the al-Qaida affiliate considered the most dangerous by Western intelligence services. AQAP has begun taking territory as the Houthis and loyalists clash.

However, the presence of AQAP is being overshadowed by the emergence of an Islamic State affiliate, Mujahideen of Yemen, last year, the BBC said. The group is seeking to dethrone AQAP as the leading Sunni extremist organization in Yemen, the BBC said.

All this means Yemen is becoming a multi-faceted sectarian battleground with regional interests being drawn into conflict. Saudi Arabia is interested in ensuring a friendly Sunni government maintains power in its history. The coalition they lead has conducted airstrikes to curb the Houthi advance. However, the effort has not yet been effective in slowing the Houthi advance.

Several nations have sought to evacuate their citizens from Yemen. China recently deployed forces to Yemen to recover Chinese nationals and foreign nationals for the first time in its history.

"It is the new responsibility of a great power," Zhu Feng, executive director of the China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea at Nanjing University, was cited by the New York Times as saying. "China's vision of the navy is decisively widening. When it is operating in international waters, it should shoulder international responsibility."

The United States, however, has decided not to make a formal effort to evacuate U.S. nationals in Yemen. This decision not to remove any of the 55,000 American citizens in Yemen has been met with harsh criticism from activists and media alike.

The international Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

has called for a ceasefire for the sake of delivering medical supplies and humanitarian aid to civilians.

The request was finally recognized by the warring parties within Yemen on April 8 and humanitarian aid is now flowing, the BBC said.

The U.S. is also increasing its role within the ongoing conflict, expanding upon an agreement to provide intelligence assistance for the Saudi-led coalition.

"We have expedited weapons deliveries, we have increased our intelligence sharing and we have established a joint coordination and planning cell in the Saudi operations center," Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken was cited by the BBC as saying.

Iran has deployed naval vessels to the Gulf of Aden in recent days. Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habbalah Sayyari was quoted by Iranian state-run Press TV as saying that a destroyer and another ship would be deployed off Yemen as part of an anti-piracy campaign for the purpose of protecting shipping lanes in the area, according to the BBC.

The U.S. issued a formal warning to Iran April 9, with Secretary of State John Kerry saying Iran's support for the Houthis was inherently dangerous to the prospects for peace in the region. Conversely, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called on the Saudi coalition to cease its aerial assaults.

"You do not know how this will end," Rouhani said regarding the bombings according to the BBC. "This path is wrong."

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## Building Blocks of Art

A DUCK AND BEE CARTOON

By Eric Skinner

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# Weather rains on Lady Falcons parade

Tommy Retton

Rick Wade hates the rain. Absolutely hates it.

"We'll play a few games, then we won't play," said Wade, FSU's head softball coach, in an interview. "Then we'll play a few more, then we won't play."

In his eighth season as head coach, Wade knows that solely blaming the weather is never a valid excuse. Still, it cannot be overlooked as a factor for a recent slump by his team.

The Lady Falcons, who started the season 8-1, are 5-7 in their last 12 games. Their last four games have been postponed, which only contributes to the problem.

"We have to practice an awful lot inside and the pitchers haven't gotten used to throwing off the dirt outside," Wade said. "[Softball's] about getting consistency and it's hard to do that when you're sitting around watching it rain."

The team's lack of experi-

ence has been a major factor as well. The Falcons, who have as many underclassmen (12) as upperclassmen, are a relatively young squad that still has a lot to absorb before becoming a consistent force.

"Alesha Jones, my senior, sat behind [former Falcon standouts] Chelsea Cobb and Nikki Nuzum, so she doesn't have a lot of innings pitched. She's still learning," Wade explained. "Bailey Shade is only a sophomore and she didn't pitch much last year. They have all sorts of talent but they're still learning."

Carly Mundie, the starting right fielder, attributes other factors to the 12-game slump, including a lineup issue that has yet to be resolved.

"So far our batting lineup hasn't fully come together," Mundie said in an email. "Either the beginning or end of our lineup have only been able to hit. But slowly we are starting to put it together by making a few small changes."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIGHTINGFALCONS.COM

The Fairmont State softball team is looking to have many more home run celebrations as they look to climb out of the hole that their recent 12-game slump has put them in.

Despite the recent struggle, the Lady Falcons remain in position to make a playoff run. They are seventh in the Mountain East Conference

(MEC) standings but are top five categories including fourth in batting average, fifth in pitching wins and tied for second in home runs.

The team's most encouragement, however, has not come from a statistic. It's come from the family-like bond FSU softball has built

throughout the year and that may end up being the difference as it faces a tough schedule ahead.

"The past few games, our team has started to cheer and pick each other up when we are in a slump," said Mundie, a senior.

"Our schedule has been challenging, but the rest of our season can be promising as long as we push each other a little harder and continue to come together."

The Falcons' next four games are against two top-five conference opponents in the University of Charleston and West Virginia State University, who have a combined 44-13 record.

There are 16 games remaining and Fairmont State needs to shake its slump in preparation for postseason play, which begins April 29.

That means Wade is not doing a rain dance. He's seen enough bad weather to suit him already.

# Baseball struggles to close out games continue

Tommy Retton

Don't let the record fool you.

There's no denying that Fairmont State's baseball team currently sits at 4-20, including a 4-18 record in conference play. They're at the bottom of the Mountain East Conference (MEC) standings, just below a Glenville State College team that, at 5-23, has struggled mightily as well.

They're also near the bottom of key offensive categories including home runs, batting average and runs batted in.

However, the Falcons are a much more competitive team than the record shows. They have had more than 10 games this year where they have held a late lead but let it slip away in the final innings, including last week's game against West Virginia Wesleyan University. After battling back from a 7-0 deficit and taking a two-run lead, the floodgates opened and FSU eventually ended up losing 19-9 in a wild game.

Nic Rush, a sophomore pitcher from Columbus, Ohio, has refused to let this

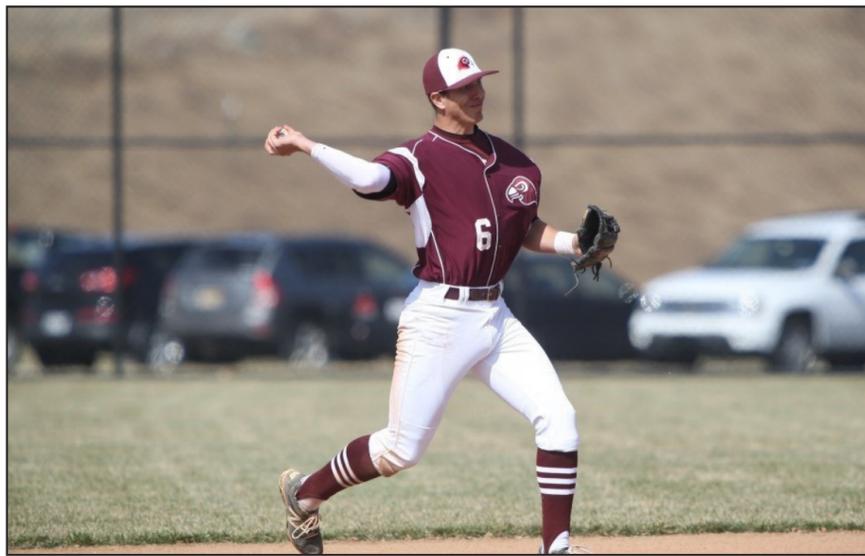


PHOTO COURTESY OF FIGHTINGFALCONS.COM

Junior shortstop Adam Meeker has compiled a .989 fielding percentage on the season while accounting for only one error. The 4-20 record puts the Falcons last in the MEC.

year's struggles overshadow what the team has potential to achieve. He has instead focused on the positives that each game holds. Still, even he can't help but get frustrated from time to time because of the team's inability to main-

tain a lead.

"Our weakness has been not finishing games," said Rush in an interview. "We have taken leads late into games but have them slip away. We have to be able to play full games at a high level instead of just a

couple of innings."

Frankie Wilson, the starting catcher for the Falcons, agreed with his teammate, saying the team's problems finishing its task have led to considerable angst among players and coaches alike.

"Our team has gotten our hearts broken on multiple occasions," said Wilson, who's batting .214 with 5 RBI, in an email. "We've lost games we shouldn't have but I give us credit that we continue to battle and not give up."

The frustration has also affected head coach George Yanchak. He is serving a five-game NCAA suspension because of "excessive arguing and failure to leave the site after being ejected from a game," said Chris Thomas, FSU's sports information director, in an email.

While there's plenty of irritation to go around, there have been improvements in some key areas and against certain opponents.

In four games this season versus Concord University, the conference leader in hits, Fairmont has out-hit them three times.

Fielding has become steadier as players grow more comfortable on the diamond each game. Pitching has gotten stingier of late as well. After giving up an average of 7.3 runs per game in the early sea-

son, the Falcons have reduced that to 5 runs per outing over its past few games.

"Fielding has been solid for the most part but has let us down at a few critical times," Rush said. "Overall I think experience is a big takeaway from this season so far. We are a very young team and it has been good to get the young guys on the field."

Yanchak, in his seventh year with FSU, believes his team is right on the cusp of turning the corner and transforming losing into winning. He knows it's just a matter of getting his players to believe they can win.

"As any coach will tell you, if they don't believe they can win a championship then they're not in it," said Yanchak in an interview. "I still believe that we have a schedule that will allow us to get into the top six. I truly believe our guys can rebound and have a successful year and get into the playoffs."

Fairmont State's next game is April 14 against Glenville State. FSU split a series with the Pioneers in late March.

# Keeping track of this year's major league picture

Reuters

Five storylines to track during the 2015 Major League Baseball season:

## Chicago Cubs

Is this the year the Cubs, who have long been known as lovable losers, snap a 107-year World Series title drought?

Chicago, which has finished below .500 the last five seasons, was the darling of spring training after hiring top-drawer manager Joe Maddon, formerly of Tampa Bay, and signing ace pitcher Jon Lester to a six-year, \$155 million deal.

The hype machine is humming in Wrigleyville, but if the Cubs are to return to the postseason for the first time since 2008 it will depend largely on the play of prospects such as center fielder Arismendy Alcantara, shortstop Starlin Castro and first baseman Anthony Rizzo.

## Pace of Play

In a world where attention spans are shrinking like glaciers in the summer heat and information is consumed in Twitter-sized bites, baseball's leisurely flow has fallen out of step in a fast-paced world.

The average MLB game took 3 hours 2 minutes to play last season, nearly 30 minutes more than it did in 1981. Baseball will introduce several rule changes this season as timers will be added and fines applied for lollygaggers, while hitters must keep



PHOTO COURTESY OF METSMERIZED.COM

Giancarlo Stanton, the Miami Marlins star outfielder, has the largest contract in baseball history. It's worth \$325 million.

at least one foot in the batter's box.

Baseball may not be on the verge of turning into an action-packed sport, but the grinding marathons of pitchers and batters stalling and fidgeting that slowed the game to a crawl may be about to end.

## Stanton Returns

The Miami Marlins, who have historically been more frugal than flamboyant when it came to spending money, opened up the vault last year by signing outfielder Giancarlo Stanton to an eye-popping 13-year, \$325 million deal, the largest contract in North American sports history.

A proven slugger who blasted 154 homers in five seasons, including a National League-best 37 last year, Stanton looked like a sound investment until the 25-year-old was hit in the head by a pitch and missed the final 17 games of last season.

The question is whether Stanton will return as a feared slugger or frightened hitter.

## A-Rod

New York Yankees drug-tainted third baseman Alex Rodriguez has been more lightning rod than A-Rod in recent years, attracting more controversy than cheers.

Sitting out last season serv-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISPORTSWEB.COM

Chicago Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro and first baseman Anthony Rizzo will be the keys to success for the team this season as they anchor a squad that won just 73 games a year ago.

ing a doping ban, Rodriguez denied, sued, admitted and finally apologized for his behavior upon returning to the Yankees this spring. He's ready to start earning the \$61 million still owed him on the 10-year, \$275 million deal he signed in 2007.

Rodriguez could step into the designated hitter role as he resumes his climb up baseball's all-time home run list. He's currently fifth with 654, needing seven more to move past Willie Mays into fourth.

## National Treasure

Washington has the look of a World Series champion but after two postseason flops the

talent-laden team must prove they can get the job done in October.

The Nationals have posted the best record in the National League two of the last three seasons but have not won a playoff series.

The Nats will be led by the best starting rotation in baseball as 2013 American League Cy Young winner Max Scherzer (18-5) joins a group that already includes Stephen Strasburg (14-11) and Jordan Zimmermann (14-5).

That leaves players like Doug Fister (16-6), Tanner Roark (15-10) and Gio Gonzalez (10-10) battling for the other two spots in the Nationals rotation.

## Important 2015 Dates

- July 14: 86th All-Star Game, Great American Ballpark, Cincinnati
- June 8-10: MLB Draft
- July 25-26: Hall of Fame Weekend, Cooperstown, N.Y.
- Oct. 6: Playoffs begin
- Oct. 27: World Series begins

Courtesy of mlb.com

# Model UN exceeds own expectations in New York debut

Nathan Jones

The Model UN club returned from its debut performance in New York with its head held high after more than holding its own against more experienced schools.

Members of the newfound student organization displayed their strength and expertise in a simulated political event grounded in dealing with international affairs.

"It was quick immersion," said Model UN President Randy Sticklely, a senior in political science and national security, in an interview. "There were schools from all over the world that had done this for years and the fact that we were able to go up there and have the amount of success that we did astounded me."

The club's work at the national level correlated to the rising prestige of the university's social science program. It has not been until recently that students were able to

present their prowess in the art of diplomacy on a bigger stage.

Thanks in part to such outlets, social and educational experiences are developing in expanded ways.

"I'm not going to lie, it is work," Sticklely said. "The gains that you get from dealing with students from international universities, other universities that study not just political science, but policy, languages - some of them even study the hard sciences [like] biology and chemistry - it is rewarding to say the least. I graduate next spring so next spring's event will be my last hurrah and I am looking forward to it."

Representing the central Asian country of Uzbekistan, the 10-member FSU group participated demonstrably well throughout their sessions and their efforts were rewarded by the successful completion of several model resolutions. Doing so was a



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIAN PECORA

Students enjoyed the immersive experience and the chance to network with students from across the world who shared a like-minded vision for the future of the planet.

praiseworthy accomplishment in and of itself, according to Dr. William Harrison, the club's adviser.

National members can organize regularly to attend scenario-based events in other cities and countries. That said, other schools have standing

systems in place that allocate resources for such educational endeavors that had not previously existed on campus.

"We've been well supported by the university and we've also been doing fundraising activities to help with our travel expenses as well,"

Harrison said in an interview. One such fundraising event, a bake sale, was held in the Falcon Center earlier this semester in hopes of helping the club meet its stated goals.

"The FSU Model UN seeks to allow students to make connections with a diverse range

of universities and engage in discussion regarding global issues," the club's Facebook page said.

After coming back from such a strong inaugural showing, the question becomes where does the club go next and how it can match or exceed this year's showing on its next New York trip.

A plan is being discussed within the club to expand the club's role in the region. Members are hoping to eventually host a statewide Model UN that consists of West Virginia high schools. The goal is to develop interest in international politics at the high-school level and enable regional high schools to enrich their learning environments through similar means as the FSU Model UN club is able to experience, Sticklely said.

The club is also working on implementing a training regimen to better prepare for future events to enhance its initial success.

## Students awarded for artwork in exhibition



PHOTO BY CAROLYN NOLAN

The exhibit was built and hosted by students for all to enjoy.

Anna Wyatt

Fairmont State's art department strives to present students with unique ways to showcase the fruits of their labors. One of them is its juried exhibition every spring, when students may submit work in hopes of making it to the final gallery show and possibly win awards.

However, it's not just art students who are permitted to enter the contest. Any currently enrolled student may enter and have their efforts be judged. They have to pay to play, though: a \$5 fee must accompany entry forms for the first two pieces they offer and \$2 for each additional piece. Entries ended April 3.

James Jesmer was among entrants who was something of an outsider. The sophomore architecture major, who had a few pieces of work chosen to be in the gallery, entered a figure drawing from his Drawing II class as well as two pieces of pottery.

He earned the ceramics award for the teapot he had in the show.

"I was really, really, really excited [to have work chosen for the gallery]," said Jesmer in an interview. "I don't usually get the chance to have my work reviewed professionally or anything like that, because I'm not an art major."

Fairmont State's juried exhibition has been an annual event since the 1970s and it is going stronger than ever. It provides students the opportunity to have their work professionally critiqued, which doesn't usually happen often. It's also a great way for students to get their work out into the art world and have it seen by the general public.

This year's juror, or judge, was Kristina Olsen, who has a master's degree in art criticism as well as a bachelor's degree in humanities and art history from the University of Oregon.

She teaches classes in modern and contemporary art, architecture and theory at West

*'It was really a wonderful surprise to see the strength of work in all different media.'*

- Kristina Olsen

Virginia University. Olsen also writes for a art magazine titles including Art in America, ArtPulse, and Sculpture.

Olsen paid her visit to the contestants' work on April 4. She made her judgments on which pieces would continue to the final installation and they were installed shortly after in the J.D. Brooks Gallery in Wallman Hall. A reception was held April 8 and awards were presented at that time.

"It was really a wonderful surprise to see the strength of work in all different media," said Olsen in an interview. "Rather than curate the exhibition, you want to pick the best work. So I would say that was, for myself and Professor [Jeremy] Entwistle, we were really keen on whether or not we could somehow make sense of the work sitting side-by-side - to first and foremost pick the best work. So we feel this is truly exemplary work."

The exhibition was student-driven not only because all of the work was done and installed by students, but also because the refreshments served at the reception were prepared by students.

Having work presented in a juried exhibition is not only a great honor, but it's a wonderful thing to have on a resume for future professional endeavors.

While winning awards from an event isn't necessarily a career-starter, it's a contributing factor to future success. Students such as Miles Holbert, Stacey Elder and Michael Smith have received scholarships for graduate studies due to similar opportunities.

## Up All Night is a successful dark horse

Eliza Cercone

FSU's Up All Night event proved to be more successful than last year's version, with more students in attendance for the variety of new activities.

Up All Night was created by the Student Activities department last year after receiving feedback from different student elements about what they wanted for campus events, department director Jacqueline Inskeep said in an interview.

This year's planning was based around comments and assessments from the previous year's gathering, which resulted in more activities, food and prizes as well as an illusionist show.

Students seemed to like the idea of the event as more than 500 people came out to take part in the various activities lined up for the night, which included laser tag, a mechanical bull, a photo booth, free food and t-shirts.

One student said she was glad she didn't have homework so she and her friends could attend the event.

"We thought we would go see what all was there and what all we could get

into," said Elizabeth Remias, a freshman elementary education major, in an interview. "It was a fun night. My favorite part was the glow-in-the-dark ping pong. I'd go back."

The event was a result of the demand of nighttime events on campus, said Inskeep. It's a goal of the activities department to incorporate more evening events in the calendar.

"When I first started working at Fairmont State over the summer I spent a lot of time talking to students, faculty, and staff about what they wanted to see more of in terms of student activities events," Inskeep said. "A lot of feedback that I got included more nighttime programming. The Up All Night event is just one of those late-night events. Our next late night event will be Veggie Night on May 6."

Students have noticed the improvements from last year's event to this year's, with one commenting on how the staff had a better system for getting people to and from the events.

"I thought they had a better system for the lines this



PHOTO BY LOGAN MOORE

Students enjoyed the festivities of Up All Night and saw their desire for more nighttime programming addressed.

year," said Rachel Ball, a sophomore communications major, in an interview. "My favorite part was the illusionist. The show was really cool."

Further feedback on the event included the consideration of serving alcohol in the future. It is something that can be considered if there is enough demand for it, said Inskeep.

"There are a lot of state

policies and regulations in place when it comes to serving alcohol at on-campus events, so sometimes it can be quite difficult," she said. "While we do serve alcohol to students 21 and over at our annual Homecoming party, we haven't yet served alcohol at the rest of our events. Student feedback is very important to me, so it's something that we can consider."

## Celebrating diversity focus of Women of Color event

Britany Mullins

Fairmont State held its annual Women of Color Luncheon March 31 to celebrate diversity and achievements of women. While the event was meant to point up the women's cause on campus, it also highlighted the lack of women's groups at FSU.

Members of the community, student government, the Black Student Union, the presidents of Fairmont State and Pierpont Community and Technical College, local churches and the Wesley Foundation came together to host the gathering. It generated a solid turnout and everyone who attended seemed receptive to the information presented there.

The main focus of the gathering was to celebrate diversity, which should be recognized on campus throughout the year, said Trish Price, who headed up the event's planning committee.

"Each day the campus serves all students, faculty, staff and guests with the utmost respect no matter what background," said Price in an interview. "We recognize that the diversity each student brings to our campus creates a better culture for us and the community as a whole."

"Diversity enriches our lives in many ways and should be celebrated. Without diversity we realize that the ideas and input that we need to make our institution better would not exist."

The Women of Color Foun-



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA STALEY

Multiple university organizations came together to host the luncheon and promote the recognition of women of all races.

dation, based in Cleveland, is a national organization that provides personal and professional development, education and training. The foundation shares stories and mentors and trains women and girls of color. Such females face obstacles such as family pressures, career challenges and life stresses.

"Based on ongoing discussions with women of color (primarily with African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native-American women), across the country whose opinions we valued, we learned that all of us felt it was critical for us as women to share our successes, triumphs and yes, our failures with our peers and younger women coming along behind us," the foundation said on its

website.

Organizations such as the Black Student Union and the Gay/Straight Alliance have been formed to recognize diversity on campus. However, that kind of growth has not extended to women. FSU's website shows only one, the V-Day Warriors, which aims to be a voice in the fight against violence against women.

"Being a woman, I would certainly like to see a women's organization started on campus," said Maria Rose, president of Fairmont State, in an interview. "I know that if any of the student organizations or groups would come together and say that they would like to start a group, I certainly do not think that we'd be opposed to that in any way."

Still, some students be-

lieve there should be more effort being put forth to recognize the various elements at FSU, including women and minorities.

"I am the president of the Black Student Union and I feel that the campus does not really recognize diversity," said Kelly Horton, a senior at Pierpont, in an interview. "There is not a lot of diversity on campus but we try to bring out more through the Black Student Union."

Jotwyla Moore, a Fairmont State alumni, spoke at the event. She is an author, teacher, and speaker who works to empower women. She is also the founder of the Launched Out Ladies Women's Ministry and the host of the Ladies in Waiting Empowerment Breakfast as well as the assistant pastor of Restoring Life Ministries.

"I'm excited about sharing some unknown stories about women of color, who have done great things and made great strides for women in the United States - in any races, we've made great strides," said Moore in an interview with WBOY-TV.

Fairmont State offers a women's studies minor through the social sciences program. Its mission is to understand women's contributions to society, culture, and history and to study gender roles and differences. This minor can be taken with any major, and it helps students look more desirable to employers as well as graduate schools.