



Fall 2020, ISSUE 2

# SFC STUDENT SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Peer Leadership Team

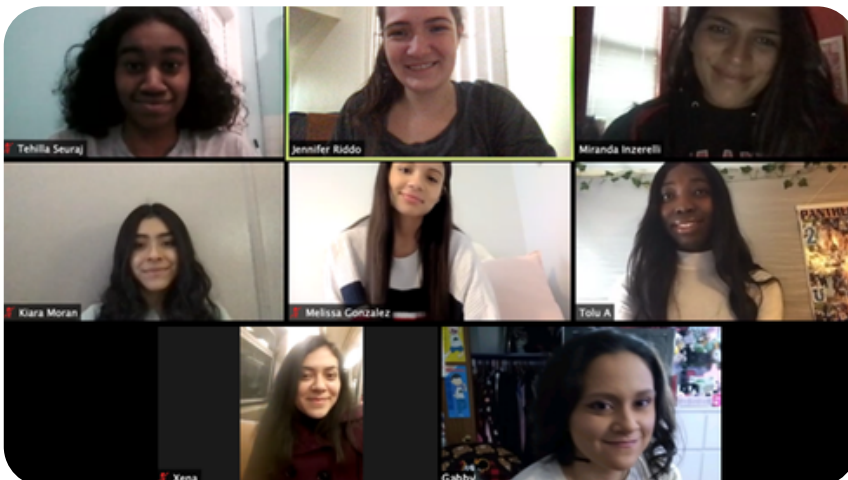


*Dear Terriers,*

This newsletter is for YOU! Last Semester the Student Success Spotlight Series was created to help students feel connected, heard, and involved with one another in our SFC Community. While this fall 2020 semester is taking a different approach, this newsletter is still a vehicle for our connection and a symbol of our unity as Terriers.

The goal of this second issue is to highlight first year students and share their stories, especially since we have been unable to see their new friendly faces on campus. Due to social distancing protocols and not being on campus, this unique spotlight initiative began as a social media campaign called #HumansofSFC. Each of the eight Peer Leaders on Humans of SFC Team interviewed a first year student. In these interviews, students opened space for others to see them through the lens of being human. We have learned that there is power and inspiration in sharing our stories as students and as humans.

We hope this newsletter gives a glimpse into the newest Terriers in our community and their journey to achieving success. Keep reading for more insight on our new Terrier's talents and ambitions. We are certain they will uplift you all!



*Stay safe and healthy!  
Your Humans of SFC Team*

**Issue 2 Editors: Jennifer Riddo & Tehilla Seuraj**



## MEET STAYANN

### STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Stayann Weatherspoon (she/her) is a first year Terrier and will graduate in 2024. Stayann enjoys writing and singing. She has been singing since she was a little girl in Guyana, performing for her family. She dreamed about what it would be like to be a star.

Stayann hopes to be a Sports Psychologist after shadowing and being inspired by her high school coach. Stayann is also an athlete herself. One day, she would also like to own her own clothing line. Stayann chose SFC based on the welcoming feeling when she visited, which reminded her of her high school. She enjoys the community building atmosphere and support in reaching her goals. In the next four years, she hopes to have hands on experiences and internships. Through hard work and many accomplishments, she is hopes to get into the 5-year psychology program.

A quote which inspires her from her high school hallway is, "Winners never quit, and quitters never win."

Personal Statement: I AM COMPASSIONATE.

### INTERVIEWED BY JENNIFER RIDDO (SHE/HER)



Major: Childhood Education with a Concentration in Math  
Fun Fact: I love nature and enjoy going to parks to recharge!

**Student Success Tip:** "Be your own self advocate. No one will know what you want or need if you don't speak up . Use your voice to share your ideas, your story and connect with others. So many people want to learn about you. You will inspire others by sharing your story."

# MEET DIMITRI

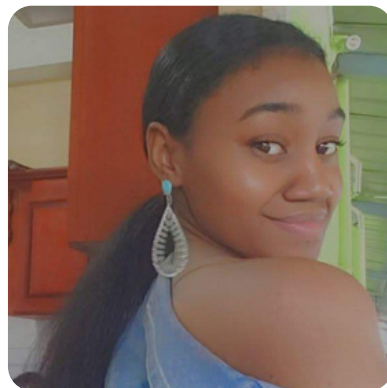
## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dimitri English (he/his) is a first year Terrier of the class of 2024 who comes all the way from Jamaica! He loves going to the beach and enjoys watching track and field. He aspires to become a Forensic Accountant, his passion for this is a raging success. It's not just any regular accounting job to him, "It's interesting because in the field of forensic accounting you investigate theft and fraud." Dimitri chose St. Francis because of their excellent business program, especially for accounting. "This school provides me with an opportunity to achieve my goal! Also, especially because it's located in New York City, one the best places to learn from and do business!" In four years, he sees himself as being awarded a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from St. Francis College! Driven by his life journey along with his goals, he never really had much growing up and immediately knew that he could have a better life through education. "I crave to do better for myself and my family and that is what keeps me fueled to better my life."

His mantra is, God got this! "I often say this to myself, in life everyone is not dealt the same deck of cards, but how you play yours is what moves you in life."

Personal statement: Carefree lifestyle unbounded by convention. For I know the plans I have for you, declare the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.

## INTERVIEWED BY TEHILLA SEURAJ (SHE/HER)



BS in Biology, Minor in Entrepreneurship,

Fun Fact – I'm obsessed with cookie dough and love going on cruises.

**Student Success Tip:** "Be assertive and intentional when reaching for your goals! Never let fear stop you. When you run away from fear and from taking risks, you run away from an opportunity to grow. Own your story, use your voice, be heard and be known!"



## MEET DANIYAL

### STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Daniyal Atiq (he/his) is a first year Terrier at SFC. His hobbies include reading the Quran, Philosophy and science articles. In the future he aspires to be a Medical Scientist. Daniya's main aspirations for SFC are to network, join clubs, & make himself known.

His motivation is helping others, his future, his parents and the opportunity to be a change in the world through the means of medicine, volunteer activism & donating.

Daniya believes that life is full of up and downs and you define what your life is by the path you take. He uses his true passion as a reminder that you can achieve all that you want despite the obstacles that life presents you. Daniya did not expect to live to achieve his dreams, but he fought through it all and he is grateful that he did. "Dream Serve and Achieve" is the motto that pulled Daniya to SFC. In his opinion, He felt that SFC being a small school will create a bigger impact. SFC will aim to take better care of its students and give them the attention they need. Upon joining a school tour during his senior year, he fell in love with the atmosphere that SFC brings.

Personal Statement: "I will be the best person I can strive to be. I can learn to achieve my dreams and overcome my chronic condition"

### INTERVIEWED BY TOULOPE ATOLAGBE (SHE/HER)



BS in Biology Minor in women studies,

Fun fact – I like planning and organizing. I am into Photography and I love nature.

**Student Success Tip:** "Make you mission in life to live by this Maya Angelou quote; 'not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style – Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.'"



# MEET MATTHEW

## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Matthew Gallo (he/his) is a first year Terrier and will graduate in 2024. Matthew enjoys hanging out with friends and playing basketball. He has been playing basketball since he was a little boy. Matthew hopes to be a stockbroker and is interested in working on Wall Street one day. Matthew chose SFC based on the welcoming and warm environment.

At SFC, he wants to gain experience in the business field and learn about all the aspects of the business world since it is a very complex field. He enjoys the small class sizes and the close relationships he has with his professors, making the experience even more worthwhile!

He believes that SFC is the perfect environment for him because he works best in a small school setting. He would like to apply what he learns in school into the real world. He also would really like to learn how to become more independent and take care of himself and he feels as if SFC can help him do all of that.

Personal Statement: Choosing this type of college environment has been on the best decisions I have ever made and I look forward to all my future success!

## INTERVIEWED BY MIRANDA INZERELLI (SHE/HER)



BA/MA in Applied Psychology, Minor in Criminal Justice,  
Fun Fact- I love to bake and share all my treats with others!

**Student Success Tip:** Have the courage to stand up for yourself, to speak up for what you believe in, and the strength to follow through in order to reach your fullest potential. Open yourself up to the endless possibilities that the world has to offer and know that you are in control of your own destiny.”

# MEET ELIZABETH

## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Elizabeth Fuentes (she/her) is a first year Terrier of the class of 2024! Her favorite animal is a llamas. She enjoys collecting comic books. Elizabeth is majoring in Psychology although she still is figuring out what specifically she wants to do with Psychology. As of now she is most interested in Forensic psychology.

She is motivated because of her family who push her to reach her full potential. Elizabeth is more on the shy side but despite this, she is very good at working with others and helping those around her.

Elizabeth chose SFC because “It is a small school; small schools are known to offer more support for their students. The help you get at St. Francis you can’t get anywhere else. I’ve been able to build relationships with professors and students, as well as getting more involved on campus. St. Francis offers opportunities that ensure and help their students to succeed.”

Personal Statement: “I will stay true to myself!

## INTERVIEWED BY KIARA MORAN (SHE/HER)



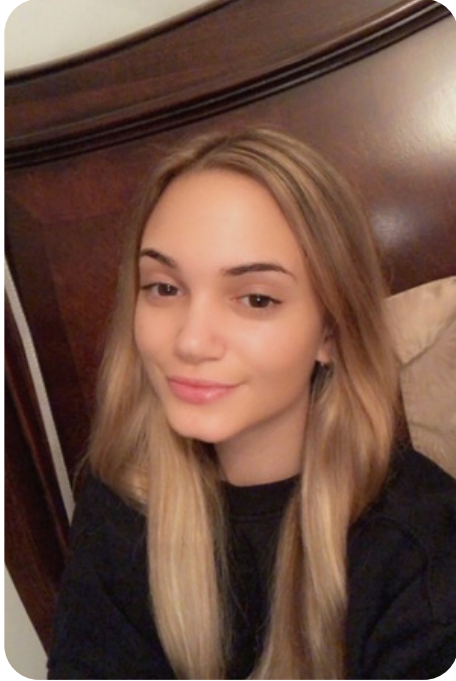
BS, Psychology

Fun Fact: I love coffee and enjoy watching crime documentaries.

**Student Success Tip:** “Worry about yourself, it is okay to ask for help and take a step back. Never let one setback overcloud everything else. Always push yourself at your own pace, everyone's path is different. Follow your ambitions and what interests you. You are the one in control of your dreams.”



## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Katya Podlubuy (she/her) is a first year Terrier and will graduate in 2024. Katya enjoys dancing and hanging out with her friends. She has a strong drive and determination to become a lawyer. She had interest in this field since high school as she took part in her high school's mock trial team.

She is extremely perseverant and won't stop until she has achieved whatever she wants. Katya has always stayed stayed busy. She has been involved in ice-skating, dancing and kickboxing growing up.

Katya chose SFC because it is a small school where she felt she could get that one-on-one connection with her professors. She also loved the location of the school and how welcoming everyone was. She hopes to connect with her peers as much as possible and build connections with her professors.

Personal Statement: "I can achieve anything that I set my mind to" Personal Statement: "I can achieve anything that I set my mind to"

## INTERVIEWED BY MELISSA GONZALEZ (SHE/HER)



BS, Nursing,

Fun Fact- I love to travel and spend time with my family.

**Student Success Tip:** Always trust and believe in yourself. Don't be afraid to leave your comfort zone and try new things. Make connections and don't hesitate to ask questions. Never settle, always dream big. Push yourself to be the best you can be."



## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Diego Loja (he/his) is a first Year Terrier and will graduate in 2024. Diego enjoys playing chess and hopes that as soon as he recovers from an injury, he will be able to get back to soccer. Diego's career aspiration is clinical psychology. Diego's main drive in life is his family, as he says, "... I just want to make them proud." From seeing his brother as a first-generation college student, it makes Diego want to conquer his career path even more.

Diego chose SFC from the day he first visited. He went to the open house and liked the aura he stepped into. He knew that if the professors would be the way they showed themselves in orientation then they would be the same in the classroom. Diego's main aspiration at SFC is to help others by doing community service which he could get here due to the Franciscan spirit.

Personal statement: I AM STRONG BECAUSE THROUGH STRUGGLE COURAGE WILL OVERCOME IT!

### INTERVIEWED BY XENA CUEVAS (SHE/HER)



International Cultural Studies, minor in French

Fun Fact: I love dancing & traveling to meet new people and new cultures!

**Student Success Tip:** "Be resilient because each day is a new opportunity for living your best life. Not everyone will understand you but continue with your goals because we are here to be authentic and dream big."





## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Khrone (he/his) is a first year terrier and will graduate in 2024. Khroner has many hobbies. He enjoys traveling to different places, a few of his favorites are Jamaica and Trinidad. He enjoys playing basketball, football, volleyball and video games. In addition, he manages a basketball team. He likes to cook pasta and listen to music. Khroner hopes to start his own business or be a teacher one day in the future. Khroner chose SFC because it felt comfortable. SFC is a small school with many great choices to achieve big dreams. He enjoys the community which is here at St. Francis. He likes to use his imagination and dream big. Khroner has a lot of patience, is honest, trustworthy, organized and hardworking. Though hard work and with many great accomplishments he hopes to be a successful teacher or business owner in the future.

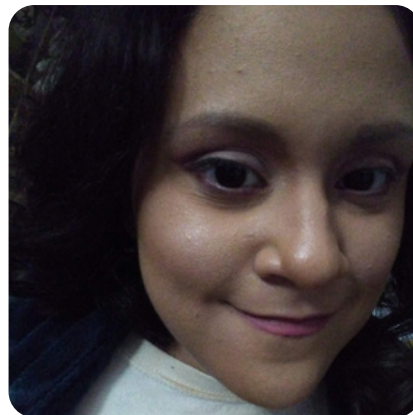
Quotes which inspire him:

"If you have a dream, chase it no matter what it takes." –James Harden

"If you dream it, you can do it." – Walt Disney

Personal Statement: I am a great leader.

## INTERVIEWED BY GABBY PAGAN (SHE/HER)



BA, Communications,

Fun fact: I like to listen to scary podcasts

**Student Success Tips:** "Take it one day at a time and use a planner! Planners help organize assignments providing insight on due dates."



On behalf YOUR Peer Leadership Team,  
THANK YOU!

Shout out to the students in the spotlight  
for being part of the Class of 2024 First  
Year Terrier Stories!

We hope that you have been inspired by  
the journey of your peers-  
and remember, we are here for you!



**See you all in Spring 2021**