



**ST FRANCIS  
COLLEGE** EST. 1859

**VOL 2  
SUMMER '25  
EDITION**

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**BETTER. FASTER. FAIRER.**

# TERRIER NEWS UNLEASHED

St Francis College · 179 Livingston Street, Brooklyn NY · [www.sfc.edu](http://www.sfc.edu)



## SFC Goes Global: Strengthening International Partnerships

St. Francis College (SFC), completed a seven-day recruitment tour across India, aimed at expanding the college's global reach and fostering new academic collaborations. The visit included stops at eight academic institutions.

Representing the commitment to global engagement, the team spearheaded by Dr. Gale Gibson Gayle (VP of Academic Affairs for Graduate Education) included Dr. John Edwards (VP of Academic Affairs for Undergraduate Education), Mr. Courtney Inniss (AVP of Graduate, Online & Professional Studies, PDSO & RO), Ms. Nakesha Davis (Director of International Student Services & DSO) and Ms. Preeti Singhal (Student Ambassador).

The goals were to promote SFC's undergraduate and graduate programs, to inspire students to study and experience the academic excellence SFC offers. The visit established partnerships with multiple institutions and provided information sessions that reached hundreds of students in STEM, business, education, and humanities.

This successful initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of Dr. Anil Palla, CEO of University HUB, whose leadership and dedication helped bring the spirit of SFC to new communities across India.

### IN THIS EDITION:

New Student  
Orientation 2025

Summer Stories:  
Student Spotlight

Alumni Spotlight:  
Rita Joseph  
Class of '97

Faculty Spotlight:  
Dr. Amal Biscaino

Where Our  
Terriers Are Now

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Picnic + Pickleball = Community in Action!

What better way to kick off summer than with sunshine, smiles, and a little friendly competition? St. Francis College hosted our first-ever SFC Picnic and Pickleball Tournament — a joyful afternoon of connection, care, and community. The celebration began with a special blessing of our two brand-new pickleball courts, setting the tone for a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and spirited play. Faculty and staff came together to rally on the court, share great food, and celebrate the spirit that makes St. Francis College so special.



Congratulations to champions, President Tim and Alisa Handrugan, and runners-up, Nicole Hall and Charles McCleave!

**At SFC, we don't just talk about community — we live it.**

## SFC Featured in The Tablet: AI, Ethics, & Franciscan Education

St. Francis College is proud to be featured in a recent *Tablet* article titled “Catholic Colleges, Universities Explore AI Learning and Ethics.” The piece highlights how Catholic institutions are thoughtfully engaging with artificial intelligence in education, while ensuring that ethical formation and core values remain central. SFC’s leadership is prominently featured in the article, offering insights into how the College is navigating the intersection of innovation, instruction, and integrity. The article also spotlights **SFC’s new master’s degree program in Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure**

**Protection**, currently under review with the New York State Education Department. This recognition underscores SFC’s leadership in shaping a future where AI and ethics go hand in hand, rooted in the principles of integrity, compassion, and purpose. President Tim Cecere was featured in the article stating “At St. Francis College, we view technology as a profound gift from God to man. It is the extension of human creativity and intellect meant to serve the common good”. To read the full article, visit The Tablet: <https://thetablet.org/catholic-colleges-universities-ai-learning-ethics>

## Residence Life Moves to 119 Columbia Heights



St. Francis College has officially relocated its residence hall to 119 Columbia Heights, right in the heart of Brooklyn Heights!

This modern, fully furnished building offers everything students need: Quiet study rooms, On-site laundry, Fully equipped gym, Media & Game room. Just minutes from campus, this new home brings comfort, connection, and convenience together. If you are interested in living in the residence community or want more information, you can email **SFCResLife@sfc.edu**





## Terrier Beginnings: New Student Orientation 2025

St. Francis College proudly welcomed the incoming Class of 2029 through a series of New Student Orientation events held throughout the summer. These sessions were designed to help new students transition smoothly into college life while building connections and discovering campus resources.

The new student orientation sessions started with a warm welcome from President Tim Cecere and Vice President Robert Oliva, followed by interactive “Mix and Mingle” activities that encouraged students to connect with peers, faculty, and staff. A signature moment of each session was the SFC group photo at the Grand Staircase, symbolizing the start of each student’s journey at the College.

Students then rotated through tailored breakout sessions led by departments such as: Student Affairs, the Undergraduate Support Hub, Registrar, the IT Service Desk and Bursar’s Office. These sessions ensure every new student receives the tools, guidance, and support needed to start their academic journey with confidence. With a midday lunch break to recharge, the day concluded with closing remarks filled with excitement for the journey ahead.

As the semester approaches, SFC is excited to see the Class of 2029 thrive, grow, and contribute to the vibrant SFC community. **Here’s to a successful and inspiring year at SFC!**

For any inquiries, contact [admissions@sfc.edu](mailto:admissions@sfc.edu).

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Rita Joseph ('97)



*Photo courtesy of Ritajoseph.com*

This month's Alumni Spotlight shines on a proud Terrier making a major impact in New York City politics and education: Rita Joseph '97, New York City Council Member and lifelong advocate for community empowerment and student success.

A graduate of St. Francis College, Joseph's journey began as a passionate educator in Brooklyn, where she taught for over two decades and became a fierce voice for students. Her leadership extended far beyond the classroom, serving as a parent organizer, education activist, and advocate for policy reform in public schools.

In 2022, Rita Joseph was elected to the New York City Council representing District 40 in Brooklyn, which includes parts of Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, and Ditmas Park.

She currently serves as Chair of the Council's Committee on Education, where she plays a vital role shaping policies that affect over one million NYC public school students. Her leadership continues to be rooted in her experience as a Haitian-American woman, public school parent, and former English Language Learner teacher.

Rita Joseph credits her time at St. Francis College for helping shape her values of service and civic responsibility. "SFC gave me the tools to dream bigger—not just for myself, but for the communities I serve," she shared at a recent alumni panel.

Rita Joseph exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose. We're proud to call Council Member Rita Joseph '97 one of our own.



# CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Meet our newest alumni! SFC proudly highlights our recent graduates with their photos and degrees earned—recognizing their hard work, achievements, and their exciting journeys ahead. Join us in celebrating their accomplishments and the legacy they leave at SFC.

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**KARINA G.**



received a **MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
and is a **BEHAVIOR TECHNICIAN AT A FRIENDLY FACE—AUTISM TREATMENT SERVICES**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**FATIMA M.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN BIOLOGY**  
and is pursuing a **MASTER'S IN NUTRITION & DIETETIC PRACTICE**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**SYED R.**



received a **MASTER'S IN ACCOUNTING**  
and is a **TAX ACCOUNTANT AT PROSPERL CPA**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**JULIA S.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN MANAGEMENT**  
and is pursuing a **MASTER'S IN MARKETING MANAGEMENT**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**ALINA A.**




received a **MASTER'S IN MANAGEMENT**  
and is a **FINANCIAL ANALYST AT SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**ASHLEY S.**




received a **BACHELOR'S IN EXERCISE AND MOVEMENT SCIENCE**  
and is pursuing a **DOCTORATE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**TIANA D.**



received a **MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
and is an **ACADEMIC ADVISOR AT ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**SAMANTHA A.**




received a **MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
and is pursuing an **ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**CASSIE A.**



received a **MASTER'S IN ACCOUNTING**  
and is an **AUDIT ACCOUNTANT AT DELOITTE**

**SFC**

CLASS OF 2025



# CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

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**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**MADELINE S.**




received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN NURSING**  
and is a  
NURSE EXTERN AT WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**AMANDA P.**



received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
and is pursuing a  
MASTER'S IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**MATTEO N.**



received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN MANAGEMENT**  
and is a  
FINANCIAL ANALYST AT VENCHI

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**YAHAIRA T.**



received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN MANAGEMENT**  
and is pursuing a  
MASTER'S IN ACCOUNTING

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**JACQUELINE Z.**



received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
and is a  
GROUP LEADER AT THE CHILD CENTER OF NY

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**JOEL B.**



received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
and is pursuing a  
MASTER'S IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**RUJEAN A.**



received a  
**MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
and is a  
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AT THE GUILD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**GENESIS M.**



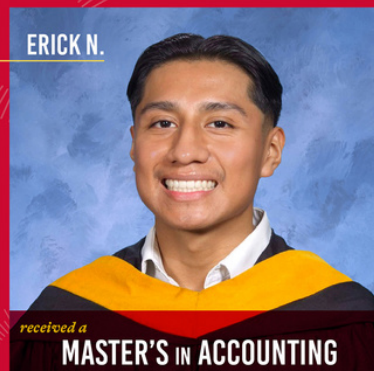
received a  
**BACHELOR'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**  
and is pursuing a  
MASTER'S IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**ERICK N.**



received a  
**MASTER'S IN ACCOUNTING**  
and is a  
TAX ASSOCIATE AT PWC

CLASS OF 2025

**SFC**



# CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Meet our newest alumni! SFC proudly highlights our recent graduates with their photos and degrees earned—recognizing their hard work, achievements, and their exciting journeys ahead. Join us in celebrating their accomplishments and the legacy they leave at SFC.

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**EMILY C.**



received a **MASTER'S IN ACCOUNTING/CPA**

and is a **TAX ASSOCIATE AT PWC**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**FREDERICK H.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND SCIENCE**

and is pursuing a **MASTER'S IN HEALTH INFORMATICS**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**SARAH L.**




received a **BACHELOR'S IN COMMUNICATION ARTS**

and is a **TEACHER AT SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**MELIE B.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN BIOLOGY**

and is pursuing a **MASTER'S IN CELL AND SYSTEM BIOLOGY**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**KYLIE S.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

and is a **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE TEACHER AT NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**ANDREA L.**




received a **BACHELOR'S IN FINANCE**

and is pursuing a **MASTER'S IN MATERIAL SCIENCE**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**WILLARD P.**



received a **MASTER'S IN PSYCHOLOGY**

and is an **ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR AT ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

**SFC** ST FRANCIS COLLEGE

**MACAYLIA R.**



received a **BACHELOR'S IN COMMUNICATION ARTS**

and is a **PUBLICIST AT PLAYBOOKMG**

**SFC** CLASS OF 2025

# CAREER CORNER

## Career Corner: Erick Neri '25

This month's Career Corner spotlight is on one of SFC's newest graduates, Erick Neri '25! Erick has started a role with PwC as a Tax Associate, where he assists clients in preparing and filing tax returns, navigating tax planning processes, and ensuring compliance with tax regulations. While at SFC, Erick interned with JPMorganChase, Loro Piana, and Assured Guaranty, and was a member of the SFC Accounting Society. We talked with Erick as he reflected on his time at SFC and what he is excited for as he starts his career, and he shared with us a powerful message:



**“As I start at PwC, I'm excited to grow in a field that values precision, integrity, and the power of diverse perspectives. I'm thankful to my accounting professors at St. Francis College for inspiring me to take control of my future. Because of their support, and the strength of our accounting program, many of us are now stepping into top roles at leading firms.”**

We congratulate Erick on his graduation from SFC, and all of his success both now and in the future!

## 4 Small Steps That a Make A Big Impact in Your Career Goals

Here are four powerful ways to get started:

### #1 Set SMART Goals

Define what you want to achieve using the SMART framework:

- **Specific:** What do you want to accomplish?
- **Measurable:** How will you track it?
- **Achievable:** Is your goal realistic?
- **Relevant:** Does it fit your career path?
- **Time-bound:** What's your deadline?

### #2 Update Your Resume

Your resume should reflect your most recent experiences and skills. Add new coursework, projects, or part-time jobs. Tailor your resume to each opportunity by using keywords from the job description. Use action verbs and quantify your achievements when possible.



**QUICK TIP:** Book an appointment through **NAVIGATE** with the Center for Career Exploration (CCE) for a resume review!

### #3 Practice Your Pitch

Be ready to introduce yourself confidently in any setting—whether it's a networking event, job fair, or casual conversation. Craft a 30-second “elevator pitch” that highlights who you are, what you do, and what you're looking for. Practice it out loud until it feels natural, and adapt it for different audiences (e.g., employers, professors, peers).

### #4 Create a LinkedIn Profile

A LinkedIn profile helps you connect with professionals, discover internships, and showcase your achievements. It also lets you explore career paths, follow companies you're interested in, and get noticed by recruiters—even before you graduate.

For more information, you can send an email to **careercenter@sfc.edu** or visit the **Center for Career Exploration (CCE)** at **Room 6101**.

For jobs/internships, upcoming career fairs, events and career resources, please visit **<https://sfc.joinhandshake.com/>**  
Follow us on Instagram **@sfc.careercenter**





## TERRIER ALUMNI JOB CORNER

*From recent grads to seasoned professionals, St. Francis College alumni are making their mark across industries and around the world. In this issue, we celebrate the paths our students have taken—and the shared spirit that continues to unite them, no matter how far they roam.*



**Anne Chery '21** is a Care Management Assistant with NYU Langone Health, and has held administrative positions with Eastern Cardiology Associates and Maimonides Medical Center. While pursuing her degree in Health Promotions and Science at SFC, Anne was a Clinic Intern with Eastern Cardiology and Associates.



**Tomas De Andrade '19, '21** is a Technical Project Manager with the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network (HITN). While a student at SFC, Tomas also worked at HITN as an intern while pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and Master's degree in Management.



**Zoe Drobenko '21** works in Human Resources for Creative Artists Agency, after having held positions with Christian Dior, The Conference Board, and NYC Health + Hospitals. Zoe received a degree in Communication Arts magna cum laude from SFC, where she was a member of Terrier TV and Lambda Pi Eta.



**Nicole Madrazo '19** is a Clinical Nurse in Labor and Delivery with Mount Sinai Hospital System. While pursuing her Nursing degree at SFC, Nicole interned in Labor and Delivery at Mount Sinai and volunteered with the Amsterdam Nursing Home Corporation.



**John Pusz '13** is currently a Model Teacher with the NYC Department of Education, where he mentors new teachers on best practices in lesson planning, assessment, and classroom management. John earned a B.A. in Secondary Education from SFC, where he was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society for Education.



### PRO TIP:

*Want to learn more about these alumni?*  
Use **LinkedIn** to connect with these professionals and request an informational interview, where you can ask them questions about their industry, day-to-day work, and what advice they have for a student in the field. You already have something in common – your SFC connection!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Dr. Amal Biscaino ('98)



We are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Amal Biscaino as our new **Director of Nursing Academic Success**. Dr. Biscaino brings over 25 years of experience in education, leadership, and student support, making her an exceptional addition to our academic community.

A **proud graduate of St. Francis College**, Dr. Biscaino earned her Doctorate in Leadership and Innovation from NYU Steinhardt. Her background in science education and academic program development is matched by a deep commitment to student achievement and collaborative learning.

In this role, Dr. Biscaino will lead initiatives to enhance nursing student success through evidence-based academic strategies, faculty partnerships, and a strong focus on student-centered learning. Her leadership will play a key role in strengthening our nursing program and supporting our students' academic journeys.

## Anthony Desiderio ('15)



**St. Francis College alum and Assistant Dean, Academic Support Services**, Anthony Desiderio has made a powerful impact in higher education with his recently published contribution to *ASCEND to Higher Retention Rates* (Volume 3). This essential collection brings together proven strategies from over 90 higher education experts, centered on the *ASCEND model: Affordability, Support, Culture, Engagement, Nudges, and Data*.

Anthony's chapter delivers practical, data-informed approaches designed to enhance student retention and completion perfectly aligning with SFC's mission to support every student's success. His inclusion adds to a vital toolkit for educators and administrators striving to create inclusive, sustainable change on campus.

We celebrate Anthony's achievement a proud example of SFC's commitment to thought leadership and tangible educational excellence!





## SFC Appoints Dr. Robert Gore to Board of Trustees

St. Francis College is proud to announce the election of **Dr. Robert (Rob) Gore** to its Board of Trustees. A trailblazing emergency medicine physician, community advocate, author, and educator, Dr. Gore brings a wealth of experience and a passionate commitment to healthcare sciences and social causes.

Dr. Gore currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at SUNY Downstate's Kings County Hospital Center and is the founder and Executive Director of the Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI). KAVI addresses urban youth violence through intervention, mentorship, and trauma-informed care programs. His leadership earned him recognition as a 2018 CNN Hero and a Presidential Leadership Scholar.

Dr. Gore graduated from Morehouse College (B.Sc. in Biology) and earned his medical degree from SUNY Buffalo in 2002, completing his emergency medicine residency—and serving as chief resident—at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

A Brooklyn native, Dr. Gore has dedicated his career to treating violence as a public health crisis, both in the ER and beyond its walls. His new book, *Treating Violence: An Emergency Room Doctor Takes On a Deadly American Epidemic*, explores community trauma through the lens of emergency medicine.

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*I am extremely honored to join the board of trustees of St. Francis College and even more excited to be part of a team dedicated to educating future leaders in our beloved borough of Brooklyn. I look forward to learning from and connecting with the St. Francis community and being of service.*

-Dr. Robert Gore

In his new role, Dr. Gore will actively engage in strategic planning, academic innovation, student engagement, and community partnerships as SFC advances its initiatives in healthcare sciences and experiential learning.

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*We are honored to welcome Dr. Robert Gore to the St. Francis College Board of Trustees. His extraordinary work in medicine, education, and community advocacy embodies the Franciscan values of service and compassion. His voice will be invaluable as we continue to advance initiatives in public health and student well-being.*

-Denis Salamone (Chairman of the Board)

## STUDENT LIFE @ SFC

# JOIN A STUDENT CLUB at ST FRANCIS COLLEGE



*One of the most impactful ways to get involved and enhance your college journey is by joining a student club.*

At St. Francis College, the Department of Student Life offers experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

With dozens of active organizations spanning cultural, academic, professional, and creative interests, there are countless opportunities for every student to connect, grow, and lead. For first-year students especially, clubs provide a smooth transition into college life by creating a welcoming space to build community, explore new passions, and discover a sense of belonging.

Highly engaged organizations such as the **Bible Club**, **Caribbean Student Association**, **Terrier TV**, **Black Student Union**, **Make a Difference Club**, and **Latin American Society** are just a few that host meaningful events and foster strong peer connections throughout the year. New additions to campus life, like the **Esports Club**, **Movie Club**, and **Fitness Club**, reflect the evolving interests of our student body and offer even more ways to get involved.

Whether you're passionate about STEM, the arts, advocacy, wellness, entrepreneurship, or student government, there's likely a group for you. And if not, you're encouraged to start your own club with support from the **Office of Student Life**.

Kick off the new school year at **Terrier Tuesday on September 2!** Enjoy games, music, food, and fun before classes begin. It's the perfect chance to meet fellow students, connect with faculty and staff, and get a taste of what SFC student life is all about—all before classes officially begin. Then don't miss the **Club Fair on September 8**—your chance to discover student clubs and get involved in campus life!

## Take the step toward making your mark at SFC.

For more information or to start a new organization, contact [studentlife@sfc.edu](mailto:studentlife@sfc.edu).  
Follow us on Instagram @lifeatsfcny.



## GRADUATE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

# SFC Graduate Academic Residency Summer 2025

St. Francis College proudly hosted its Graduate Academic Residency for Summer 2025, a dynamic three-day experience that brought together new and continuing graduate students for an immersive academic and community-building event. This residency was designed to foster connections, provide academic support, and guide students through the essential milestones of their graduate journey.

Each day began with a warm welcome from SFC's college administrators, setting the tone for a weekend centered on academic success and community engagement. The students' majors ranged from MS in Information Technology, MS in Sport and Exercise Science, MS in Management, MS in Healthcare Management, MS in Project Management, MS in Accounting, and MFA.

Students were encouraged to make the most of **Grad Central**: A graduate support office staffed to answer questions and provide one-on-one assistance. Whether it was understanding course loads, or ensuring proper documentation, **Grad Central** is here to assist and can be reached at [gradcentral@sfc.edu](mailto:gradcentral@sfc.edu).



# FITNESS CORNER

## LEVEL UP YOUR ENERGY, FOCUS & MOOD

### RIGHT ON CAMPUS!

*Looking for a quick way to clear your mind, boost your energy, and stay on top of your game this semester?*

The brand-new **SFC Campus Fitness Center** is here to help you move, sweat, and feel your best, all without ever leaving campus.

**Cardio goals?** There are treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, and rowing machines.

**Strength training?** Hit the free weights, lifting stations, and resistance machines.

**Just need a reset?** Use the open floor space for stretching, yoga, or bodyweight exercises.

**Have class after?** Locker rooms, showers, and bathrooms make it easy to freshen up before your next class.

### Why get moving?

Regular exercise doesn't just make you stronger. It helps you sleep better, stress less, focus more, and feel good thanks to natural mood-boosting endorphins. Whether you have 15 minutes between classes or want to start a new routine, every workout counts and can even give your academic performance a boost.

*Swing by, check it out, and see how a little movement can make a big difference. Keep an eye out for fitness center programming designed to keep your body and mind in sync.*



### WHAT'S IN THE FITNESS CENTER?

- treadmills
- row machines
- strength training equipment
- free weights
- yoga mats
- exercise balls



The Fitness Center is located at Room 5212. For more information or inquiries, email [sfcfitness@sfc.edu](mailto:sfcfitness@sfc.edu)



# OAA SUPPORT SERVICES SPOTLIGHT



## Working with Professors: Tips for Effective Communication

Navigating college with a disability means learning how to advocate for yourself—especially when it comes to communicating with professors. Here are practical tips to help you speak up with confidence.

### #1 Connect with OAA

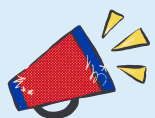
Before reaching out to your professors, your first step is to meet with the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations (OAA). They'll help you understand the available accommodations, review your documentation and create an official accommodation letter to share with faculty as applicable.

### #2 Be Clear & Focused

You don't need to share your diagnosis with faculty—just explain what accommodations you need and how they support your learning. For example: *"I have extended time on exams and will be taking them in a distraction-free environment."* or *"I use a note-taking app and may need access to lecture slides in advance."*

### #3 Know Your Support System

Challenges can sometimes arise during your academic journey, and we want you to know that you're not alone. The OAA is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you have questions about your accommodations or need help understanding how they apply in classes, we're here to help. Our team is committed to ensuring you have the tools and support you need to succeed.



PLANNING AHEAD FOR FALL 2025?

## DON'T FORGET YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS!

If you require academic accommodations for the Fall 2025 semester, now is the time to submit or renew your request with the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations!

**Even if you had accommodations last semester, you must renew them each semester to ensure continued support.**

### WHAT ARE ACCOMMODATIONS?

In a school setting, disability accommodations are modifications or adjustments to the learning environment that enable students with disabilities to participate fully in their education.

**Your privacy matters.** All documentation and student information is kept strictly confidential within the OAA.

**Questions?** Contact the OAA for assistance.

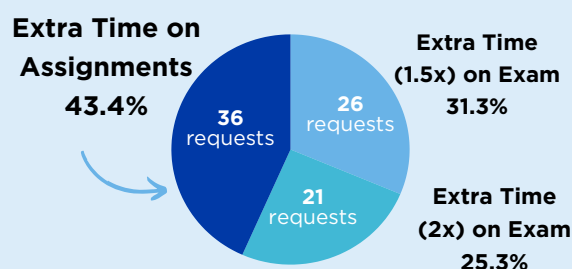
*We are here over the summer to support your success!*

Email: [oaasfc.edu](mailto:oaasfc.edu)

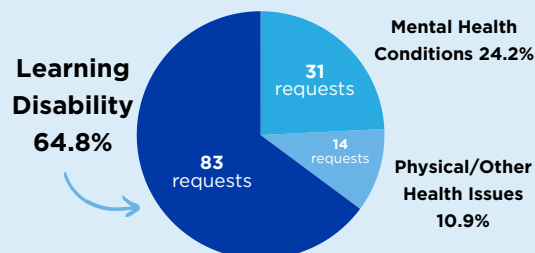
Office: **Room 7201**

Instagram: [@sfc.accessibility](https://www.instagram.com/sfc.accessibility)

### Most Common Accommodations



### Approved Accommodations by Condition:



## SUMMER STORIES: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*From internships and travel adventures to creative projects and community work, Summer Stories gives students a space to share their summer experiences in their own words. These short, first-person reflections highlight the ways our campus community is growing, exploring, and making the most of the season.*

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I recently became a published author of a faith-based guided journal titled “*I AM: A Step-by-Step Journal for Young Women to Grow Closer to God, Resist Temptation, and Live with Purpose.*” Inspired by my personal walk with God and the real struggles young women face today around identity, healing, and purpose, I wanted to create something that would help others grow spiritually, reflect intentionally, and discover who they are in Christ one page at a time. Balancing this project alongside school has been a stretch of faith and focus, but it’s also been incredibly rewarding. Through this process, I launched Day Forty Co. (<https://dayfortyco.com/>), a brand dedicated to encouraging faith-filled living through journals, devotionals, and community resources.

**- Aniya Hayes (BA Psychology ‘28)**



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This summer, I had the chance to visit Qatar to see my family. Even though it was short, it felt like a refreshing break filled with familiar faces and peaceful moments. One of the highlights was a nighttime visit to the Torch Doha, a striking tower that lights up the city skyline. Originally built for the 2006 Asian Games, it’s now a hotel and one of the most recognizable landmarks in Doha. In the photo, that’s me with the Torch in the background. It was just a quick stop, but a memory I’ll always treasure.

**- Celeste Mirador (MS Management ‘26)**





## SUMMER STORIES: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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I'm visiting Canada for the first time this summer, and I'm loving it! I always assumed Canada was similar to the US in a lot of ways—especially since they have the same country code and the infrastructure and tech scene feel familiar. One of my biggest surprises was the currency. I thought the Canadian dollar would look a lot like the US dollar, but nope—it's super colorful and reminds me more of the British pound. If you ever plan to drive here, the speed limits are in kilometers, not miles. I stayed in the Caledonia, a small town in the Greater Toronto Area, but I made sure to check out some cool spots—like the iconic Niagara Falls and Port Dover Beach. I also explored a couple of music festivals, and my favorite had to be the beachside reggae event in Burlington—good vibes, good music, and great people. Overall, it's been exciting, eye-opening, and refreshing. Can't wait to come back!

**-Michael Mensah (MS Management '27)**



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I went Jones Beach to celebrate 4th of July and the fireworks were simply amazing. That moment made me feel incredibly special.

**-Shaharia Ferdausi (MS Management '25)**

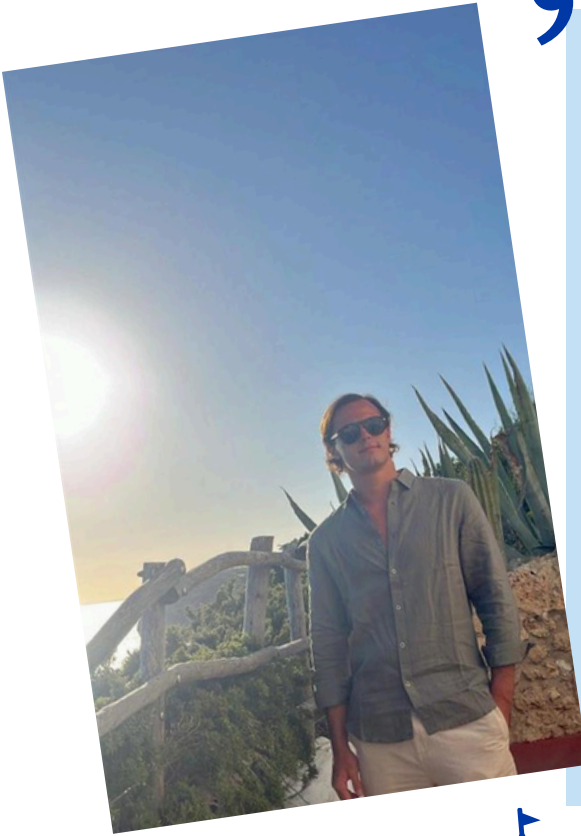
## SUMMER STORIES: STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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This July, I had the opportunity to return home to Marseille in the south of France to visit my family and friends. Honestly, living in New York is a dream come true, but sometimes it is important to take a break and reconnect with loved ones. The weather in France was perfect - sunny days and comfortable temperatures. I took advantage of the good weather to spend a lot of time outdoors. When I am in Marseille in the summer, I like to be active - swimming in the sea, playing beach water polo, or beach volleyball. But what I love most when I go back to France is the food. I was able to enjoy time with my family and friends, sharing meals of our local cuisine, which I had not had the chance to eat in a while. Overall, I was very happy to see my loved ones again and I made the most of it. By sharing this with you, I hope to inspire students to visit Marseille and the south of France one day!

**-Paolo Morliere (MS Information Technology '26)**



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Dreams really do come true in the happiest place on Earth- Disneyland! This adventure was not only magical, but also deeply meaningful, as it became the place where I reconnected with my childhood dreams and saw them come to life. Even at my age, I'm still enchanted by Mickey Mouse's little town, where everything feels like a fairytale brought to life. From the vibrant buildings to the joyful atmosphere, every corner sparks a sense of wonder that never fades. Somewhere between fantasy and reality, my inner child found a peaceful excitement and a joy that only a place like Disneyland can awaken. It reminded me that no matter how old we get, the magic of our dreams never truly leaves us.

**-Mary Cheeree Ann Seno (MS Management '26)**







# Franciscan Month 2025: Honoring our Heritage, Inspiring Our Future

Although the summer heat is still upon us, FC Brooklyn – the team planning a Better, Faster, Fairer Franciscan Month 2025 – is in full autumn mode. St. Francis College is leading the way in the efforts to have the month of October designated as Franciscan Month.

This year's mission is to celebrate over 800 years of Franciscan charism, educate others about its meaning and explore how to live it meaningfully in today's world. The hope is that all SFC Community members will come to know **October as Franciscan Month** and to make the choice to live a more Franciscan way of life in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare not only in October, but all year around.

The focus for this year's Franciscan Month will be the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis writing "The Cantic of the Creatures." This focus is very relevant because the "Cantic" highlights key aspects of the Franciscan way of life, e.g., right relationship, care for creation, forgiveness and gratitude.



Franciscan Month at the College will offer something for everyone. Events will include a **Peace Run**, a **sharing of our Franciscan stories**, a **film about St. Francis** and an **Interfaith Appreciation Breakfast**.

More information on these events and other great activities will be forthcoming shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions or/suggestions, or wish to assist FC Brooklyn finalize its planning of Franciscan Month, please contact **Brother Greg at [gcellini@sfc.edu](mailto:gcellini@sfc.edu)** or visit him in room **5109**.

UPCOMING  
EVENTS



# TERRIER TUESDAY SEPT 2

a campus-wide celebration  
packed with high-energy games,  
music, dancing and food

TAKE A PHOTO WITH  
ROCKY



SFC DANCE TEAM



# CLUB FAIR SEPT 8

your opportunity to explore student  
organizations, meet club leaders, and  
find your community on campus.



**ST FRANCIS COLLEGE**

Office of Student Life



## WHO'S IN THE DOGHOUSE THIS MONTH?

# Scaffolding. All of it. Forever.

*That's right. This month's canine corner of shame goes to the beloved, omnipresent, never-leaving, possibly-sentient scaffolding haunting every New York City sidewalk like it's auditioning for a horror film called *The Structure That Wouldn't Leave*.*



Thanks to Local Law 11, every building taller than your average shelf is required to inspect its façade every five years, which translates to: “Let’s put up scaffolding and leave it there forever.”

Just look outside. At this point, scaffolding isn’t just infrastructure, it’s part of campus culture. A rite of passage. A place where pigeons live rent-free, couples take breakup walks, and freshmen lose cell service mid-call.

Legend has it, the scaffolding outside SFC will only come down when the next Halley’s Comet appears!

Crimes committed:

- Blocking 100% of natural light from your window.
- Offering zero rain protection despite being technically a “shelter.”
- Becoming a bird condo without paying rent.

**So to NYC scaffolding, Local Law 11 we say:  
Bad dog. Stay.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>AUG 3 - AUG 7</b>	Project Access (Writing)
<b>AUG 7</b>	New Student Orientation
<b>AUG 11 - AUG 14</b>	STEP Institute (Anatomy & Physiology)
<b>AUG 11</b>	Summer Bridge
<b>AUG 11</b>	Project Access
<b>AUG 11</b>	Celebration of the Feast of St Clare (Mass and Luncheon)
<b>AUG 16 - AUG 20</b>	STEP Institute (Organic Chemistry & General Biology)
<b>AUG 16</b>	Summer Bridge
<b>AUG 21</b>	President's Office Indoor Tennis Tournament
<b>AUG 27</b>	International New Graduate Student Orientation
<b>AUG 28</b>	President's Office End of Summer BBQ
<b>AUG 29</b>	New Student Orientation (First Year/Transfer Students)

<b>AUG 29</b>	International Orientation (First Year/Transfer Students)
<b>AUG 30</b>	Move In Day (First Year Students)
<b>AUG 31</b>	Move In Day (Continuing Students)
<b>SEPT 2</b>	Terrier Tuesday
<b>SEPT 2</b>	Faculty Assembly
<b>SEPT 15</b>	Annual Fall Club Fair
<b>SEPT 16</b>	Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce (Non-Profit Summit)
<b>SEPT 18</b>	Disability and Diversity Lecture (CAFE and Student Affairs)
<b>SEPT 22</b>	Franciscan Month - Kick-Off Party
<b>SEPT 22</b>	Senior Orientation
<b>SEPT 25</b>	What's Next Career and Graduate Fair

## Want to Be Featured in Our Next Newsletter?

Unleash your story and be featured!

Send your photo, your story, or  
anything else you'd like to share to  
**deanofstudents@sfc.edu**

for a chance to be spotlighted in  
our upcoming issue!

**Don't miss out—  
we'd love to feature you!**



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