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First Year Edition: Meet the Franklin & Marshall Class of 2020

Meet Gabby Goodwin: incoming two-season student athlete from Wayne, NJ

BY GABBY GOODWIN
Class of 2020

Almost a year ago, I stepped foot on F&M grounds for the first time in my life. Unbeknownst to the school and the amazing community I have just become part of, I was a prospective high school senior, confused about where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do.

Now, writing this article as an incoming first year at F&M, I am beyond excited to embark on the next journey in my life, otherwise known as college. Recruited by the soccer coach, and later by the softball coach at F&M, I cannot wait for my collegiate athletic career to start! After all of the hours of practice and hard work I have put in, this is my chance to showcase it, meet new people, and just have fun with two teams I cannot wait to be a part of!

As many put it, college is the perfect opportunity for new beginnings. For me, it is a continuation of the old. Regardless, college gives us the opportunity to learn, make new friends, and

be who we want to be without judgement. F&M's diverse array of clubs, athletics, and people in general provide a space for everybody to find their niche. I simply cannot wait to find the path that college will take me down! Finding friends that will always have my back, professors that will influence what I want to do in life, and the self-satisfaction of a great 4 years at F&M are all aspirations I have as I begin the first year of the best years of my life.

Making my way through high school and becoming the mature 18-year-old that I, or at least think, am now, one thing I have always been confused about is what I want to do in life. Some people tell me that I'm just a first year and I don't have to know what I want to do yet, while others urge me on to become what they have become. I enjoy many different subject areas and when I try to picture myself in one career, I can picture myself in another career just as much. I am anxious to see what path F&M will lead me down in my career life; yet



Photo courtesy of Gabby Goodwin

I can't rush something that will just take some more time to figure out. Some people know what they want to do in life from a young age, while others, as adults, still don't know.

I hope that F&M will give me this sense of identity that I still seek to find. I cannot wait for this school year to begin and I am beyond excited for the next chapter in my life to start!

Meet Angelo Martin, incoming first-year from Selinsgrove, PA



Photo courtesy of F&M Athletics

BY ANGELO MARTIN
Class of 2020

Greetings F&Mily! My name is Angelo Martin and I am one of those pesky incoming first years. Hailing from the great town of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, a hotbed for farming, "racin'," and tractor

pulls, I could not be more excited to begin my Franklin & Marshall experience.

Unlike many incoming freshman across the country that make the mistake of believing that college will be a problem-free utopia, I think that my expectations for my first year are on the realistic side. Several of my goals for this upcoming year include establishing strong, personal relationships with faculty, making friends who come from far and wide, and trying to seize upon every opportunity an elite liberal arts college such as Franklin & Marshall will provide.

Throughout high school, I feel like I fell into a state of complacency at times. At Franklin & Marshall, I am looking forward to changing some of my habits and using the liberal arts curriculum to become a better critical-thinker. I understand that the workload and rigor of the academics at F&M is going to be a huge adjustment,

and that is going to require me to become more organized and to be on top of assignments instead of procrastinating.

Along with an academic adjustment, I will also be facing the difficulty of balancing my course work with being a student-athlete. I was recruited to play football at Franklin & Marshall, and cannot be more excited to continue playing the sport I love while also receiving a world class college education. I hope that my experiences on the Diplomat football team will help shape my character in ways that a classroom cannot. I want to use my athletic experience at F&M to force me to work more efficiently and to develop the crucial skill of time management.

While football will be a big part of my social experience at F&M, I want to put myself out there and get to know people from all types of interests and backgrounds. Growing up in Selinsgrove, PA,

I was not really exposed to too much diversity. Many of my friends were all pretty much the same kind of people. As I mentioned, I want to be able to make friends with people who have endured different experiences than mine growing up. In addition, I would like to try and get involved with the college by volunteering and doing work in the community. In high school, I found a passion for serving others and am looking forward to building upon that at F&M.

Though anxious and slightly overwhelmed at what the next several months will hold, I am ready to make Franklin & Marshall my home for the next four years. Getting into a prestigious, small liberal arts college was a goal of mine since the first day of high school. Now, as I embark upon the beginning of my college career, I am eager to start what I hope will be a life-changing experience.

Meet the First Years

Meet first-year Megan Kling as she makes the transition to college life

BY MEGAN KLING
Class of 2020

Hello! To start with the basics, my name is Megan Kling and I'm from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, which is about twenty-five minutes from F&M. Although my hometown isn't far from campus, the general atmosphere is totally different than that of Franklin & Marshall and Lancaster City and I couldn't be more ready for the move!

I never intended to attend a school close to home; in fact, F&M was the last school I applied to, and I only applied at the insistence of the college counselor at my high school (an F&M alum himself). I applied four days before the final deadline, went on an official tour a few weeks later, and of course, fell in love.

My application and decision-making process was more than a little backwards, I'll admit, and my parents continue to joke that I made them drive all over the East Coast only to choose a school right down the road. Regardless, I'm confident in my decision and can't wait to be part of the F&Mily!

As of now, I plan on pursuing an English degree, but I'm also interested in History, American

Studies, and Women's/Gender/Sexuality Studies. I'm not completely sure what career I want to pursue yet, but I figure I still have some time to work it out. I also hope to study abroad at some point during my time at F&M, maybe somewhere in the UK, Ireland, or France. I'm really excited to be living in Ware, especially because there's apparently lots of free food, and I enjoy free food.

I definitely want to participate in as many clubs as possible without over-committing myself because they all sound really interesting! The College Democrats, the Environmental Action Alliance, and The College Reporter all stick out to me, but I also would like to participate in a service or advocacy-based organization, like SAVE or THRI.

I ran cross country and track in high school and want to continue running recreationally in college, so I might join the running club. Finally, I'm thinking about joining a sorority, but I'm not completely sure yet!

All in all, my three main goals for my freshman year are to challenge myself academically, form new friendships, and be an active member of the campus community!



Photo courtesy of Megan Kling

Chase Kovalcheck is ready to take on all that is offered by F&M

BY CHASE KOVALCHECK
Class of 2020

Hey, everyone! My name is Chase Kovalcheck, and I cannot wait to get

to know all of you wonderful people. I am from a little town called Rices Landing, and let me tell you, I am not exaggerating when I say

little. The population is less than 1,000 and my high school had less than 400 students in it. So, where I am from everyone knows everyone, and that is one reason why I chose F&M. I wanted to make great friendships, and I knew that that could only happen at a small college where the professors and the students want to know more about you.

I know how anxious you are to get know me so here I go. I was the Valedictorian of my graduating class. I promise I don't say that to brag; I only say it because I am immensely driven as a student (as I am sure all of you are as well). I am a perfectionist, so I am sorry if I spend two hours on an assignment that should take 30 minutes, it is just how I am. I love to spread positivity, especially when I see people who feel helpless or lost. If you ever need someone to talk to, I promise I will try to make you laugh with my weirdness.

I know this is not a normal hobby, but I love to study and write. You could give me a textbook on anything (I mean anything), and I would probably make myself learn to appreciate the material. I could also write about anything. I like to assemble far-fetched and imaginative situations in my brain and then

write them on paper, and more often than not, they could never actually happen, but who cares, I have fun with it. I don't watch TV, unless it is *The Walking Dead* or *American Horror Story* of course, but if you watch them, you know that they are highly addictive. I like to read suspense or horror novels mostly, but I do enjoy the occasional classic. That being said, my favorite author is Stephen King.

I am also doing this Bible in 365 days challenge thing, and yes, that does make me a Christian and that does mean I love God. Sue me. I play the ukulele a lot. I started playing about a year ago, and I just have a feel for the sound. I love music too, particularly indie rock (twenty one pilots, Walk The Moon, Panic! At The Disco). I like pretty much everything, guys.

So, why am I so excited for F&M? Well, I hope to be majoring in Biochemistry with a pre-health track, and I know that it is competitive and difficult, and I am ready for the challenge. I am excited to finally get to know others who are like me through clubs, organizations, and discussions. But more than anything, I am eager to learn at a place where community is its most valued aspect.



Photo courtesy of Chase Kovalcheck

Introducing first-year Rachel Beldoch from Ardsley, NY

BY RACHEL BELDOCH
Class of 2020

Hi! My name is Rachel Beldoch and I'm a first-year student from Ardsley, New York. I plan to major in biology on the pre-med track and follow my dream of becoming a doctor. I'm so excited to start my freshman year at Franklin & Marshall and get involved on campus.

One of my favorite things about F&M is the dog park right next to campus because I am a huge dog-lover, even though I never had one at home because my mom is allergic! I can see myself spending a lot of time over there. I'm really interested in joining Hillel and rushing a sorority second semester, and I also plan to be super involved in my college house.

Besides dogs, I'm obsessed with *Hamilton*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and coffee, so you'll be able to spot me because I'll always have a travel mug with me! I'm a very social person so dorm living seems great for me and I can't wait to spend time in my college house meeting new people. I'm looking forward to accomplishing a goal that I have in mind for my time at F&M: doing research with professors. Some

of the things I dislike are sports and pretty much physical activity of any kind, so feel free to encourage me to visit the Alumni Sports and Fitness Center! You'll definitely catch me taking a nap anywhere on campus because that's literally one of my favorite activities (can anyone relate?).

Basically, I've been looking forward to going to college for as long as I can remember and I plan on making the best of my experience at Franklin & Marshall. I want to get as involved on campus as I can and form amazing relationships with other students and faculty. I can't wait for the school year to get into full swing and to meet the rest of the class of 2020!



Photo courtesy of Rachel Beldoch

CLASS OF 2020 STATISTICS

- 82% involved in community service
- 58% played in varsity athletics
- 46% speak two or more languages
- 29% are musicians
- 25% are student government leaders
- 24% performed as actors or dancers
- 21% are first-generation students

Courtesy of Jason Klinger, F&M's Senior Director of Creative & Brand Strategy

Learn about first-year Hannah LaChance, dedicated to serving her community

BY HANNAH LACHANCE
Class of 2020

There are certain interrogatives that people inevitably pose when a newcomer steps foot on a college campus. These generally consist of: "Where are you from?," "What are your academic interests?," "What do you like to do for fun?," among others. All of these aim at answering two significant questions that can be compounded into a single unit: "How did you get here, and what do you plan on doing while you're here?." While these seem like simple questions, their answers can often be much more intricate and complex.

The reason I am at F&M cannot be summed up by the cliché portrayal of an overworked high school student finding mercy in being accepted to their dream college. No, unfortunately that is not usually how these things work anymore. Acceptance is only half the battle. There's the even more important financial aspect that can squash these mainstream visions of "dream college" acceptances instantaneously. Even more vexing is the inevitable test score contention, the struggle of being a high achieving student whose worth cannot fully be depicted by a number.

F&M was admittedly a school I wrongly overlooked in the beginning of my college search. I was wrapped up in the glamour of more elite schools.

What finally caught my attention at F&M was how it saw my worth in more than just testing and academia. When I visited, I was complimented on my essay about how I enacted social change in my community.

After the endless amounts of strenuous work that high school provided on top of my other pursuits in social justice, I felt the affirmation that F&M gave me was proof of their holistic approach. My acceptance into Franklin and Marshall wasn't the "Well, I guess you're good enough to come here" that I got from some other schools, but it was a "You have just as much to offer to us as we have to offer to you. Welcome to the F&Mily." The aura that F&M exudes is what drew me in.

While the question "What do you plan on doing here?" has a slightly more ambiguous answer, it can be vaguely addressed. My two main interests are academia and social justice, with my number one intention being to study a lot.

Next comes my passion, enacting social change. This could come in the form of LGBTQA+ causes or through involvement with the Environmental Action Alliance.

Additionally, having been troubled by research on sexual assault on col-

lege campuses, I hope to help make F&M a safe place in any way that may manifest itself. In writing college essays, I focused on one idea: that I want to learn in college not only from the conventional classroom but to learn from the college experience as a means to discover myself and my place in the world around me. This "life learning" is, above all, what I intend to gain from college in solidarity with the rest of the F&Mily.



Photo courtesy of Hannah LaChance

Meet Donald Peacock, singer, actor, and future social activist from Texas

BY DONALD PEACOCK

Class of 2020

My biggest hope for F&M is to reignite the flame I have for singing. I love to sing recreationally. At my high school, the arts as a whole were highly underrepresented. I'm not the best singer now, especially since I lost a couple of keys over the past two years. But I never really had the chance to try to express my talents at my high school. My biggest hope is that I would be able to join an acapella group on campus to finally have a group where I belong.

On the note of singing (you caught my pun), during my senior year I took a theater class. Yes, it was required, but I still learned a lot. So much of it is still helping me in life: pretending to not be rude when I'm insulted, learning to memorize definitions for written tests, and being able to quickly improvise in any given situation. And if this is what I learned from a high school theater class, I can't wait to see what I will learn from theater classes in college! Acting is truly an art and I know for sure that I want to minor in Theatre and continue my passion of singing, dancing, and acting. In my mind, a Theatre major or minor will be a character-building journey that can help a person become more than just an actor, but even a better person. One day, with the help of a Franklin & Marshall education, I will hopefully be able to produce my own television show.

Aside from singing and acting, I

love helping people who struggle to help themselves. I've joined many clubs at my high school that allowed me to have a truly positive impact, such as the food-can drive for Reagan High School students, faculty, and staff, and adopting a first grade student as "my little " in order to be a role model and advisor through his academic life. I also personally hosted Reagan's first "Let's move Campaign" to end obesity at my high school. Although everything did not pan out perfectly and may not have been wholly effective, the purpose was always solid and was still an important mission to attempt. In the future and at F&M, I want to advance my community service, be more specialized, and direct my attention towards very needed, immediate projects like feeding the homeless.

I love the idea of black confidence and empowerment--especially in order to inspire young African American children and members of the inner-cities. It is so saddening seeing the statistics on unemployment in inner-cities and high school dropout rates. So whenever I see accomplishments by fellow African Americans it makes my heart sing the most. I would love to join I.M.P.A.C.T. because the organization that embraces and emanates minority-empowerment.

The club I'm most excited to join is the F&M Players. Even though my high school wasn't known for arts, we had a club called the Reagan



Photo courtesy of Donald Peacock

Players which is a similar concept to the group at F&M: a set of students performing different theatrical productions and writings. While I'm afraid there are requirements to be in every production (as that could be a challenge), I absolutely love musicals and musical theatre and am excited to pursue that passion with the Players. F&M could provide me with the chance to truly shine as an artist and an actor. I feel as though at Franklin & Marshall everything I've ever

wanted is finally within my reach.

As most Americans, I'm a fighter, I'm not one to easily give up or just brush failures under the rug. So as a student, 'trying and trying, then trying again,' is my specialty. Although getting it right the first time is the goal, if failure occurs, it still isn't over. And this mindset has helped me grow as a person. I do not give up on people and life because things can work out and change, you just have to keep trying.

Fifteen things to know about first-year Anastasiia Grigoreva, from Russia



Photo courtesy of Anastasiia Grigoreva

BY ANASTASIIA GRIGOREVA

Class of 2020

"Ah, nice to see ya!"

If you are able to pronounce this, then you've already learnt the correct way to say my name. Hi, I am Anastasiia and I am from

Russia. That's how I've been introducing myself for the last couple of years since I first came to the U.S. as an exchange student. I like to think that there isn't such a thing as "ex-exchange students", for that is an experience that

shapes a whole one's new self and teaches to perceive this world in an extremely different way.

Besides that, it's hard to find anything specific about myself. I've been wondering whether it's just me or if everyone struggles with finding those personal pieces of information which are just right to distinguish them from the giant mass of other uniquely talented young people?

If you don't mind, I'll simply give you several random facts about myself.

I am an ultimate night owl but do appreciate early mornings, probably because I don't get to see them that often.

Kindness and a sophisticated sense of humor are the keys to becoming my friend.

My soul sounds like Depeche Mode.

But my favorite artist of all time is Michael Jackson.

I actually have an entire corner in my room dedicated strictly to the master himself.

I am an ENFJ personality type.

Also a Capricorn but tend not to believe in astrology.

I'm pretty sure that I have coffee running through my veins instead of blood.

Dancing is the best and perhaps the only physical activity I am capable of.

I am in love with theatre and acting.

I believe that guacamole is the greatest gift the mankind has even obtained.

My least favorite part of the day is 4 pm during winter time when the sun shines so brightly for the last time, letting the infinite darkness to take over and making you realize that the day has already passed and you are running out of time to fulfill all you've aspired to. Isn't allegorical to our life?

Rain is my favorite weather condition.

If I ever had a chance to go to the outer space, I would already be there.

I usually never make lists preferring to "play it by ear" so that was quite an exception today.

Thanks a lot for your attention (if you didn't give up on me after fact #5) and I could not be more excited to get to know all of you!

P.S. I wonder how many more points I'll add to my list of facts after the first year at F&M.

Charlotte McAdams on coming to F&M from Columbia, SC

BY CHARLOTTE MCADAMS
Class of 2020

Hi everyone! My name is Charlotte McAdams and I'm from Columbia, South Carolina. It's so great to be starting school, and finally being able to meet all of my new classmates. I want to double major in Gender Studies and Sociology. I'm also really interested in writing and agriculture. My summer has been super busy because I have been volunteering on organic farms in Washington and Oregon for the last two months.

I'm sure I'll stay just as busy at school, though. I want to check out the GSA, advocacy groups, writing clubs, and continue to practice yoga. I also really love knitting, reading, watching Steven Universe, and I'm teaching myself how to play the ukulele. Throughout high school I tried many different things. I was a competitive cyclist, a cross country runner, made short films, did pageants, taught yoga, was the president of the Chinese club, did Young Life, and probably a few other things.



Photo courtesy of Charlotte McAdams

I love going on adventures and trying new things. Recently, I have been learning about spirituality and sustainable agriculture. I want to be a social worker after I graduate, and I'll probably go to graduate school for a master's degree, at the very least. This has been my dream for a few years now, and I hope to work with homeless youth or women. I am especially excited to make new friends at F&M. I hope to form lasting relationships, and I'm always open for study buddies, coffee

dates, and so much more. My favorite color is green and my favorite flowers are verbena or sunflowers. I love tea and cats and knitting socks. My favorite book is probably Memoirs of a Geisha, and of course Harry Potter. Before coming to campus, I will be leaving the commune I've been working on for the last three weeks to hitchhike to San Francisco. Of all the adventures I have had so far, I'm sure college will be one of the biggest. I can't wait to spend it with all of you!

Creative first-year Isabelle Weiman expresses individuality

BY ISABELLE WEIMAN
Class of 2020

*I forget the question.
I am the void
and the eyes that slip from nose to mouth
speaking words I cannot know,
and yet I write with force to feel
the words beneath my hand out-grow
what I have thought,
what I've been told,
what I have seen,
and let remold
my ever dancing
Immortal soul.*

I forget the question.



Photo courtesy of Isabelle Weiman

*Do Jews believe in immortal souls?
'Cause I really want to have one.
Okay, sorry, you wanted to hear about me:

I am the void,
and you are the words
I will smile an echo,
and laugh once more,
with friends who
void-like or not, too, swore
to revel in the unsold
unspoilt
green of the old new world,
letting our eyes widen at the threshold,
and hearing the words we don't understand
and speaking in dreams;
as we are enrolled
in a house of love, of struggle,
and whose face we have not learned,
and whose hands we cannot hold.*

*I search for the eyes that read the lips
speaking the words I cannot know,
that I will trace with ink
until the riddle unfold
becomes the laws risen from cold.
And I will breathe it,
these words of gold,*

*for I was never one to withhold—

I'm sorry, what was the question?
Something about me, I think.
Better to wonder than know,
about a girl who is a mere mark in time-
barely a shadow
in the face of the sun,
so, bear with me, I promise, I'm almost done:*

*Student 500-something, female, typical-
God, please let me be at least typical,
with or without a time-specified soul,
and very little to offer,
except a Kipling full of notebooks,
unmarked as she,
and a reputation
(don't get too excited)
for run-on sentences –*

*I think this was supposed to be an article?
I don't follow very well.
But I listen.
And I speak,
foolishly, and prematurely, perhaps,
but if you are the words
and I am the void,
I promise to shout back.*

Meet new fummer Allison Shockley

BY ALLISON SHOCKLEY
Class of 2020



Photo courtesy of Allison Shockley

Why is it so hard to talk about who I am? I know who I am, but I don't know what I want people to know. Anyone who knows me knows a few things: I'm from little old Kansas and I'm very quirky and awkward. I'd much rather stay in bed with a pen and notebook than go out and play catch. This earned me a string of nicknames from my athletic family. My dad played for the Phillies and everyone was determined to follow in his footsteps—except me.

I immersed myself in schoolwork, creative writing, playing the cello, and photography and became determined to finish writing a novel rather than becoming a softball player (Still working on that goal, by the way).

99% of the time, I'd rather write about and photograph life than live it. Sometimes I forget to crawl back into the real world and eat and put on pants and function as a regular human, until someone breaks me out of my fictional world. I do enjoy life—hearing the cello call to my soul until I pick it up and play it, going out with friends (or staying in and watching Netflix is nice too), and dancing around my room with my sister in matching crop tops.

One of my favorite movies is *Dirty Dancing*. It took my love for dancing from my basement—where Just Dance and my sisters were enough of an audience—to the actual dance floor and fueled a new passion. It unlocks a part of me that I didn't know was there—someone confident—and gives me an outlet for connecting with new people.

I feel I've only succeeded at describing my introverted side, but I'm more social than I've made myself out to be. I love laughing and having fun and meeting new people...but I guess you'll just have to meet me to know that. I look forward to blending in with a new, diverse community and making new friends!

PIT: A Spotlight on the Community Service Based Pre-Orientation Program

“PIT stands for Putting It Together (in the Community). PIT is a first-year pre-orientation program for students who hav demonstrated a sincere commitment to community service, leadership development and/or civic engagement in high school and wish to continue these pursuits while in college.”

-Courtesy of www.fandm.edu/ware/pit

Highlights from FOOT

“FOOT (First-Year Outdoor Orientation Trip)...is a pre-orientation program for students who are interested in becoming leaders in sustainability and environmental education during their next four years on campus. FOOT is a four-day, three-night backpacking trip on a section of the Appalachian Trail that includes Pennsylvania’s beautiful rolling hills.”

-Courtesy of www.fandm.edu/center-for-sustainable-environment/prospective-students/foot



Sandra Sanchez shares PIT experience

BY SANDRA SANCHEZ
Class of 2020

I never knew Bingo could be so competitive until I met Rosa, Louis, and an older man the ladies nicknamed ‘Casanova.’ During my time in PIT, I was reintroduced to the warm feelings of goodness and selflessness that arise whenever I give back to the community.

As part of the ‘Friends for Life’ group, I colored with older people,

played multiple games of Bingo, and listened to detailed stories encompassing decades of pain and laughter.

PIT made it possible for me to meet Rosa and Louis and consequently, it led me to discover how important it is to be an active participant in the communities that I am a part of.

I had an amazing time with genuine, charitable individuals and I am humbled to have been a part of something so philanthropic and pure.

PIT fuels passions for Marian Pinsk

BY MARIAN PINSK
Class of 2020

In high school I was on the rowing team, I was in the Psych Club, and on the Community Service Board. I participated in many group activities, just like everyone else. But none of the groups that I have ever been a part of impacted me quite like Putting it Together (PIT).

From day one we were on our feet; participating in relay races, jumping at every opportunity to introduce ourselves to fellow students and group leaders while playing all too repetitive ice breaker games, and bowling. We were all in the same boat: new, nervous, and excited.

There were people from all walks of life with different perspectives and different ideas. As a part of the ‘Friends for Life’ group, I went to a retirement home, recreation center, and an adult day-care where we would take walks, play games, and chat with the older members of the Lancaster community.

I gained important life advice, experienced incredibly intense Bingo games, and shared many laughs with

my group members as well as the people I met at the retirement home. I gained such a unique outlook on life and on the greater community that I am a part of as a student of Franklin & Marshall College and as a Lancaster resident. PIT created a unique group of excited, altruistic people; never have I seen such selflessness and happiness among a group of people who had only met a day or two before.

I felt as though I was a part of something real and my time in the pre-orientation program fueled a passion that I can continue to explore throughout my time at F&M and beyond. Having gone through PIT, I can genuinely say that I learned more about service, community involvement, and teamwork in four days than I had in four years of high school and maybe even my whole life.

I am more prepared than ever to approach the next few years of my life with an open mind, eager attitude, and a strong willingness to learn. I feel so fortunate for that, and I owe it all to PIT. I think I speak for everyone involved when I say that PIT really does change lives.

