

The  
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Magazine

# profile

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The Presidency of Catherine R. Gira  
1991 - 2006



# profile

Vol. 18 No. 1 Spring 2006

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# A Final Message

From the President

The time is finally here when I send my valedictory message to our readers — faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends of the University. As you can understand, the realization that I will be leaving at the end of June is bittersweet, but memories of the past 15 years are priceless, and I shall cherish them forever. In some ways, I am not unlike our graduating students, who look back fondly on their years at Frostburg State, regret that they will soon be separated from dear friends, and yet look to the future with excitement. As I embark upon my own “commencement” into a new stage of my life, I share those mixed emotions.

When I first arrived at the University in the fall of 1991, all of the institutions in the University System were in the throes of a recession that had begun the previous year. Although generous resources were infused into the System for two years following its establishment in 1988, just two short years later the bottom fell out of the economy, and all of us suffered through 10 consecutive cuts in State appropriations, totaling over 20 percent. I knew when I accepted the position that times were not easy, having dealt with the first-round reductions at the University of Baltimore, where I served as provost. But the free fall was relentless, resulting in lay-offs, salary reductions through unpaid furloughs and deep cuts in programs. Sustaining campus morale was, to say the least, very difficult.

But the University that I inherited when I came to Frostburg was extremely strong, and, in time, we not only recovered but were able to make solid progress. What was the legacy I inherited as a new president? Academic programs offered by extraordinary faculty, many of them recruited by President Nelson Guild during the 1970s, legendary for their commitment to student learning. (This is a value deeply ingrained at Frostburg, as I later learned from my interactions with alumni who graduated in the 1940s and 1950s.) I also inherited a student services division providing dynamic, creative programs, including a residential summer planning program for students and parents that had been developed 20 years before anyone else even thought of it. The campus was beautifully maintained, as it is now, because of the dedication and good work of the staff. Because of the prudence and resourcefulness of our administrators, we were able to weather the budget reductions and still maintain quality. And, finally, I was privileged the month before I officially arrived on campus to participate in the groundbreaking for our magnificent new Performing Arts Center, for which funding had been secured by my predecessor, Dr. Reinhard. I confess to being a Pollyanna at heart, but it was not difficult to recognize the enormous strengths of this institution, reaching back for decades, despite the current reduction of resources. And it is those strengths that have enabled us to rebound from the recession of the early 1990s and the recent recession following the tragedy of 9/11.

I am frequently asked these days what I am most proud of in terms of the accomplishments of the past 15 years. Let me begin by emphasizing that these are not MY accomplishments. They are the result of the inspiration and commit-

ment of many, many individuals dedicated to making the University as strong as it can be. Having said that, let me identify just a few of the “bragging points” that I share with others at every possible opportunity:

- ▶ Our academic programs have expanded to include opportunities for students to study in exciting new areas, such as engineering, ethnobotany, exercise and sport science, athletic training, health science administration, liberal studies, law and society, masters of arts in elementary and secondary teaching, and others. We have instituted learning communities, expanded internship opportunities, initiated on-line course offerings and adopted an exciting new undergraduate core curriculum that promises to become a nationwide model. Several of our programs have merited national accreditation during the past 15 years — social work, graduate psychology, education, recreation, athletic training and business — a public testimony to their excellence.
- ▶ Our faculty and staff have achieved national recognition for their excellence. Several have won Fulbright grants and other intensely competitive awards; two have received the coveted Elkins professorship award, given to very few faculty members in the entire University System; some have been recognized nationally for outstanding leadership within their professions; some are creative writers lauded by organizations like the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and Barnes and Noble; some have had their creative works exhibited or performed in other countries, including Russia and Italy. At the same time, these outstanding faculty members are inspired classroom teachers, dedicated to student learning.
- ▶ Minority enrollment on our campus has risen from a little over 6 percent in 1991 to nearly 20 percent this year. International student enrollments have increased, and our students have more opportunities to study abroad. We firmly believe that it is essential for our students to live and learn in diverse communities that mirror the personal and professional worlds that they will enter after their graduation.
- ▶ Our Community Service programs have been heralded as the best in the country by the Corporation for National Service and showcased as one of six model programs by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The impact of these programs on the residents of Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties is virtually incalculable.
- ▶ Our partnerships with the business and professional community in our region have never been stronger. Because of their efforts and their support, we now have housed on our campus several companies that are working closely with our faculty, providing internships for our students and bringing professional jobs in science and technology to the area. These partnerships will continue to grow as the planned Allegany Business Center on the south end of the campus is developed.
- ▶ The Performing Arts Center has become a magnet for visitors who travel near and far to see outstanding performances in theatre, music and dance by our own students, as well as by nationally and internationally acclaimed guest performers. It is truly the cultural hub of Allegany County and of much of Western Maryland.
- ▶ Our physical plant has grown in size and beauty. We have completed the construction of the Performing Arts Center; landscaped the quads behind the library and near the Guild Center; totally renovated Gunter Hall (with the aid of a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation) to house our programs in geography and environmental science; constructed a new, state-of-the-art Compton Science Center; built a 400-bed residence hall, financed through a public-private partnership; installed technology throughout classrooms, offices and residence halls; and made numerous other smaller improvements. The campus remains one of the most lovely in our entire System.



Dr. Catherine Gira



- ▶ Our facilities are now used year-round, providing a rich resource for the broader community. The campus is teeming during the summer with young people enrolled in various camps, with our own students taking summer classes, and with civic groups for whom this lovely setting provides a serene and supportive environment.
- ▶ The assets in our Foundation have grown from a little over \$1.5 million in 1991 to over \$13 million; in addition, the Foundation has transferred to the University a \$2 million collection of wild animals that will be the centerpiece of a new natural history museum/exploratorium being installed in the Compton Science Center.
- ▶ We have secured the strong support not only of the local business community, but also of elected officials in the County, in the State legislature, and among the Regents. In the halls of Annapolis, Frostburg State is no longer viewed as a quaint little institution with little visibility or little recognition of its value to the State. That recognition has resulted not only from my own personal crusade, but also from the fact that a number of our other administrators are viewed as leaders within our System and/or by State policy-makers, including notably our provost, our vice president for administration and finance and our academic deans.

I envy my successor the opportunity to settle in to this campus and this community at a time when many exciting things are about to happen. On campus, the Lane University Center will nearly double in size over the next few years; Tawes Hall will be replaced by a magnificent new Center for Communication and Instructional Technology; new academic programs will come into being; the first building will be constructed on the business and technology park at the south end of campus; and, most importantly, the students, faculty, staff and alumni will continue to be among the finest that anyone would find anywhere. In addition, the entire region will continue to experience a Renaissance the like of which it has not seen in decades.

Other memories and thoughts — myriad and jumbled, too numerous to name — come crowding into my mind as I think about my 15 years here at Frostburg State. Foremost among them, however, is gratitude that I was privileged to form many life-long friendships here in this idyllic mountain place. My thanks to all of you who have enclosed me in that circle of friendship.

*Catherine R. Gira*  
Catherine R. Gira  
President, Frostburg State University

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

### Greetings from your Alumni Association Board of Directors.

As Dr. Catherine Gira prepares to retire on June 30, the Frostburg State University Alumni Association has also been actively involved with the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Cumberland Committee in the planning of an extraordinary celebration, The Crystal Gala, on Saturday, May 20, to recognize Dr. Gira's leadership and contributions to the university and to the greater region.

The Catherine R. Gira Campus to Community Fund has been established to support a wide range of programs for students as they explore a world beyond the campus, including research, domestic and travel abroad opportunities, alumni mentoring programs, participation in professional development programs and internships. Please join us for this event and/or donate to this fund as we extend our thanks to Dr. Gira for her distinctive leadership and our best wishes for her retirement.

Frostburg State University, and especially the FSU Alumni Association, has lost a devoted friend, advocate and leader with the resignation of Colleen Peterson as vice president for University Advancement this past January. Colleen served the University tirelessly for the past 21 years while also having an active presence in leadership positions throughout the community during these many years. The Greater Cumberland Committee is extremely fortunate to now have Colleen as its new executive director. Indeed, our loss is their gain, but she will still be our ambassador in a different arena.



Mary Beth Pirolozzi

As we prepare for the next chapter in Frostburg State's future with a new president, our Association will be updating our strategic plan to be reviewed and finalized at our annual meeting on campus beginning at 9 a.m. on the same day of the Gala, May 20. This plan will be presented to the new president by your board of directors. We are still anxious to hear your ideas regarding the future direction of your association. The alumni survey is available online at [www.frostburg.edu/admin/alumni/welcome.htm](http://www.frostburg.edu/admin/alumni/welcome.htm).

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as president of the FSU Alumni Association for the past two years. I thank you for your support and continued participation with Frostburg State University and look forward to seeing you at the Crystal Gala and other FSU events.

**Mary Beth Pirolozzi**

Class of '90 & '95

President, FSU Alumni Association

## We'd love to hear from you...

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Be sure to include your address and graduation year.



## correction

In our previous issue, the Web site address for Al Feldstein's (Class of '78)

"Buttons of the Cause" poster was incorrect. The correct link is

**[www.buttonsofthecause.com](http://www.buttonsofthecause.com)**. Feldstein's poster can be purchased online and is available at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History gift shop. Way to go, Al!



## Jonathan C. Gibraltar Named 14th President of FSU

This past March, David H. Nevins, chair of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, announced the appointment of **Jonathan C. Gibraltar** as president of FSU. Gibraltar is currently president of Farmingdale State University of New York on Long Island. He will join FSU as president on or about Aug. 1.



Dr. Jonathan C. Gibraltar

"The regents are confident that Dr. Gibraltar will be an outstanding leader of Frostburg State University," said Nevins. "He has an impressive record of nurturing effective partnerships that have brought visibility and support for campus academic programs and enhancements. This, along with his commitment to student success and his proven ability to work effectively with faculty, staff, and students, as well as with community and business leaders, will advance the university significantly in the years ahead."

In accepting the appointment, Gibraltar said: "I wish to thank the members of the Board of Regents and USM Chancellor Kirwan for selecting me to be the next president of Frostburg State University. I am deeply honored by this tremendous opportunity and am greatly looking forward to leading the university in its fine tradition of academic excellence and community partnerships. I am thrilled to be 'on board.' My wife Laurie and I eagerly anticipate enjoying our new life in the beautiful State of Maryland."

Gibraltar has served as president of Farmingdale State since 2001.

Under Gibraltar's leadership, Farmingdale State has experienced a significant transformation. A comprehensive marketing and enrollment plan helped to increase enrollment by 25 percent (from 5,100 to 6,400 students) and led to the development of an effective Student Success Center. Among the new bachelor degree programs launched during his tenure are bio-science, technology studies, computer programming and information systems, and applied mathematics.

Gibraltar also is credited with building strong campus ties with business leaders on Long Island, creating forums that focus on several industries, including banking, bioscience, healthcare, horticulture, hospitality/tourism and engineering/manufacturing. In addition, he began Farmingdale State's first-ever major gifts campaign in 2003, with the goal of raising \$10 million in five years.

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"I am so pleased that Dr. Gibraltar has accepted the regents' appointment," said William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland. "He is highly respected within the SUNY system. He has been successful in increasing student enrollment and improving academic program offerings. He has helped to transform Farmingdale into a vital player in regional economic development. All of this experience will serve the Frostburg community, the University System of Maryland and our state extremely well."

"I also want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the presidential search-and-screen committee," Kirwan said. "Under the leadership of Thomas Bowling, FSU's associate vice president for student and education services, the committee did an excellent job of reviewing 110 candidates and identifying finalists for review by the Board of Regents and me."

Prior to serving as president of Farmingdale State, Gibraltar held other positions at higher education institutions in the state of New York. He was interim president of Corning Community College in 2000-2001. Also at Corning, he served as dean of academic affairs from 1998 to 2000. From 1993 to 1998, he was dean of the Rome Campus of Mohawk Valley Community College. And from 1990 to 1993, he was associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts at the State University of New York at Morrisville.

Gibraltar holds a Ph.D. in human development from Syracuse University (1996), an M.A. in counseling psychology from New York University (1982), and a B.A. in psychology from the State University of New York at Binghamton (1978). He and his wife Laurie have two sons.

Gibraltar will succeed Catherine R. Gira, who is retiring this summer.

FSU will hold a reception later this spring to welcome Gibraltar to the University and the region.

## Frostburg Serves 12 Students in Wake of Katrina

When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast this past fall, FSU, like most institutions of higher education, opened its doors to students affected by the disaster.

FSU served 12 "Katrina" students who took online courses through FSU's partnership with the Sloan Consortium, an international association of colleges and universities committed to quality online education.

The students enrolled in nine courses taught by FSU faculty who overwhelmingly offered their services.

"When we sent out the call for volunteers, 29 faculty came forward and offered to teach online courses for Katrina victims in addition to their regular course loads," says Dr. Stephen Simpson, FSU provost. "That type of response speaks highly of our FSU faculty and their wonderful altruism in a time of crisis."

FSU's courses were offered in geography, mathematics, sociology, performing arts, political science, visual arts, psychology, mass communication and educational professions.

"The response from higher education has been overwhelming on all fronts," Simpson adds.

As news from the Gulf broke, money and supply donation drop-off centers popped up across the FSU campus within hours and a special "Day of Remembrance" was held to honor those whose lives, family and homes were taken.

FSU reminds everyone that help is still needed to Katrina victims and donations can be made through the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

— Ty DeMartino





## College of Business Earns International Accreditation from AACSB

FSU's **College of Business** has joined a select number of colleges worldwide in earning accreditation from AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

FSU is one of nine schools of business recently added to AACSB's roster of accredited institutions, bringing the total to only 515 internationally, fewer than 10 percent of schools worldwide that have achieved this designation.

"AACSB accredits excellence, rather than just requiring us to meet minimum standards," says FSU's dean of the College of Business, Dr. Danny Arnold. "It's an external validation of quality."

"AACSB accreditation represents the highest achievement for an educational institution involved in management education," adds John J. Fernandes, president and chief executive officer of AACSB International. "The faculties, deans, directors and administrative staffs of our newly accredited schools are to be commended for their role in earning initial accreditation."

Accreditation with AACSB International involves applicant schools undergoing meticulous internal review, evaluation and adjustment—a process that can take from three to seven years. During this period, schools develop and implement a plan intended to meet the 21 AACSB standards that ensure high quality of management education. FSU's business faculty toiled for the past five years through the candidacy process to achieve accreditation and worked the previous five years to qualify for candidacy, Arnold said. The College of Business made changes over the past years in everything from its vision statements to its curriculum to its methods of evaluating students.

"Dean Arnold and the faculty, students and staff of the College of Business have demonstrated levels of excellence that have earned them this coveted distinction," says Dr. Catherine R. Gira, FSU president. "The University is indebted to them for their dedication and leadership."



Arnold, speaking at a celebration of the achievement, told those gathered that when he was considering taking on the leadership of the College of Business, with the seemingly daunting task of pulling together accreditation in a relatively short time, he took the job because he saw in the faculty and administration the will and the tools necessary to make the grade.

Gira told the crowd that, contrary to the typical procedure among accreditation teams of keeping their recommendations close to the vest, the AACSB team visiting FSU said that they would be recommending FSU for accreditation with great enthusiasm.

— Liz Douglas Medcalf

**"AACSB accreditation represents the highest achievement for an educational institution involved in management education."**

—John J. Fernandes

President and Chief Executive Officer of AACSB International

## Gov. Guest Lecture

Maryland Governor **Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.** visited FSU this winter and served as a guest lecturer for a group of political science students. Ehrlich then greeted community members in the atrium of the Compton Science Center, where he announced grants to several state agencies.



## Magnet Helps Chemistry Department "Attract" Students

To the average eye, the big magnet looks nothing like a big magnet. However, it serves as one of the most advanced technologies for modern chemistry of this time.

FSU's **Chemistry Department** has acquired a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometer, a powerful super conducting electro magnet. The \$300,000 NMR is much like an MRI used for humans, in that they both detect unidentified elements in a particular sample. It allows for characterization and quantification of all active atoms in a molecule, including the conformation or shape it is in. It also detects the effect of different environments that the active atoms of molecules are in. This environment includes effects of neighboring atoms, allowing "assembly" of the atoms into the full structure of a molecule. The NMR has a 24-sample changer, which allows for the quick research of each sample. The results are then transferred to a computer, which detects the unidentified elements. When looking at a graph of peaks, a student will be able to figure out what element it may be and can also piece them together, like a jigsaw puzzle.

"This has been a major advance in modern chemistry and for any type of modern research laboratory," says Dr. Jerry Simon, associate professor of the Chemistry Department. "An NMR can tell you about unidentified molecules and changes in a type of sample."

This major advance in chemistry allows students at FSU to perform over 150 different experiments and aid them to become more experienced with the equipment as they utilize it each year. All 300 level and above classes will have access to the NMR. Courses in such areas as organic, quantitative, inorganic, physical and instrumental analysis chemistry will have priority.

Students who become experienced using this equipment will be better equipped to receive jobs in modern chemistry research laboratories or will be able to work with pharmaceutical companies, adds Simon.

— Carolyn Kilkus



## Off to See the Wizard

FSU Physics Professor **Dr. George Plitnik**, who teaches the popular Science of Harry Potter course, has kept the Harry Potter magic alive. Most recently he was invited to be one of four "house leaders" at The Witching Hour, a symposium held last October in Salem, Mass., (home of the witch trials and birthplace of TV's bewitching Samantha). The gathering was designed to explore the J.K. Rowling books about a young wizard and the cultural phenomenon they have conjured, in both an academic and "fun fan" way. Conference attendees filled out a quiz when they registered, then were "sorted," a la Hogwarts, into one of four houses for the duration of the event. Plitnik also gave several presentations about using Harry Potter in the teaching of science, drawing on his experience with the ongoing class at FSU and with work he has done helping create a middle school curriculum.

—LDM

## AlcoholEdu Team Receives Prevention Award

The **AlcoholEdu Team** at FSU was recently chosen as a recipient of the 2006 Prevention Excellence Award by Outside the Classroom: Online Education for Life, developers of AlcoholEdu for College.

Headed by Dr. Spencer Deakin, director of counseling, Dr. Tom Bowling, associate vice president for student and educational services, and Don Swogger, alcohol and drug education coordinator, FSU's prevention program was selected to receive the award for its outstanding contribution to alcohol education on its campus.

According to Brandon Busteded, founder and CEO of Outside the Classroom, FSU's ability to develop, implement and sustain comprehensive alcohol prevention and education has brought it national recognition as a school committed to creating a healthier, safer campus. Deakin and his colleagues work to provide students at FSU with an environment conducive to learning and personal development.

An independent review panel of nationally recognized scholars reviewed the applications and assessed each one according to five criteria: implementation practices, communication, evaluation, programmatic linkages and organizational linkages.

This award program was sponsored by Outside the Classroom to honor institution of higher education, as well as Greek organizations, that have most significantly influenced the quality of student life through their alcohol prevention efforts.

— Donovan Martin

## Serfass Wins Prestigious Elkins Professorship

Frostburg biology professor **Dr. Thomas Serfass** was awarded the Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from the University System of Maryland.

Over the course of his education and career, Serfass has received over \$1 million in grants and donations to support this research and conservation activities to restore river otter populations. For the last 20 years, Serfass has been the coordinator of the North American International Conservation of Nature.

The \$80,000 that the Elkins Professorship provides will allow Serfass to travel to Tanzania and Kenya to complete research on otter conservation programs. According to Serfass, this professorship is both an outreach and a research project. African citizens will learn how to better conserve aquatic resources while several students will participate in an exchange program. FSU graduate students will be accompanying Serfass to Africa to further their own skills and education and, in return, African students will be able to study here at FSU.

"Tom is an outstanding scholar and scientist with an international reputation," says Dr. Joseph Hoffman, dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences at FSU.

The Wilson H. Elkins Professorship was established in 1978 as the first permanently endowed, university-wide professorship at the University of Maryland. The professorship is named in honor of Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, a former Rhodes scholar who led the University of Maryland to new levels of distinction as its president from 1954 to 1978. Under Elkins' leadership, the university grew notably in size, scope and standing.

When the new University System of Maryland began in 1988, Elkins agreed that his professorship should extend to the entire USM family, of which FSU is a member.

—Michael Boyle

## Rec. and Parks Management Program Earns Reaccreditation

Frostburg's **Recreation and Parks Management Program**, with its collaborative programs with community colleges, was granted continuing accreditation last fall, by the National Recreation and Parks Association/American Association for Leisure and Recreation.

In addition, the organization commended FSU for programs with Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Garrett College and Allegany College of Maryland.

"The programs that we've developed with community colleges are on the forefront of what other universities are being encouraged to do," says Dr. Robert B. Kauffman, director of the recreation program and a professor of recreation and parks.

About 100 programs nationwide have achieved accreditation; FSU is the only accredited recreation program in Maryland. Accreditation allows graduates of the FSU program to sit immediately for the Certified Park and Recreation Professional exam. Graduates of non-accredited programs must complete additional professional experience beforehand.

FSU's recreation program has nearly 130 students on campus, and about 60 students at its three other locations. The collaborative programs are in adventure sports at Garrett College, hospitality management and tourism at Allegany College of Maryland and the full bachelor's degree program at Community College of Baltimore County at Catonsville.

— LDM



## Remembering the War Dead

Faculty, staff and students volunteered this past November to read over 2,000 names of young men and women who lost their lives so far in Iraq. The "Reading of the War Dead" was sponsored by the FSU United Campus Ministry, Catholic Campus Ministry, the History Department and the Political Science Department. Pictures of the deceased soldiers were displayed on campus throughout the day.



## Congress to Campus

Congress — at least a small slice of it — came to the FSU campus last fall in one of the first major events of FSU's J. Glenn Beall Jr. Institute for Public Affairs. Two former congressmen, **William Goodling**, at podium, a Republican from Pennsylvania, and **James Lloyd**, standing at right, a Democrat from California, spent two days discussing a number of issues surrounding the topic, "Entering the 21st Century; Challenges Facing the U.S. Congress" with small and large groups of students, faculty, staff and the public. The former congressmen had an overriding theme: the critical need for young people to become involved in politics, both as candidates and behind the scenes in campaigns. The Congress to Campus Program, part of the Stennis Center for Public Service, sends bipartisan pairs of former members of Congress — one Democrat and one Republican — to visit college, university and community college campuses around the country. Shown at the table behind Goodling and Lloyd are Nat DeBruin, executive director of the Beall Institute at FSU, and Provost Steve Simpson.



## Engineering Professor Named Welcome Fellow

**Dr. Mohammed Eltayeb** of the Department of Engineering at FSU has become the seventh FSU recipient of the Henry C. Welcome Fellowship, an incentive program designed to help colleges and universities attract and maintain a diverse faculty.

Awards are made to new, full-time, minority faculty members whose appointments will improve the diversity of their institutions. The \$20,000 award from the Maryland Higher Education Commission is paid over a three-year period and is designed to assist the fellow with research or other academic development through a variety of means.

Eltayeb completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, and graduated with honors. He then attained his graduate degree in electrical engineering at the University of Akron, Ohio, where he served as a graduate teaching associate. Eltayeb went on to earn his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from The Ohio State University.

In addition to serving as a graduate teaching associate at the University of Akron, Eltayeb also taught at The Ohio State University as a graduate teaching associate and then as an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

Eltayeb's newest teaching position is as an assistant professor in the Department of Engineering. Eltayeb's teaching interests include computer engineering and science; distributed, parallel and heterogeneous computing; wired and wireless networking; and real-time embedded systems.

Previous Welcome Fellows at FSU include Harlowe Hodges, assistant professor of visual arts, Dr. Jean-Marie Makang, assistant professor of philosophy, former history professor Gersham Nelson, Dr. Carole G. Parker, who teaches graduate-level courses in the Department of Business Management, Dr. Trina Redmond, assistant professor of psychology, and Dr. Baxter B. Wright, professor of social work.

The fellowship is in honor of the late Dr. Henry C. Welcome, a prominent Baltimore physician and former member of the Maryland State Board for Higher Education, predecessor to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

— MB

## Interactive Math Lab Provides Independent Way of Learning

One instructor plus one computer equals an exciting new teaching initiative through FSU's **Department of Mathematics**.

An interactive mathematics laboratory has been constructed in Tawes Hall to help facilitate computer-mediated mathematics courses. Currently several faculty from the Department of Mathematics are incorporating this format in some of their courses.

In 1998, the Department of Mathematics began experimenting with using computers within algebra courses. Since then, computer-mediated instruction has been applied to other mathematics courses. The construction of a lab grew out of the growing needs of several mathematics faculty who opted to teach with the assistance of computers.

Computer-mediated instruction does not make the instructor's role obsolete. Ironically, in some cases, this new way of instruction allows students to experience more personal, one-on-one contact with their professors.

"I approach the more bashful students in the class to see if they might have any questions. This way they are more comfortable talking with me face-to-face than asking questions the whole class will hear," says Marc Michael, an instructor who has been using computer-mediated instruction in his classes.

According to Michael, students who use the math lab often ask more questions and work more diligently than students in a traditional lecture-style classroom. Some courses are self-paced and even permit students to finish early if they are motivated to do so.

Currently Michael is piloting a "blended" course in the lab that combines traditional instruction with computer-mediated instruction. There are assigned lecture times as well as assigned lab meetings. If successful, this blended format may be used more extensively and may provide the Mathematics Department the extra benefit of freeing space in their already bustling math lab.

Initial assessments of certain courses found pass rates to be higher when compared to more traditional instructional formats, adds Michael. "It depends on the way the course is set up more than anything else."

— CK

continued ▶



The spicy businessmen behind Bubs 623 Salsa include FSU students (left to right) Matt Gezik, Dillon Miller, Gary Corkran and Chris Cullip.

## Hot Stuff!!!

### Four FSU Students Create Salsa Company

An ambitious group of Frostburg students are “spicing” up their free time and making some extra money. Where some baby-sit, tutor or take odd jobs, four entrepreneurs have started their own salsa company.

Chris Cullip, president of Bubs 623 Homemade Salsa Company, said that he has always enjoyed cooking and experimenting with new ideas. During the beginning of the fall 2005 semester at FSU, Cullip started to can some of his spicy creations for himself and his friends. He ended up selling nine jars in three days; that is how he got the idea to market and sell his salsa to the public. Cullip recruited friends Gary Corkran as vice president of marketing, Matt Gezik as vice president and salsa chef and Dillon Miller, salsa chef.

Bubs 623, which comes in mild, medium, hot and triple X, is manufactured in Harford County, Md., at “Beef on the Bay,” a floating restaurant that serves watermen on the Chesapeake Bay. The salsa is then brought to Frostburg and distributed at Hi-Way Pizza at \$4 for a 16 oz. jar.

Cullip has recently created the “Bubs Challenge” at Hi-Way pizza. For \$4, you buy a jar of the triple x-style salsa and must down the entire jar. If you win, you receive your money back and a complimentary beverage.

The “Bub” in the name came from one of Cullip’s good friends who is currently serving in the military and is stationed in Iraq. “We named the salsa company after him as a tribute.” The “623” comes from Frederick Hall room 623 where Cullip once lived. He said that he and his friends had such a good time in that room that he decided to use it in the name of the company.

Bubs No. 623 Salsa is made with fresh crushed tomatoes, onion, green pepper, jalapeños and real garlic cloves. “We pride ourselves at producing salsa of the highest quality, which is always fresh.”

The first month of business has brought the four FSU students a small profit, 60 percent of which is returned to the company to produce more product. The remaining 40 percent is split among the business partners.

Cullip expects business to pick up as he gets the company’s name out there. They are currently looking for graphic design students to help create signage for the company.

— MB

## “Walking for Water” Student Pushes a Global Message for Women

Frostburg student **Micaela Karinshak** is gaining attention for a good cause. She and her sister have created a new charity called “Walking for Water,” which is gaining attention for all types of people from all over the world.

“Walking for Water” is a walk to help raise funds to construct water wells for the Dagara tribe in Western Africa. Women and children of those tribes must walk six miles each day to bring water, often diseased-ridden, back to their families.

Micaela, a senior at FSU, was inspired to help when her sister, Kristin, listened to a presentation by a woman named Sobonfusome to her high school class. Sobonfusome spoke of her personal hardship as a member of the Dagara tribe. Kristin was so moved that she rallied her family to help.

“Kristin and my family were throwing out ideas for ways we could raise money for the Dagara tribe and that’s when [Kristin] came up with the idea of ‘Walking for Water,’” says Micaela.

The idea of having a walk for water was perfect because it brought the community together and connected people to one another and gave them just a little taste of what the Dagara women have to endure to get water every day.

“Everything just came together. We had people who would sponsor us and someone to make shirts. Sobonfusome also had a lot of good connections,” says Micaela.

Sobonfusome indeed has good connections. When she first came to the United States to get help for her tribe, Oprah Winfrey had asked her to be on her show. Not knowing the influence Winfrey wielded, Sobonfusome declined the offer. Soon after the Karinshaks developed this charity, Sobonfusome formed even more connections including Patti LaBelle, a long-time friend of Winfrey’s. Ever since, they have been trying to connect with Winfrey once again. It would help spread the word about the charity very quickly.



Micaela Karinshak

continued ▶



According to Micaela, banding together for such a good cause brought the Karinshak family closer together.

"My dad hugged Sobonfusome one day and was crying. He told her that she saved our family and Kristin," says Micaela, "Kristin was not doing too well in school at the time, and now she is getting good grades and going places in her life."

Micaela's sister had the opportunity to visit the Dagara tribe to see firsthand the troubles they go through. When she arrived, they treated Kristin as a princess as they danced and sang around her the whole three miles to the tribe.

"They even shaded Kristin from the sun because [the tribe] thought she would melt because her skin was so light," Micaela says, "The tribe is just so peaceful and has the most spirit ever and they have nothing, literally nothing."

Recently, water wells have been drilled in Western Africa for the Dagara tribe and Kristin and Micaela are continuing to help raise money for the cause.

To date, there have been two "Walks for Water" and one that is soon coming up on Saturday, May 7. Micaela planned to host a clothing drive for the fund-raiser at FSU and hopes to spread the word throughout the university about the "Walking for Water" fund-raiser.

"We hope to eventually make "Walking for Water" a [formal] organization, where people can be paid and work every day on trying to raise money for the wells," says Micaela.

"Walking for Water" not only helps us raise money, but it also brings out everyone's talents, and my family is so supportive. We do hope to keep doing this for years to come," adds Micaela.

For more information on "Walking for Water," go to [www.walkingforwater.org](http://www.walkingforwater.org). — CK

## "Life" Inspires Student to Publish Book of Poetry

FSU student **Michael J. Burt** has published his first book entitled *Experience Is Impossible Without a Chance: A Collection of Poems*.

Burt's first poem was written in the third grade when he wrote one for his mother on Mother's Day. Ever since then, he has written over 250 poems and has published 90 of them in his book.

"I didn't really take poetry that seriously until I saw Nikki Giovanni, who is my favorite poet. Her bruising honesty and pure bluntness is what

inspired me to take this poetry thing to a different level," says Burt, "Life is also a big inspiration. I feel like it's a beautiful thing that needs to be recorded."

Recently, Burt was invited to read his poetry with students at Christopher Newport



Michael Burt

University in Newport News, Va. It was one of the greatest moments in his life, he says, noting that the students there were responsive to him because he was like one of them and showed a genuine interest for the poems he read. Not only had Burt been invited to Christopher Newport, but he has performed at the annual Black History Month Poetry Slam at Johns Hopkins University.

Burt, who is from the Washington, D.C., area, will be graduating from FSU in spring 2007 with a major in psychology. He would like to become a family therapist.

"I will probably never stop traveling to universities. It is the greatest feeling in the world sharing your words with others that can potentially relate to what you have to say. It's like my job already. It's simply wonderful," says Burt.

Burt writes,

*"let's do this now...today, let's begin*

*for tomorrow is not promised, for anyone*

*i don't want to miss this*

*or lose out on this opportunity.*

*this is a dream,*

*that i want to fulfill*

*let's begin,*

*today...*

*before it's tomorrow,*

*and maybe too late."*

For more information on Burt's poetry, visit online at [www.mjburtpoetry.com](http://www.mjburtpoetry.com)

— CK

## Recyclers Honored

The Sierra Student Coalition at FSU was honored with an "Outstanding Environmental and Community Leadership Award" from the Maryland Recyclers Coalition. The Coalition, in conjunction with the HallSTARS! AmeriCorps program, gathered nearly 4,000 pounds of materials from campus recycling bins last year. Pictured here accepting the award are (left to right) the Sierra Coalition advisors Skott Brill, Department of Philosophy and Linda Lyon, Department of Biology and Sierra Coalition President Dave Firman and Vice President Patrick O'Brien.



## Male Professor Writes from a Female P.O.V. in First Novel

In his poem *Eleonora* Edgar Allan Poe writes, "Those who dream by day are more cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night." Perhaps **Dr. Daniel Plucinski**, professor of marketing and finance at FSU, who hangs a similar quote from Mr. Poe in his office, has taken this line to heart. His daydreaming has spawned a whole novel whose themes fall far from his academic home. *I Am Not My Mother*, Plucinski's first novel, grew from a common daydream he would have about a conversation between him and the girl who would become his young protagonist, Jane.

Eventually, what Plucinski learned through these fanciful conversations was that this fictional Jane, like most young women, did not want to be anything like her mother. Despite her efforts, Jane was finding more and more that she was becoming just like her mother.

Fascinated by this mother-daughter relationship, Plucinski expounded upon it, making Jane the main character and telling it in the first person from her perspective. Positioning Jane as the narrator of her own tale begs many intriguing questions of the author – namely, can a man write with authority on the perspective of a young college woman?

"I found myself asking: Can a man write convincingly as a woman?" wonders Plucinski. "Can a man realistically explore the complicated relationship between a mother and her daughter? Is a man even allowed to write about the subject in this era of political correctness?"

Conscious of these questions only after he began writing, Plucinski worked with a definite goal in mind. In fact, it was the ending to *I Am Not My Mother* that was first to be penned. A destination clearly in mind, Plucinski lets Jane speak for herself and began slowly answering some of his own questions.

"Jane is a 21st-Century symbol," he says. "She is every one of us on our journey of self-exploration, questioning family, career and our desire for a well-rounded, happy life."

The novel reflects Plucinski's "everyperson" mentality. Set in the rolling countryside of western Pennsylvania and

Maryland, *I Am Not My Mother* elicits the feeling and urgency of a woman facing the emotional upheavals of her life in the quiet, small town that is, according to the author, essentially Frostburg. Jane asks the questions about herself that Plucinski had

posed to himself while writing the book. "Am I ready to face the relationship between mother and daughter? Am I able to convincingly lead myself into the future?"

The author brings a little of himself into his heroine, which makes the piece somewhat self-reflective. Talking to Plucinski, this journey of self-discovery is really implicit in the works of all authors.

"There's a lot of me in there. I

don't want to make a comparison, but reading *Catcher in the Rye* I feel like I know Holden Caulfield (the main character) and through Holden, know J. D. Salinger."

Having now worked through this daydream, Plucinski is now busy with the final stages of the publication of his next fictional exploration, a book he's titled *Les Triples*. Plucinski has already begun working on a third novel entitled *You Have*

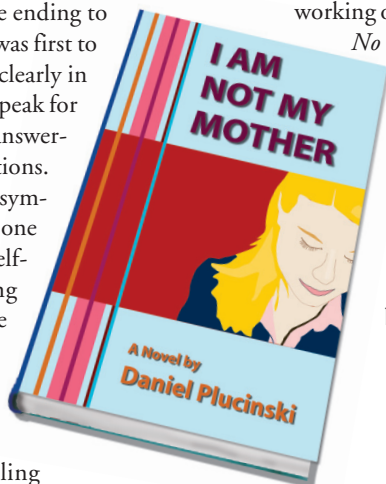
*No New Messages*, which focuses on one man's experiences with three culturally diverse women.

*I Am Not My Mother* may be purchased by sending an e-mail with your name and address to [dplucinski@frostburg.edu](mailto:dplucinski@frostburg.edu) and typing the message "send me a book order form." *Les Triples* can be pre-ordered at a discount.

— DM



Plucinski



## PAST DUE

### Alum Returns Library Book After 30 Years (and Makes a Gift)

Luckily, students who went to Frostburg State in the 1970s did not need to return their library books in order to graduate.

Frostburg State University alum, **Gregory M. Gill** (Class of '76), just returned two Frostburg library books he recovered from cleaning his basement. The books were for a class that focused on African politics. Gill, who graduated with a B.A. degree in political science, came to FSU because he was visiting his friend and decided not to go to the Naval Academy at the last minute. He now works as a lobbyist and is the general counsel at his firm, Cassidy & Associates.

Although Gill has not been back to FSU for a while, he has a memory from the University that has lasted him a lifetime.

"My fondest memory... maybe it was beating the West Virginia University in soccer on their home field. I played on the team," stated Gill.

FSU students should remember to return their library books, because unlike the year 1974, the year 2006 won't let you graduate without doing so.

— CK

### Local Lodges Donate to Scholarship

The FSU Foundation, Inc., has established **The Fort Cumberland Lodge #211 and Orh Lodge #131 Endowment Fund**, based on a gift of \$13,000 from both lodges.

The award units of the new scholarship will be set annually by the FSUF with the amounts being in increments of \$500. Applicants for the scholarship must be residents of Allegany County, Md., have attended Allegany College with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher, attained or completed sophomore year and be declared as a full-time student at FSU. The scholarship may be received for two consecutive years if a minimum FSU grade point average of 3.0 is maintained by the student.

For more information, contact the FSU Foundation at 301/687-4068.

— CK





lowed for more production, Harmon and the students still had to hand-count through every single form, make spreadsheets of the percentage of callers, determine how much money was acquired through certain alumni and other tasks.

This past year, Harmon was granted an automated calling system through the University's annual Technology Fund. Inside the new location in Tawes Hall are 10 computers, headsets and booths.

The elimination of caller tally sheets and manually created reports will result in a tremendous savings in clerical support costs. The new system will accumulate statistics throughout the calling shift and all reporting will be generated at the end of

"The University was making about \$24,000 in unrestricted funds, but now with the new system, we project to be making over \$175,000. This means we will have the automated system paid for in only a year and a half," says Harmon.

Another benefit of the new system will allow callers to share University news with alumni. Information about FSU can be easily accessed on the terminals and given to the callers.

Harmon is also hoping the new calling center will benefit the community of Frostburg, allowing for organizations to conduct community surveys, projects and gather information.

Harmon believes the center will give FSU students beneficial experience of working in a high-tech atmosphere. They can take these skills with them post-graduation.

"The automated system will also benefit the students who call alumni because it helps build up their confidence and communication skills," says Harmon, "We can make games out of the calling, which makes the phonathon a team experience instead of focusing on just the individual."

"We have reached our goal every year we do a phonathon. [The team] really does a great job, and we could not do this without the students," Harmon adds.

— CK

# Ringin' Up Succe\$\$

## New Automated Calling Center Offers the Latest in "Tele-Technology"

Ever since Chris Harmon became the first Director of Annual Giving at Frostburg State University, he has been hoping for a new phonathon calling center that would allow the University to reach new technological heights. Finally, after 10 years, Harmon has his wish.

An automated telemarketing center has been launched in Tawes Hall to be used for the phonathon that the Annual Fund holds twice a year to raise money for University scholarships, programs and events. The new calling system utilizes the capabilities of "progressive" dialing, which allows the overall efficiency of the program to increase and gives the person calling a "no answer" or "busy" response instantly.

"When I first started calling alumni and asking for pledges, we never had a designated room. We set up the phones in the Leake Room in the Cordts Physical Education Center every night in October and November and most of our equipment was stored in the kitchen," says Harmon.

A phonathon supervisor kept track of the pledges on a blackboard and the student callers hand-recorded alumni information on paper. The students would then sort and tally all the phone calls they made and break down the equipment each night.

Eventually, Harmon was able to use the athletic board room in the PE Center to conduct the phonathon. It was much more convenient and took away the task of setting up and breaking down everything each time. Even though the room al-

a session. Pledge confirmation cards and letters can also be generated by the system along with information regarding the outcome of every call someone makes.



New phonathon telemarketing center in Tawes Hall gives student callers state-of-the-art technology.



Gira Looks Back at Her Legacy as FSU President

# FAREWELL, FROST

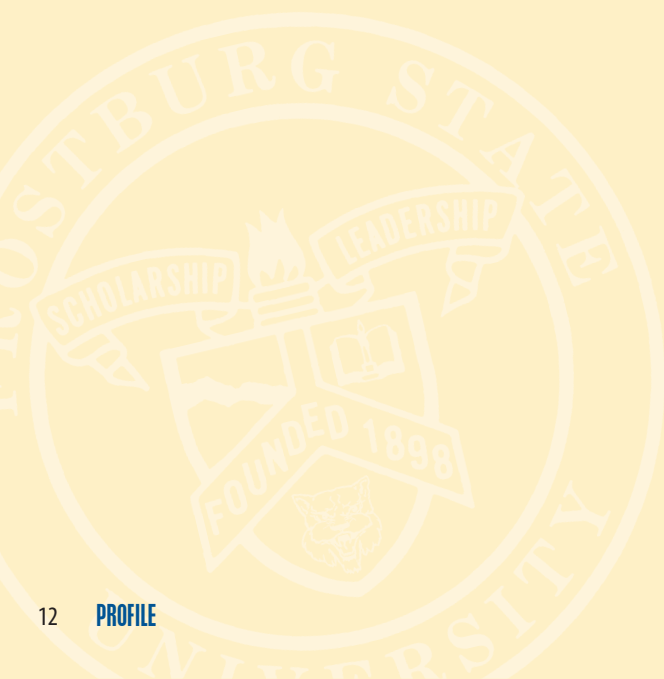
By Ty DeMartino

On an evening in September of 1991, Dr. Catherine R. Gira paused a moment to look out her office window to the view of the Frostburg State University campus. The sun was setting over the quad, bringing the conclusion of one of her first days as FSU's new president.

"It feels right somehow," she said. "I don't think it's a honeymoon."

Fifteen years later, as Gira prepares to retire from the University on June 30, she paused once again, and looked out her office window.

"It was right," she says in retrospect. "And it's been a marriage of 15 years."





As the 13th president of Frostburg State, which celebrated its Centennial during her tenure, Gira has successfully led the University into a new century. New academic programs have been initiated. Research dollars have more than doubled. Fund-raising has quadrupled. New buildings have been constructed. And the University is now a leader in economic initiatives both throughout the region and the state.

Gira's Frostburg successes are the capstone to an impressive career in education that spans over 50 years. She has journeyed from high school teacher of Shakespearean literature to university president, a role she has never taken lightly.

"Delmore Schwartz wrote, 'In dreams begin responsibilities,'" Gira says, on a sunny day in Frostburg this past March.

Gira admits to never dreaming of becoming a university president as a young girl. She was more attuned to seizing the fortunate opportunities presented throughout her life.

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood," she quotes. "Life presents opportunities and you have to choose which path to follow."

As Gira prepares to bid farewell, she looks back on her journey and the choices she has made along the way.

## The Road to Frostburg

Those around Catherine Russell Gira knew from an early age that education was the little girl's destiny. Gira's father would often speak of his daughter "putting her dolls in a row and bossing them around."

Growing up in Fayette City, Pa., with a population of 700, Gira was the only child of steel-mill worker John Russell and his wife, Mary, a homemaker. Education was a priority in the Russell household, and Gira's parents insisted that she attend college.

Gira received a degree in English from California State University in Pennsylvania.

During that time, she met Joseph Gira through mutual friends, and they were soon married. A graduate of The Johns Hopkins University, Joe emigrated back to Maryland with his new bride and took a position at Westinghouse, where he would be named manager of

project administration. As the two set up house, Gira began her career as an English teacher at Catonsville Senior High School and later served as chair of the department.

In the 1960s, Gira took a break from teaching to start her family, as she and Joe welcomed daughter Cheryl and son Tom. It was on a family camping trip to New Germany State Park when Gira first visited the city of Frostburg.

"When my husband and I met he said, 'If we're together in 20 years, let's go bowling,'" Gira recalls. The anniversary of that bargain fell during the family's camping adventure, so they left the park in search of the nearest bowling alley. "It was in Frostburg right next to the Palace Theatre. That was my first trip here."

When Gira returned to work full-time, she took a job as an instructor of writing at The Johns Hopkins University, where she would later receive master's degrees in education and liberal arts and further develop her passion for Renaissance literature. When she later received her doctorate in education from The American University in Washington, D.C., Gira recalls her husband's encouragement.

"He was an extremely supportive man. I remember working upstairs on my dissertation, and he would lightly knock on the door and put a cup of coffee inside."



Gira, with son Tom and daughter Cheryl, at her inauguration.

# BURG



Catherine Russell as a young girl in Fayette City, Pa.



Gira's parents made certain she obtained her bachelor's degree from California State University.

continued ►

**When Frostburg was looking for a new leader in 1991, the University System of Maryland, the FSU campus and Gira agreed that it was the perfect match.**

But as in any journey, there are moments of darkness. Gira's husband, Joe, passed away of cancer after 22 years of marriage. "Life can throw

you some real uncertainties, such as the death of a spouse and being left with two young children to raise."

Gira journeyed on in her career. She had joined the University of Baltimore, a place where she would spend 26 years of her professional life. Starting as the coordinator of UB's writing programs, she would later become a professor of English and acting chair of the English Department. She ventured into more administrative responsibilities at UB and served as the academic liaison to the Board of Trustees and acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

"I always encourage others to go beyond the narrow of their job," says Gira, who was also chair of the Faculty Senate at UB and chair of several Middle States Accreditation teams. "You should be curious about what others do and learn from them. It prepares you for your future."

Gira was named the provost of University of Baltimore in 1982. She continued to teach 8 a.m. classes in Shakespeare, Chaucer and Dante to maintain "interaction with students."

After nearly a decade in the provost role, Gira's natural career progression was to assume a presidency. When Frostburg was looking for a new leader in 1991, the University System of Maryland, the FSU campus and Gira agreed that it was the perfect match.

## Coming "Home"

"My mother said to me, 'Catherine, it'll be a lot like home.' And she was right," Gira recalls about accepting the president position at Frostburg.

The welcoming attitude of the small community in Western Maryland made the transition of leaving her family and friends in Baltimore much easier. "It was easy to feel at home here. I never felt like an outsider."

On Sept. 1, 1991, Gira became the second woman to hold the title of president at Frostburg State. (Lillian Compton served as president from 1945 to 1954). She was also the only female president in the USM System at that time. Since then, the glass ceiling has been broken as more women have taken the helm of USM institutions.

"There have been great strides for women. The pipeline is there," she says.



The inauguration of Catherine R. Gira as the 13th president of Frostburg State University on April 29, 1992.

Despite being the 13th president of FSU, Gira never let unlucky thoughts deter her. Instead, she often joked that she viewed the numbers individually as "1" and "3," which are considered auspicious in Medieval literature.

Unlucky numbers of another kind, however, clouded Gira's first year as president. The recession of the early 1990s had Gira facing 10 consecutive budget cuts within the first few months of her presidency. As UB provost, she had just finished helping that institution deal with similar cuts before heading to Western Maryland.

"It was in the middle of that kind of world that I took the position at Frostburg, so I knew what to



Gira negotiated a contract with former Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke (center) to have the team practice at FSU in the mid-1990s. The Redskins' five-year stint in Western Maryland brought some much-needed tourism dollars to the region with events like the annual Redskins Fan Appreciation Day. (At right, Gira poses on a Fan Day with FSU vice presidents Alice Manicur and Roger Bruszewski.)





Dr. Gira in her office, early in her presidency.

resource for Western Maryland, we weren't seen as a player statewide. Now Frostburg has attained real recognition in the halls of Annapolis. But I couldn't have done it without a product."

Gira credits FSU's "rock solid" academics to the groundwork laid by past presidents, especially Dr. Nelson Guild, whose tenure she frequently refers to as the "Golden Years." Several creative and successful initiatives came to life during Gira's tenure, including the addition of Learning Communities, the creation of an African American Studies minor, the introduction of ethnobotanical studies and a revamping of the Undergraduate Education Initiative. Both

the College of Education and the College of Business received prestigious accreditations from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, respectively. Gira is ever quick to pay homage to those individuals who spearheaded the initiatives.

"Our academic quality comes from our wonderful faculty. They are the ones who deserve the credit for their successes. I take a deflative pride in it, as I've supported them and helped get resources," she says. "My job was to recognize a good idea and then allow people to own it."

Gira's leadership style has been described as "consensus-building." A former colleague joked that attending planning sessions with Gira was like waiting for the white smoke to appear over the Vatican to announce a new pope.

"I will deeply miss the daily activity of being in a hub where interesting things happen. I've been surrounded by bright, energetic people."

Although traveling commitments barred Gira from teaching at FSU, she tried to maintain relationships with the student body through other venues. She has served as a guest speaker in such classes in "Women in Politics," "Citizen Leaders" and, of course, "Shakespeare." But Gira is most proud of the President's Student Advisory Council, comprised of a

**"It was easy to feel at home here.**

**I never felt like an outsider."**

continued ►

expect. A friend once asked me, 'Does masochism run in your family?'" Gira laughs.

The lean university budgets of the early '90s were soon replaced with ample funding from the state. But in today's economy, post 9/11, the state has reverted back to more budgetary restraints. "It's been a roller coaster ride," Gira says. "But you have to have faith that these things are cyclical."

Developing a strong relationship with the state legislators was a top agenda item for Gira's presidency. To her surprise, the Western Maryland delegation was more than anxious to forge a strong working relationship with her. That kind of welcome from state leaders was new to Gira, who was used to a more competitive nature in the Baltimore area, where institutions vie for both attention and support from politicians.

"The entire Western Maryland delegation wanted to come to me as a group," says Gira, who immediately shared her good fortune with her former downstate colleagues. "I called the president at UB and said, 'I want to tell you about the world I'm in...' The relationship in the metropolitan areas is more competitive. Here, you don't have to fight that battle."

Instead, Gira's battle would be to gain statewide recognition for FSU. She has continually knocked on doors in Annapolis to share Frostburg's story and quickly became the institution's number one advocate.

"As soon as I knew the quality of what is here, it was an easy thing to do," she says about her role as activist. "While the legislators perceived us as a wonderful



Gira has earned many statewide accolades during her presidency, including the 1993 Woman of the Year by the Maryland Legislature (left) and the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1997 (center, with former Delegate Betty Workman and Speaker of the House Casper Taylor). This past January, Gira received citations from both the House and Senate. A special Governor's citation was presented by Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary (and long-time friend) Aris Melissaratos (right).



Gira with former Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer.

**“If I’ve learned anything while I’ve been here, it is that nothing happens when you go at it alone.”**

sampling of students from across the campus. The group convened with Gira and the FSU executive committee during monthly meetings for informal interaction in which all matters — from changing light bulbs in the residence halls to academic concerns — were brought to the table.

While the student body has grown during Gira’s tenure, it has also changed. Minority student population has grown at FSU from 7 percent when she first arrived to 18 percent. To meet academic and

space needs presented by growth, Gira successfully lobbied for the construction of a new \$33 million Compton Science Center which came to fruition in 2003. Her most recent mission has been securing funding for a new Center for Communication and Instruction Technology to house the departments of Mass Communication, Computer Science and Graphic Design studies, as well as WFWM campus radio station, FSU TV and the student newspaper.

Gira’s vision has extended to helping the region grow as well. She designated a 56-acre parcel of land adjacent to the campus for the establishment of a science and technology park, in collaboration with Allegany County and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

“When I came here, Western Maryland was still reeling from the withdrawal of manufacturing,” she says. “The region had to develop, realize its resources and refocus. It’s now at a tipping point.”

Gira used the University’s existing resources and converted Tawes Hall, the former science building vacated by the creation of the Compton Science Center, to serve as a business incubator. Several technology-based companies have now made their homes on the FSU campus. She believes the economic development will benefit her students, as they acquire internships and, in some instances, permanent positions with these businesses.

“You have to be attuned to opportunities and build connections where you can,” she says about working with external groups. “Those partnerships have to be nurtured.”

In the local community, Gira helped establish the Greater Cumberland Committee, a consortium of local corporate, business and civic leaders, and has served on local boards including the Western Maryland Health System, the Rocky Gap Foundation, the Regional Education Service Agency, the Cumberland Theatre and Leadership Maryland.

She was also instrumental in helping the region experience a tourism boon in the mid-1990s when she negotiated a contract to have the Washington Redskins football team hold their summer training camp at FSU. The impact of their five-year stay brought some much-needed tourism dollars to the region.

Such collaborations have strengthened FSU’s reputation both externally and internally, according to Gira. “Frostburg State is now perceived as a university, not just a college. That involves multiple components including a complex mission, multiple relationships and external partnerships.”

That spirit of helping the region is echoed in Gira’s support of the University’s multiple community service efforts. Community service programs and partnerships have flourished, and FSU’s Center for Volunteerism and National Service was recognized in 1999 with the first-ever Service in Education Award from the Corporation for National Service. Again, she is quick to applaud those who started these programs.

“If I’ve learned anything while I’ve been here, it is that nothing happens when you go at it alone.”

To honor her retirement and continue her mission of going beyond the confines of the campus, the FSU Foundation, Inc., has created “The Catherine R. Gira Campus to Community Endowed Fund.” The new scholarship program will provide financial support for students as they participate in off-campus study activities, including research, domestic and international travel, alumni mentoring programs, professional development programs and internships.

The fund is a fitting tribute to a woman who has been honored repeatedly throughout her tenure, includ-



Gira secured funding for and oversaw the construction of a new \$33 million Compton Science Center (left). She also converted available space in Tawes Hall to house several new tech companies on campus, including VARGIS Geospatial (center). In 1999, Harris Wofford, former CEO of the Corporation for National Service, presented Gira and FSU with the first-ever Excellence in Higher Education Award for Frostburg’s community service initiatives (right).



ing being named “The 1993 Woman of the Year” by the Maryland Legislature, “One of Maryland’s Top 100 Women” in 1996 and an inductee to the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2005, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce heralded Gira as the “Individual of the Year.” After her final testimony in Annapolis this past winter, both the House and Senate presented Gira with citations for her dedication and effective leadership.

With her retirement only months away, the accolades for Gira will continue. A downstate reception at the University System of Maryland Chancellor’s home will take place in late April and the Greater Cumberland Committee, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and FSU will pay tribute to Gira with the black-tie Crystal Gala on the evening of May 20 on the FSU campus. Finally, the University of Baltimore will present Gira an honorary doctorate at its spring commencement.

“I’ve been humbled by it all.”

## The Road Ahead

As Gira finishes her presidency, she looks ahead to the next chapter of her life. She is “going home” again.

Gira will be moving back to Columbia, Md. She and her husband were among the first 100 families to inhabit the Baltimore suburb. Her new condo is located three blocks from the Colonial-style home in which she raised her children.

Gira will remain active on several boards, including the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Leadership Maryland executive committee and the Women’s Heritage Museum. Starting in September, she will chair the Maryland Humanities Council.

She also hopes to write, a passion she has not been able to pursue over the past decade and a half. She has garnered a few ideas for books and essays inspired during her career. Also, the scholar wants to be renew her long-time relationship with the Bard.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve been deeply engaged in the scholarship of Shakespeare,” she says, noting she’s anxious to once again study at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Above all, Gira plans to spend more time with her family. Her daughter, Cheryl, is now a consulting engineer in Chicago, and son Tom is an attorney and executive vice president and deputy of market regulation for National Association of Securities Dealers. She will also play grandma to the two proclaimed “lights of her life,” Tom and his wife Laurie’s children, Ellen, 10, and Brad, 7.

“I’ve given them books of poetry, little Shakespeare coloring books,” smiles Gira. “They’re very much into reading. The seeds are being sown.”

Seeds are also being sown at the institution Gira is leaving behind her. What advice will she give to the 14th president of Frostburg State?

“I will encourage my successor to see what is here and build upon it,” she says. “But also take the University in directions we haven’t even dreamed about. You need those fresh ideas.”

When thinking about where the University could be in another 15 years and beyond, Gira’s thoughts drift, once more, to the world outside her window.

“I would like to see a robust business and technology park. I believe Allegany County will be a harbor for workers in the technology area. With telecommuting, the quality of life out here will be very appealing,” she believes.

She would also like the Appalachian part of the state to be celebrated in conjunction with new Appalachian studies at FSU. “This place is primed for a festival to embrace its roots with a festival every year.”

Although she is leaving, she promises she isn’t saying goodbye. Of course, she will keep in touch with the many friends she has made at Frostburg. She is planning to return for the groundbreakings of new buildings for which she has paved the way.

For a leader whose mantra was “where two or more are gathered, I talk about Frostburg,” she will continue to spread the good news of FSU. And she plans to continue to celebrate the institution, long after she is gone.

“My spirit will come back and rejoice,” she says.

**“I will encourage my successor to see what is here and build upon it. But also take the University in directions we haven’t even dreamed about.”**



The FSU Block Party, a celebration for FSU hosted by the Frostburg business community (left), and the annual crowning of the Homecoming queen (center) gave Gira a chance to interact with students. Gira’s grandchildren (Ellen, 10, and Brad, 7) joined their Grandma in FSU’s Homecoming parade each year (right).

**This past fall, NBC's Must-See TV was "FSU TV" as two Frostburg alumni were featured – one in front of the camera and one behind – in primetime.**



## “My Name is Earl” is Good Karma for Alum and FSU

By Ty DeMartino

**Greg Garcia** (Class of '92) is sharing his good karma.

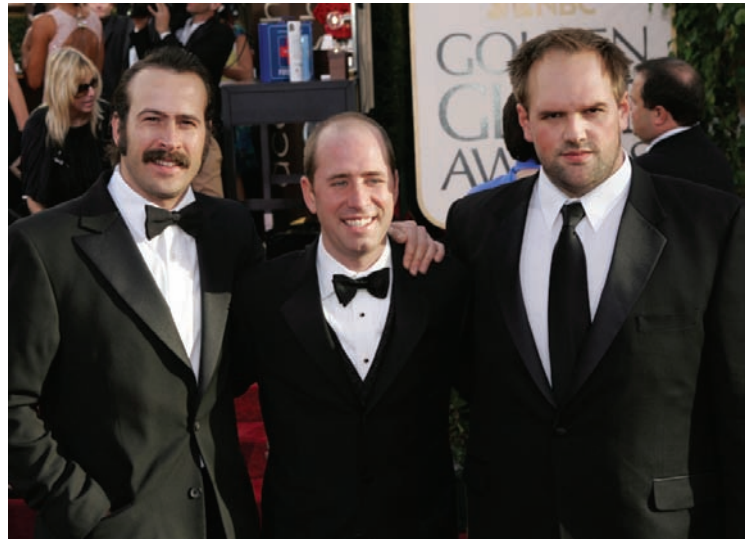
As the creator and executive producer of *My Name is Earl*, the hit NBC sitcom about a reformed crook on a journey to right the wrongs of his past with the help of Karma, Garcia is receiving accolades from fans, critics and the TV industry for his new show.

In January, Garcia took home a People's Choice Award for Best New Comedy and was nominated for a Golden Globe Award. The network's faith in the quirky comedy earned *Earl* a full-year renewal and a mid-season time switch to the coveted Thursday "Must-See Comedy" night (following in the steps of *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show* and *Friends*.) But with all good fortune, Garcia isn't forgetting his humble beginnings.

"I wouldn't be sitting here if I hadn't gone to Frostburg," says Garcia, who, on a whim, enrolled in a Writing for Television class at FSU that led to his participation in a writing internship with Warner Brothers Studios.

Garcia later worked as a writer and producer on fan-favorite shows as *Family Matters* and *Family Guy*, before executive-producing the sitcom *Yes, Dear*. On *Dear*, Garcia created the character of Jimmy, who attended Frostburg State University for a semester and often wears FSU T-shirts.

Garcia continues to be true to his school by incorporating Frostburg into his latest show. The Crab Shack, a local hangout for Earl and his gang, is modeled after the popular Diamond Lounge (also known as "Repub") on Frostburg's Main Street. And in an episode that aired in February, Earl traveled to a place called "Frostburg State University" to return a laptop he stole before his Karmic



Above: Greg Garcia (Class of '92, center), executive producer of the hit NBC show *My Name is Earl*, attends this year's Golden Globe Awards with stars Jason Lee and Ethan Suplee. *Earl* was nominated for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy.

conversion. In one scene, while walking across campus (the episode was actually shot at University of Southern California last November), Earl states, "Frostburg State University? Isn't that where Bullwinkle went to college?" To which Randy, Earl's brother, retorts, "Went to Wassamatta U. Lived in Frostbite Falls." Die-hard TV fans will recall that Garcia paid tribute to his alma mater with the same joke on *Yes, Dear*, when Jimmy had a job interview.

The Frostburg episode of *Earl* garnered media attention and on-line bloggers have dedicated countless threads to pinpoint the exact location of the Earl's home in fictional Camden County. Recent on-air mentions of Cumberland and Hagerstown are the latest clues, according to the Internet sleuths.

Back in reality, Garcia admits he wants to pay tribute to his alma mater, a place that gave him a lot of great memories and his official start in TV writing. Garcia is merely doing good things and sharing the success. Earl would be proud.



An episode of *My Name is Earl* took place at "Frostburg State University," in which (above) Earl fell for a beautiful psychology professor (Christine Taylor), and (at right) Earl's brother Randy joined a fraternity.



All photos courtesy of NBC/Universal





## FSU Grad/Fired “Apprentice” Makes TV History

By Liz Douglas Medcalf

When FSU alum **James Dillon** (Class of '00) decided to apply for NBC's *The Apprentice*, the TV reality show in which billionaire Donald Trump hires the winner to work in his empire, he told the show's producer he was a perfect match for their show.

After all, *The Apprentice* is a high-pressure combination of competition, television and business. Dillon was a standout baseball player at FSU, team captain and letterman, and he has a strong competitive streak. The 28 year-old FSU College of Business cum laude grad had also risen to the top 3 percent of sales for Cingular Wireless and is a Cingular Summit award winner.

To further prove his sales prowess to the show's brass, Dillon boasted he could sell anything, including “manure.” Dillon hit the streets of Washington and successfully sold fertilizer in jars labeled “I came to D.C., and all I have to show for it is a jar of poop.”

“If you don't ever try, you're not going to achieve anything. I wanted to challenge myself,” he says.

And that's no... manure.

Dillon succeeded in making into the cast of hopeful entrepreneurs on last fall's show, which “The Donald” called the “most talented group I've ever assembled.”

A series of firsts marked Dillon's appearance. It was the first time Trump chose his own potential apprentices. It was also the first time Trump fired four people at once. In Episode 6, after tanking in sales at a challenge at Dick's Sporting Goods, four cast members, including Dillon, were let go by “The Donald.”

Although Dillon didn't win, he did make *Apprentice* history with the group firing. And he is philosophical about going down in TV infamy, between the four being crammed into one taxi for a silent, awkward ride to the airport and making it onto VH1's “Best Week Ever” as the worst reality show loss ever. “That was entertaining,” Dillon laughs about the honor. “I do enjoy that.”

Dillon “flew under the radar” for much of the season. That was part of his strategy. “I didn't want to backstab. I didn't want the drama. I was there to win,” he says. “I wanted to be proud of myself when I was done.”

Other than a mention of his past as a college athlete during a reward session, batting practice with the Mets, Frostburg State never came up, on the show or in the hours of footage that didn't make it to air. Nevertheless, Dillon's college experience served him well.

“I learned so much at Frostburg as a person and as a student as well. Your goals come out of what you dream,” he says. “I worked my butt off while I was there. I'd match my resume against anyone.”

Dillon and his wife Shawna, an interior designer, have since moved from Alexandria, Va., to Chicago. Dillon has been promoted by Cingular to global account manager, working with an established account base of Fortune 100 companies. His main job is to increase revenue, as opposed to his old position as a “hunter,” trying to find new businesses.

He broke with the pattern of many other *Apprentice* contestants, who have tended to use the show as a launching pad to a new business or to break into the entertainment industry.

continued ►

James Dillon (Class of '00), right, was hand-picked by Donald Trump to compete in the fourth season of Trump's NBC show *The Apprentice*. Dillon was in a history-making boardroom session (above), in which four cast members were fired at once.



**In Episode 6, after tanking in sales at a challenge at Dick's Sporting Goods, four cast members, including Dillon, were let go by "The Donald."**

"A lot of my co-workers and friends said I should try something new, but I've been with Cingular for a long time. They've been good to me. I didn't feel like starting over," Dillon says.

Since the end of the show, which was taped from April 7 to June 30, 2005, he and his wife started J.S. Dillon, a real estate investment/rehab company, with properties in the Washington, D.C., area and in Chicago.

"This is something I probably would not have done before being on *The Apprentice*."

Dillon credits Trump and his *Apprentice* experience with pushing his mental boundaries. "He encouraged us to get bigger with our ideas."

Now he's relishing the rehab work, exploring an interest in photography and giving more importance to the time he has with his wife and family.

And while the TV show was largely about conflict and competition, it doesn't show the relationships that were built over the three months of filming. As a matter of fact, since they moved to Chicago, Dillon's wife and his cast-mate Rebecca, the first runner-up from *The Apprentice*, have become fast friends. They even get together to watch other reality TV shows.

"If it's not your show, it's good entertainment," Dillon says, chuckling.



Dillon was fired for failing at a sports-related sales challenge.

## Behind The Scenes:

### Dillon Dishes on "Not-So Reality" TV

The thing about reality TV is it doesn't really have that much to do with reality. According to James Dillon, "*The Apprentice*" producers are free to follow whatever themes they choose for the sake of advancing the show and for the sake of entertainment.

"It definitely deviated from what I experienced first-hand," the FSU grad says.

To begin with, there's not much about the candidates that the producers don't know, after the 25-page application, the 600-part general questionnaire and the 200-question psychological work-up, not to mention a weeklong interview in California. Some of that information appeared put to use to craft rewards for the winning teams.

"They asked us, 'If you could do just one thing, what would it be?' I said I would sneak into batting practice at Camden Yards or the home run derby." And what reward should he and his team get for designing the winning mascot for Dairy Queen but to take batting practice with the New York Mets. Other rewards followed a similar pattern, fulfilling a candidate's secret wish.

For each task, they were given three days.

Three crews with eight cameras film constantly over the 72 hours. While it seems like it would be impossible, Dillon says he did get so used to the cameras that he would forget they were there.

"The first day, the camera is six feet away. Later that day it's four feet. Before you know it, it's on you," he says. "You couldn't get away from these people. In your contract, it says you can be taped at any time. . . . If they filmed me yawning at any time, that footage could be shown like I was doing it during a task."

He and most other candidates averaged about two hours of sleep over each 36-hour task.

"You could sleep if you wanted, but it was a badge of honor to not sleep," he says.

Dillon regrets that the final product doesn't show the smart business that is going on. "We had great brainstorming sessions. There was a lot to learn from these individuals."

"At the end of the day, it's still a TV show, and they do what they have to do to make it interesting."

Dillon says that's why his memory of the events that led to his and three teammates' firing differs from what viewers saw. For example, Dillon says, it was made to appear that the fateful choice of a baseball clinic for their event at Dick's Sporting Goods was his push. Not so, according to Dillon.

"I've done lots of baseball clinics, but at baseball clinics, people come to learn, not to buy. I wanted to do basketball or golf before baseball." But the team kept coming back to baseball, so he went along.

Going into the boardroom, he knew there was a chance he could be fired. Regardless, "I thought I was as safe as anyone when it came to effort on the task," Dillon admits. "I was really in shock because in past episodes and seasons those who are not asked a lot of questions or pointed out don't get fired, and if they stay quiet and don't say anything stupid then they were safe."

On the broadcast, it appeared that Trump fired all four at once, but he actually went down the line. Trump complimented Dillon, saying the Mets had called him a good ballplayer. Then, "The Donald" fired him.

"I was disappointed because if I knew I was going to be let go, I would have put up a much bigger defense of my case," he says.

After all is said and "aired," Dillon is proud of making it to the show. "I was one of some 200,000 who applied, and I showed dignity and class. It was definitely a positive experience."

He does, however, admit to the occasional reality-TV nightmare.

"I woke up for three weeks after the show was over doing interviews in my sleep, thinking there was a cameraman at the foot of my bed," Dillon laughs. "My wife would say, 'You're interviewing in your sleep again.'"

— LDM



# classnotes



**Margaret K "Mergie"** and **Don Burgess** (Class of '52), vocalist and string bassist respectively, along with trombonist **Jack Diggs** (Class of '53) regularly perform with the "Goldenaires" big band based in Columbia, Md. These three performed together throughout the tri-state area in various local bands in the late 1940s and early '50s.



**Penny Caulkins Phelps** got together in August 2005 with three other members of the **Class of 1962**, all of whom were freshmen roommates together in Frost Hall 201 back in 1958. (From left, **Ann Baker Taylor**, **Katherine Cadle**, **Phelps** and **Elizabeth Elliott**.)

## Class of '56 and earlier:

## Golden Anniversary Weekend

The Golden Anniversary has been historically celebrating the 50th-year reunion the first weekend of June each year. **Class of 1956**, your festivities will begin on Friday, June 2, and culminate on Saturday, June 3.

Organizers are still looking for information on the following people: Evan D. Dyer, Robert D. Eckstine, Donald Kiddy, William Edward Smith and Niel E. Walter. If you know anything about these persons or did not receive an invitation, please contact Jean Holbert Bruchey at 304-274-3221 or e-mail [jeanbruchey02@msn.com](mailto:jeanbruchey02@msn.com).

## 1956

### Golden Anniversary Reunion:

June 2-3, 2006

See announcement below.

## 1959

**Jennings Ray Stickley** was chosen to receive the Distinguished Service Award for exceptional service and dedication to Potomac State College (West Virginia University).

## 1963

**Clyde Edward Bantz** retired from the Allegany County Public School System on July 1, 2005, after 40 years.

## 1964

**Joyce (Bell) Kramer** co-authored a book entitled *Invisible No More: The Secret Lives of Women over 50*, along with Renee Fisher and Jean Peelen. It's a story to inspire women to see limitless possibilities for themselves after 50. The book is receiving accolades from reviewers and readers of all generations and is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [www.invisible.nomore.com](http://www.invisible.nomore.com).

## 1966

### Class of '66 Reunion Weekend:

Oct. 20-21, 2006

For more information, call 301/687-4068.

## 1969

**John A. Baker** was selected the Baltimore County Lacrosse Man of the Year for both 2004 and 2005. He was awarded the Gerald J. Carroll Award as the National Exemplary High School Lacrosse Coach of the Year in January, an honor he was nominated for twice before. John retired after teaching 31 years in Baltimore City Public Schools, but he still coaches lacrosse.

## 1971

**Michael Phillip Gardner** retired after 30 years with Cecil County public schools in 2004. He is employed as a counselor at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Conway, S.C.

**James P. McCarthy** is a colonel in the U.S. Army and has returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, where he provided dental care to U.S. troops, U.S. civilians and foreign nationals. He was stationed approximately 50 miles NNE of Baghdad.

## 1972

**Caryl Jewell** taught in Ewing, N.J., for 29 years. She has since retired and loves living in Bucks County, Pa., with her yellow labrador, Zoe. Caryl is traveling and finally having the time to really enjoy the company of many friends.

## 1973

**James M. Dyer** is vice president and general manager of Cox Communications Inc. Middle Georgia and a member of the executive board of NewTown Macon, a public-private partnership dedicated to implementing the community's vision of a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous revitalization of downtown Macon, Ga.

**Roy J. Hamilton** is the invited speaker at the conference on "Creativity and Madness: Psychological Studies of Arts and Artists" to be held in Santa Fe, N.M., in August 2006. The topic of his presentation will be "Iggy Pop? Narcissist, Shaman and Wounded Child." Roy is a staff psychologist at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

## 1974

**Darlene (McIntosh) Frederick** was a featured artist in an exhibit at the Church McKee Arts Center sponsored by the Highland Arts Unlimited Inc. in Keyser, W.Va. Darlene teaches at the Mineral County Alternative School in Keyser and art appreciation and drawing at Potomac State College. She recently completed her Special Education Certification.

**Randy J. Hay** is the new administrator of Bedford-Somerset Mental Health/Mental Retardation.

**Martin P. Welch** completed his 10-year tenure as Baltimore's chief juvenile court judge in March 2006.

## 1976

**Jeff Paul Fegan** is the chief planner at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

continued ▶

## counting by "5s"

# Frostburg State Alumni of '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02... 2007 is your reunion year!

For more information, call 301/687-4068

### How Can You Help?

**We need you.** Grab your address book and contact some of your college friends. It's time to start planning. A reunion can only happen with your help. Once you have three or more volunteers, please call the Office of Alumni Programs at 301/687-4068 or e-mail [alumni@frostburg.edu](mailto:alumni@frostburg.edu). Effective reunions require 6-8 months of planning. Don't miss out on this special reunion year—call us today.

**Richard R Osial** has accepted a position at the Pentagon with the Public Affairs Staff of the Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Rick retired from the U.S. Navy in 1999 after 23 years of service. Since then, he has been working in the private sector as a public relations professional.

**Kevin L. Shepherd** is serving a one-year term as chairman of the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law. He is the co-chair of the Venable LLP law firm's Real Estate Practice Group and a partner in the Baltimore office. Kevin was also elected Fellow by the American Bar Association.

## 1977

**Buster Nelson** received the Inaugural Amaze Award for leadership. He was chosen out of 700 candidates in five different categories. Buster is the CEO of Buster Nelson Insurance Agency Inc.

## 1978

**Cheryl Neal Cerbone's** daughter, Sarah, passed away in February 2005. Her son, Billy graduated from Texas A&M in May 2005, while daughter Megan is a junior at University of North Texas. She and her husband are looking forward to becoming grandparents.

## 1979

**Dennis J. Albright** is the new principal at Petersburg High School in West Virginia.

## 1982

**Elizabeth Poole** is the recreation programs supervisor for the city of Gaithersburg, and has been involved in the annual Winter Lights Festival there.

**Ralph B. Sheaffer** is celebrating 23 years of marriage with his wife, Ellen, in their small village of St. Paul, Pa. Their first son has graduated from college, while their second is nearing graduation. Ralph continues to serve in the National Guard while maintaining a landscaping business. He was happy to mention that he saw an old college pal, **Jack Riley**, this past summer.

**Anthony Phillip Zook** has been named executive vice president of AstraZeneca. In this role, he will also assume the position of president/CEO of AstraZeneca US. Tony is also a member of the Board for the Pennsylvania Division of the American Cancer Society and a member of the Executive Council for the National Pharmaceutical Council.

## 1983

**Charles E. Fenwick** is the new National Park Service superintendent of Fort Pulaski National Monument in Savannah, Ga. He was most recently superintendent of DeSoto National Memorial Park, Fla.

**Lori Ulferts** was inducted into the Minnesota-Crookson Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 23, 2005. She is the women's basketball coach at St. Cloud State, Minn.

## 1984

**Philip Robert Hager** has been named the new Allegany County, Md., planning coordinator.

## 1985

**Robb S. MacKie** assumed the role of president and CEO of the American Bakers Association. Robb held the position of vice president of government relations since 1995 at ABA prior to his appointment.



Barbara Murphy Kromer '85

**Barbara Murphy Kromer**, principal, became a shareholder in Snyder-Cohn, Collyer, Hamilton & Associates P.C. in Bethesda, Md.

## 1986

**Mark T. Prokop** started a non-profit organization called Friends of Triangle Seniors and Food Assistance ([www.ftsfa.org](http://www.ftsfa.org)) to assist senior citizens and the needy of the Triangle area of North Carolina.

## 1987

**Maynard M. Hurd** was inducted into the Frederick County YMCA Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 4, 2006.

**Ann Townsell**, graphic designer at FSU, received a Silver Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) as part of the CASE District 2 Accolades 2005.

CASE is the professional organization affiliated with university advancement professionals working in alumni relations, communications and development. Townsell received her award for the FSU Cultural Events Series 2005-2006 schedule of events.

## 1988

**Theresa Renee Harrison** is the president of Athenyx, a woman-owned Columbia-based information technology services and solutions company.

**John Wayne Myers** married Marites Anfone on Aug. 30, 2004 in Malibu, Calif. John received a Master of Arts in Spiritual Psychology from the University of Santa Monica. The couple resides in Studio City.

## 1989

**Dee Ann (Cropp) Griffith** is employed by Loudoun County Public Schools as the media specialist at Mt. View Elementary School, Va. Dee was recently installed as president of the Commonwealth of Virginia State Association of the Virginia Educational Media Association. Her theme for the year is "Creating a Community of Learners is Key."

**Michelle Renee (Best) Pfeifer** and Michael Pfeifer announce the birth of their third son, Daniel Stephen, on Feb. 26, 2005. Daniel joins big brothers Luke (6) and Samuel (2). Michelle is a stay-at-home mom who home-schools her children.

**Keith Wilkins** and his wife, Kelly, announce the birth of Caitlyn Michelle Wilkins, born Dec. 10, 2005.

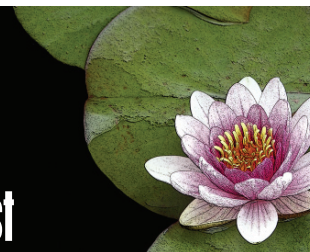
## 1990

**Alexander C. Baliko** married Heather Dunaway and together they have two children, Bryce (5) and Allison (2). Heather is a speech pathologist for Harford County public schools where Alex has been a Phys. Ed. teacher for 16 years. He teaches with fellow FSU grad **Sandra Salters** (Class of '92).

**David Frederick Becker** married Jodi D. Criswell on May 6, 2005, in Jamaica. David is employed as controller with Walnut Street Community Health Center in Hagerstown, Md.

**Ben Ford Holt** is the senior author of an article entitled "Antagonistic Control of Disease Resistance Protein Stability in the Plant Immune System," published in the Aug. 5, 2005, issue





## Alum Answers “Higher” Calling as Zen Priest

of the journal *Science*. Dr. Holt is a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Biology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Gary Gibson Howell** is a Republican candidate in the race for Mineral County Commissioner in West Virginia.

**Tracy Lynne (Roland) Morrow** is the owner of a mortgage broker business. She has two daughters, Kaley and Madison.

**Mary Beth Pirolozzi** was named CEO of Allegheny County United Way. Mary Beth is the former district administrator for Senator John Hafer and has served as president of the FSU Alumni Association from 2004-06.

### 1991

**Sandra Christine (Bollinger) Morrison** and **Scott Morrison** (also Class of '91) announce the birth of Ailee Marie Morrison on Dec. 30, 2004. She joins big brother Luke (3) and sister Brenna (6).

**John Charles Schoener** is a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He commanded the 430th Replacement Company, whose mission was to provide logistical services and coordinate movement of service members transitioning through a strategic air hub north of Baghdad. When not on active duty, John is a client service manager specializing in international transportation and logistics for Pittsburgh Logistics Systems Inc., Rochester, Pa. John will celebrate 10 years of marriage to his wife, Lisa, and looks forward to his return home to spend time with son, Andrew (4). The Schoeners reside in Uniontown, Pa.



Donna Hickey '91

**Donna Christine Hickey** is living near the Jersey Shore, where she is a registered dental hygienist. She graduated from the University of Maryland Dental School, Dental Hygiene program in Baltimore, Md. She attends Calvary Chapel, which has had a tremendous impact on her life.

continued ▶

FSU alumnus **Matt Sweger** (class of '95) has been studying for years and has been recently promoted to a “higher” position. No, he is not a rising CEO, but Sweger is now a Zen priest.

According to Zen tradition, when ordained as a priest, an individual is given a Japanese name. Sweger is now known as “Teshin” which means “virtuous heart/mind.” In the past, the names have been long and very hard to pronounce. Teshin and his teacher both decided to think of a name which would be meaningful.

Sweger returned to the FSU campus this past fall to present a talk to the FSU campus community about Zen Buddhism, the spiritual practice that requires one to examine his or her inner self. Faculty, staff and students arrived to listen to a talk discussing a ravenous world with topics including the current oil crisis and environmental concerns, to name a few. This was not Sweger's first return to the campus since he graduated 10 years ago, as he visited in 2000 and in 2003. He commented about how the campus has changed with the addition of new buildings as well as renovations, but to him, “it's still the same Frostburg” that he has always known.

During his undergraduate years here at FSU, Sweger earned a Bachelor of Art degree in art education and received a teaching certificate. He was a brother of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and was active within Art Department activities.

Sweger didn't necessarily consider himself a spiritual person back while he was a student; rather he began questioning and exploring his path in life and wanted to expand his awareness. He felt there was more than life than academics or a social life. He discussed the possibilities of Zen with FSU English professor and resident Zen enthusiast Paul LaChance, but at the time, it was simply an interest and nothing concrete.

After college, Sweger experienced a short stint as an art teacher in Prince George's County in Maryland. As he moved on in life and looked within himself, it eventually became clear over time that he wanted to devote his time and energy to practice Zen full-time and to help others develop their faith in Zen. Zen Buddhism has no code or creed as it is completely an experience-based practice - it must be personally and intimately confirmed for it to have meaning.

Sweger says that his family was very supportive of his decision of accepting Zen and becoming a priest. “I became a priest for three main reasons. One, I wanted to deepen my own practice. Two, I wanted to help people learn and come to practice Zen. And three, I wanted to protect the strength of the practice over time as it develops in the U.S. for the first time.”

The process of becoming a Zen priest is very different from what Christian clergy must go through. There is neither one way or central authority to become a priest, as each Zen community has its own procedures. The process can be rather lengthy as Sweger worked for many years with his teacher. Once he was at a point where he felt comfortable to take on an expanded role as a priest, he asked his teacher if he felt that he was ready to take on this task. Sweger then went through a one-year trial period known as an “novitiate,” where he practiced as a priest but had not taken any vows. After the one-year period is complete, you may ask for more time to consider or you may take your vows.

Sweger's first experience at a Zen community was in Rochester, N.Y. After several years in Rochester, he moved on to the Windhorse Zen Community in North Carolina. The staff at the Windhorse community is comprised of teachers from the Rochester community. Once a teacher has completed about 15 to 20 years of teaching, he or she moves on and usually establishes a new community, which is exactly what Sweger's own teachers did. At this time, he does not have any plans to leave Windhorse to start his own community, as he has several more years of learning and teaching to do before he becomes qualified to do so.

Sweger and his fellow staff members at Windhorse follow a weekly schedule, which varies slightly from day to day. Typical mornings start out at 5:30 a.m. Staff members then assemble to perform a sitting meditation or “Zazen.” Service chanting and then breakfast follows. After breakfast, it's time to practice yoga and then he spends the afternoons working on administrative tasks to which he is assigned.

Zen places a strong emphasis on being self-supportive. Sweger referred to the saying “A day without working is a day without eating.” Through contributions and donations from the Windhorse community members, he is granted a small stipend. Sweger is also an accomplished carpenter, using his talents of wood working to earn an additional income.

Sweger currently has a girlfriend. When asked about marriage, he commented that it is not out of the question for Zen priests to marry or start a family. But since both entail a great deal of responsibility, many priests wait until they have completed much of their training before taking on additional responsibilities in order to ensure they have enough time to devote to being a husband and father.

For more information about the Windhorse Community, visit online at [www.windhorsezen.org](http://www.windhorsezen.org).

— Michael Boyle

## Attention Alpha Xi Delta Alumnae:

### Add Dorothy Stone White to the FSU Memorial Wall

The year was 1961 when Dorothy Stone White and a handful of young women started the Gamma Psi chapter of Alpha Xi Delta on campus. Anyone who pledged during the years Ms. White was chapter advisor will have a vivid image of her as this refined woman. She exemplified poise and grace. She was a role model during an era of innocence.

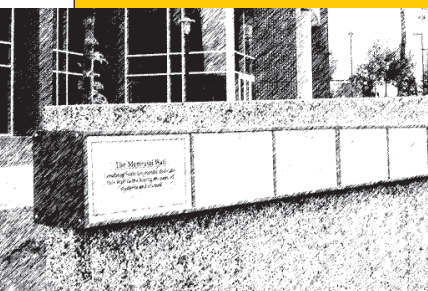
The Chesapeake Alumnae Chapter would like to recognize the dedication of Ms. White to both Gamma Psi and the entire FSU community by adding her name to the FSU Memorial Wall on campus. The total donation is only \$500 to add a name to the wall.

But this effort need not be confined to Alpha Xi alumnae. Anyone who remembers or was influenced by Ms. White is urged to contribute.

Send your contribution (*made out to the FSU Foundation*) to:

**Marilyn (Schaar) Simmons**  
4530 Lofty Oaks Lane  
Dayton, OH 45415

Marilyn will coordinate with the FSU Foundation to have Ms. White's name added to the Memorial Wall. Money in excess of the amount needed for the wall will be added to the Dorothy Stone White Scholarship Fund for a deserving student with a major in theatre.



## 1992

**Eric William Hedinger** and his wife, Maria, are proud to announce the birth of their son, William Oliver, on Dec. 15, 2005. Eric is an English teacher and soccer coach at Providence Day School.

**April Lynn (Shanholtz) House** is a therapist at Mountain State Psychological Services in West Virginia. April is a West Virginia licensed psychologist, professional counselor and certified clinical addictions counselor.

**Juanita Katherine James** has been recognized for her artistic work on rocks along the banks of the Potomac River.



Madison Lolabeth, daughter of Elizabeth Johnston-Robinson '92

**Elizabeth S. Johnston-Robinson**, after several years as a high school counselor, recently went back to elementary counseling at Bester Elementary School in Hagerstown, Md. Elizabeth and her husband, Kirk, enjoy being parents to Madison Lolabeth (2). She extends thanks to Barbara Ornstein, Bill Bingman and JoEllen McAdams for fond memories of her graduate assistantship in the Educational Professions Department. "I've been empowered and effective as an educator primarily due to their outstanding influence and guidance." Elizabeth would love to hear from former faculty and students. "Go 'Cats!"

**Wesley Wayne McKee** married Melissa D. Judy on Oct. 16, 2004, in LaVale, Md. Wesley is a graduate of Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a partner in the law offices of Anderson, Rudd, Donahue and McKee. The couple resides in Cumberland, Md.

**Eric Jason Schumacher** has been named TEGG General Manager of Bay Electric Company, a general contracting and electrical service company based in Newport News, Va.

## 1993

**Elizabeth Diane Hayes** married Glenn Barresse in July 2004. Elizabeth is employed as a financial auditor for the FBI. Her husband is a project manager for the foreign trade division of the U.S. Census Bureau.



Christopher Scott Adkins '93

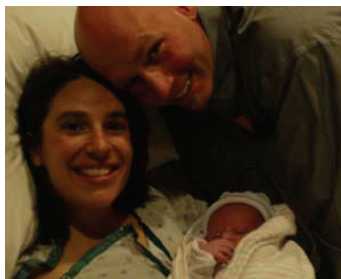
**Christopher Scott Adkins** has joined Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP law firm as an associate in the Intellectual Property and Technology Group. Prior to joining the firm, Chris was a trademark attorney with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. He is a member of the American Bar Association.

**Cynthia Ellen Phillips** just bought a home in Annapolis. She is employed as a recruiter for ARINC, Inc.

## 1994

**James Douglas Bartholomew** was wounded Dec. 24, 2005, in Iraq while serving with the 243rd Engineers Maryland National Guard based out of Baltimore, Md. He is expected to make a full recovery. Sgt. Bartholomew, his wife, Michelle, and son, Michael (10) reside in Cumberland, Md.

**Shawn Douglas Nicklin** was recognized as the Elks Lodge Teacher of the Year for Secondary Education and the 2004 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for Garrett County.



Christine, Nevin and Jesse Reid

**Christine Alison (Chappell) Reid** and **Nevin Reid** (Class of 1994) welcomed Jesse Martin on Sept. 18, 2005. Jesse joins big sister Josie (3). The Reids live in Erie, Colo. Christine is a newspaper reporter, and Nevin is employed with the federal government.

**Beth Lynn (Inskeep) Chapman** was recently selected for inclusion in the ninth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* (2005). The book honors 5 percent of our nation's teachers annually. Beth is a fifth-grade teacher at Flintstone Elementary School in Allegany County, Md. She resides in Midlothian with her husband, Ryan, and daughter, Sarah.

**Wendy Sue O'Baker** married Richard Ricker II on Oct. 18, 2003, in Cumberland, Md. Wendy is employed as a math teacher in Allegany County, Md.

**Nancy Jean (Horn) Ruddle** and her husband, Don, welcomed their second child, Megan Elizabeth, on June 9, 2005. Big brother Jonathan Edward (2) loves his new sister. Nancy and Don both work for Citicorp Credit Services in Hagerstown. The family resides in Williamsport, Md.

**Michele Lee Beeman** is teaching fourth grade at Cash Valley Elementary School in LaVale, Md.

**Sarah Elizabeth (Erny) Moyer** and **Cary Moyer** (Class of '95) announce the birth of Tobias (Toby) Alexander on July 30, 2004. Toby joins siblings Noah Solomon and Jillian Noelle.

**Thomas Patrick Nealon** is senior vice president of Finance and Investor Relations at Cobalt Capital Companies (LLC) in Springfield, Mass.

**Julia Louise (McIlwee) Sweitzer** is employed at Lake-Sumter Community College in Sumterville, Fla., in the Department of Business and Technologies. She teaches the majority of her classes on-line and has written several papers dealing with this subject. Her paper, presented at Education and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications (EISTA), Orlando, Fla., was acknowledged as the "Best Paper" presented during the Application of Educational Technologies session. She also presented papers at the SALT Conference in Arlington, Va., and for the League of Innovation for Community Colleges in Tampa, Fla. She will present a paper for the League this October in Dallas, Texas.

## 1995

**Kimberly Ann Asonevich** is the new executive director at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Chemung County, NY.



Kristi Moser Glass '95

**Kristi Moser Glass** was recently promoted to the position of manager at Smith Elliott Kearns & Co., CPAs & Consultants.



**Matthew R Hedger** has joined the Becker Morgan Group Inc., an architectural/engineering firm as a civil designer. Matthew will work in the group's Salisbury, Md., office.

**Brian Terence White** was named Maryland History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Preserve America. Brian is a teacher at Allegany High School in Cumberland, Md.

**Melissa Ann (Davis) Clark** was promoted to the position of director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation in Western Maryland.

## 1996

**Richard Michaux Bullock** resides in Richmond, Va., with his wife, Suzanne, and their two children, Maggie and Elizabeth. Richard is employed with the Defense Logistics Agency at the Defense Supply Center, where he is a contracting specialist. Richard is also a certified lay speaker for the United Methodist Church, Sunday school teacher and praise band and choir singer. He participates with the Epiphany outreach ministries working with incarcerated youth and is a member of the VFW.

**Timothy Paul Jones** graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tenn., with a doctorate degree in education administration in August 2005. Timothy is a faculty member at Tennessee State and has received tenure and promotion to the rank of assistant professor and aquatic director in the Human Performance and Sports Science Department.

**Natalie Lynn Gozzard** married A.L. Pease in a ceremony held on Cape Cod on Oct. 9, 2005. The couple resides in Alexandria, Va.

**Gregory Wayne Poland** married Alison Brooke Parks on May 28, 2005, in Washington, D.C. Gregory is employed as an account manager for an IT firm in Washington while he pursues an MBA at the University of Maryland.

**Jason Robert Shank** married Laura M. Taylor on Aug. 20, 2005. Jason is a technology education teacher at Southern Middle School. The couple resides in Loch Lynn, Md.

**Eric John Slivoskey** is the new Lions Head Football Coach at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, N.D.

**Kristin Leigh Bean Lemmert** married Daniel H. Valentine on May 6, 2005. Kristin is director of Corporate Communications for the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. The couple resides in Annapolis, Md.

**Samuel John White** married **Amanda Paul** (Class of '01) on Oct. 11, 2003. The couple resides in Mount Savage, Md. They own Cedar Rock Farm where they grow certified naturally

grown produce and raise grass-fed beef. Sam misses yelling at friends from the steps of Dunkle Hall and taking trays of food to lectures.

## 1997

**Barbara Jean Nelson** married Cobenn Wayne Bolden on July 16, 2005, in Oakland, Md. Barbara is employed by Mineral County Public Schools in West Virginia as a music/art and special education teacher at Elk Garden Primary School.



Mr. & Mrs. Damion Dengler

**Damion N. Dengler** is an independent financial planner in Ellicott City, Md. He married Jody Tagg on June 18, 2005. Jody is employed at a veterinary clinic in Harford County.

**Gregory Michael Fike** earned a doctorate in chemical engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga.

**Tommy Miles Dean** has been working for the Department of the Navy since May 2001 as budget analyst at Patuxent Naval Air Station. He was selected as the first Navair Headquarters Billing Lead in 2003. In November 2004 he was promoted to a team lead for the Foreign Military Sales program.



Lucas Carl and Lila Marie Shipley

**Melanie Marie (King) Shipley** and her husband, **Brian Shipley** (Class of '96), celebrated the birth of Lucas Carl Shipley on Oct. 24, 2005. Lucas joins big sister, Lila Marie. Melanie is the director of Human Resources/Compensation for IT Federal Contractor, SMS Data Products Group

continued ►

## Little Grad Overcomes Obstacles to Pursue Big Dreams

Recent FSU graduate **Kris Connor** (Class of '05) has big dreams of becoming a photojournalist. Connor is your average 22-year-old facing the real world — except that he underwent four surgeries between the ages of 10 and 15 years old for limb lengthening.

Connor was born with dwarfism, the result of disproportionate growth of the skeleton. When he was 10, he and his parents decided that Connor should pursue surgery to lengthen and reconstruct his limbs at Kernan Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

While each surgery was about 12 hours long, the recovery periods were longer. Connor was required to be in a fixator for about six months in order for the bones to heal and grow. He was then required to undergo physical therapy for a few months after that leaving the total recovery time to about nine to 10 months, almost a year. Looking back, he feels that giving up those few years in his life to have all four surgeries was well worth it, and he has had many advantages just by having the operations performed.

Connor was lucky enough to have the medical team at Kernan train doctors at a hospital closer to his home in Chesapeake Beach, Md., which enabled him to perform his physical therapy and outpatient care so he and his family didn't have to make several trips to Baltimore.

When Connor was 16, the Discovery Channel chronicled the lives of little people and Connor's surgery story was featured. Connor was able to attend medical conferences and speak to doctors about the procedure. The show discussed the debate amongst the little people community. Some feel that it is simply a cosmetic procedure done so one can fit in. Connor had the procedure for practical reasons.

"It's not like I was trying to deny who I am, I'm just trying to make life easier," Connor says.

Having the surgery has helped Connor accomplish everyday things such as driving a car and even helps with his hobbies such as snowboarding and skate boarding.

Connor mentioned that his parents did not pressure him into having any of the surgeries. They were happy no matter what he decided to do. He feels lucky to have such a supportive family because in a lot of other situations, most children do not have a say — their parents make all of the decisions.

Connor had a busy ride at Frostburg State. During his senior year, he was elected as president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, he was the photo editor for *The Bottom Line*, FSU's student newspaper, worked with the FSU Annual Fund phonathon and worked for *Profile* magazine (some of his photos are featured in the edition!). He interned at a Capitol Hill newspaper and has big dreams of being a top photographer.

— Michael Boyle



Kris Connor

Inc. in Sterling, Va. Brian is the director of marketing communications for Sport and Health Clubs' corporate office in Vienna, Va.

**Regina Estelle (Culler) Lewis** and her husband, John, announce the birth of twins, Deacon Douglas and Hayden Dale, on July 3, 2005.

**Tricia Lynn Anthony** married Garnet Lee Stevens II on Sept. 3, 2005, in Rouzerville, Pa. Tricia is employed as a paralegal with a law firm in Frederick, Md. The couple also resides in Frederick.

## 1998

**Callie Virginia Cornelius** graduated in May 2005 with a Master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University. Callie teaches social studies at Sherando High School in Stephens City, Va. She was also a finalist for the Frederick County, Va., Teacher of the Year Award.

**Steven Christian Doll** married Kimberly L. Vogel on June 25, 2005, in Pikesville Md. Steven is a physician's assistant for Advanced Centers for Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine in Owings Mills.

**Jeremy Lynn Holler** married Tara L. Winger on May 7, 2005, on the beach in Duck, N.C. Jeremy is employed as a deputy sheriff with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Md.

**Dana Felise Kelly** married William Percy James III in Cumberland. Dana graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law and is an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore County.

**Melissa Lyn (Dunning) O'Brien** is employed with Charles Cole Memorial Hospital's physical therapy clinic in Smethport, N.Y. She is also an athletic trainer at Smethport Area Junior-Senior High School. Melissa was recently recognized for saving the life of young athlete during a wrestling tournament by using an automatic external defibrillator.

**Todd Andrew Vogtman** is an elementary school teacher in the Allegany County Public Schools.

**Brian Oettinger** is assistant vice president and financial advisor at Sandy Spring Bank in Olney, Md. In 2004, he received an executive's certificate in financial planning from George-

town University and has been approved to the use 'The Certified Financial Planning™' designation.

## 1999

**Kimberly Ann (Mryncza) Burton** welcomed Jacob Matthew Burton on Aug. 6, 2005.

**Danelle Nichole Fike** married Jay DeWitt Conaway on July 17, 2004. Danelle is employed as a medical social worker and licensed therapist at Family Medicine in Morgantown, W.Va.

**Edward William Hottle** is Gallaudet University's first full-time head football coach since 1985. Edward previously served as head coach at Calvert High School (Md.) and was assistant coach at Frostburg State, Denison University and Wesley College.

**Paula René Miller** married Richard J. Knipple on Nov. 6, 2004. Paula is employed as a scientist with Digene Corp. in Gaithersburg, Md.

**Christopher John Yozwiak** married Stacy L. Wiza on Oct. 30, 2004, in Easton, Pa. Christopher is employed with Wells Fargo Financial Acceptance of Allentown. The couple resides in Kempton, Pa.

## 2000

**Jennifer Lynn (Panther) Bishoff** teaches science at Calvary Christian Academy in Cresaptown, Md.

**Eileen Marie Moore** married Eric Tyler Darr on April 17, 2004, in Hagerstown, Md. Eileen is employed as an elementary school teacher in Washington County.

**Travis Wayne Growden-Gilmore** was accepted into the College of Notre Dame's Ph.D. program in Instructional Leadership for Changing Populations in the fall of 2005. He plans to research the power structures and how they react with the quality of instructional services children often receive in urban environments. He was also recently a speaker at the Coalition of Independent School Renewal at the Wilmington Friends School, where he addressed how homophobia in the schools creates poor academic achievement for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 20     | Alumni Association Annual Meeting        |
| May 20     | Crystal Gala honoring Dr. Catherine Gira |
| May 25     | Senior Send Off                          |
| June 3     | Golden Anniversary for the Class of 1956 |
| Oct. 6-8   | FSU Family Weekend                       |
| Oct. 20-21 | Class of '66 Reunion Weekend             |
| Oct. 26-29 | Homecoming 2006                          |

*For more information or to volunteer for an event, call 301/687-4068.*

**Joseph Adam Latta** married Mary K. Fahr on June 18, 2005, in Hagerstown, Md. Joseph is employed as an industrial engineer with Berwick Offray in Hagerstown.

**Quentin Tyrone Lowe** announces the birth of Cornell LJ Lowe on April 28, 2005. Quentin also received his Master of Arts in Liberal and Professional Studies from Towson University in May 2005.

**Bradley Wayne Moore** married Christina McAllister on Sept. 3, 2005. Bradley is employed with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation in Frederick, Md.

**Christina Rae Whetzell** married Kevin Schmohl on Aug. 17, 2002. They have one daughter, Ava Raye, born on May 23, 2005. Christina has been teaching art at Johnson-Williams Middle School in Berryville, Va.

## 2001

**Richard Rayman Berkley** married Ashley B. Schrock on July 23, 2005. Richard is physical education teacher in the Philadelphia School District.

**Renee Marie (Pone) Estrada** welcomed a baby girl, Illiana Rose, on Dec. 16, 2004.

**Lauren Suzanne Aycock** married **Brian Parmentier** (Class of '01) on Oct. 9, 2005. Lauren is employed at the community music school in Washington, D.C., while Brian is employed at a television news station. The couple resides in Silver Spring, Md.

**Laura Aileen LaFleur** married Kelly Todd Smith on July 10, 2004. Laura is employed by the State of Maryland. The couple resides in Mercersburg, Pa.

**Amanda Michelle Paul** married **Sam White** (Class of '96) on Oct. 11, 2003. The couple resides in Mount Savage, Md.

## 2002

**April Michelle Lashley** married Cody Dustin Brenneman on Aug. 7, 2004. April is a civil engineer at FMSM Engineers, Inc.



Mr. & Mrs. Brent Stum

**Kathryn Elizabeth Harrington** married **Brent Stum** (Class of '01) on June 25, 2005. Brent is a teacher with Charles County Public Schools. The couple resides in Calvert County, Md.

**Kristin Dawn Hitchins** married **Eric Joseph Moore** (Class of '00) on Sept. 4, 2004. Kristin is employed at Towson University while Eric is completing his doctoral studies in applied physics at UMBC.

**Andrew Michael Crouse** married Mary-Elizabeth Thompson on Aug. 8, 2004, in Hagerstown, Md. Andrew is a teacher at South Hagerstown High School.

**Danielle S. Foote** graduated from Alfred University with a Master of Professional Studies in Community Services and Administration in December 2004. Danielle is an admissions counselor at FSU.

## Lost Frostburg Paper

You may remember *The State-to-Date* and even *The Bottom Line* as campus newspapers at Frostburg State. But does anyone remember *The College Flyer*?

The Special Collections staff at FSU's Lewis J. Ort Library is seeking information on this short-lived publication from the 1930s. If you have any information, please contact the FSU Library's Special Collection Office at 301/687-4889.



## It's Officially Out of this World! Frostburg Graduate Sworn in as Astronaut

He's been dunked in the water and left in the woods; he's floated in mid-air; he's flown jets and absorbed stacks of technical information; he's experienced oxygen deprivation and "helmet fire." Now, after 18 months of intensive training, **Richard "Ricky" Arnold II**, FSU's "Bobcat in Space," is one step closer to leaving the planet.



Ricky Arnold, astronaut

Arnold (Class of '85) was sworn in to the NASA astronaut corps on Feb. 10 as Mission Specialist-Educator. He joined 10 other new astronauts, including two other Educator Astronauts.

"What we were doing was basic training. Now we'll be doing specific training for a year or two. I just went through EVA training — extra-vehicular activity — space walks, walking on the moon," he says.

He'll soon train to use the space shuttle's robotic arm. And he's learning Russian for work with the International Space Station.

He now can fly T-38 jets and has trained in a motion-based shuttle simulator, with an instructor adding simulated obstacles at will.

"The busiest time is while launching, about eight minutes. The amount of stuff trainers are capable of 'breaking' in that time is unbelievable," he says. "We call it 'helmet fire,' there's so much going on, both in the shuttle cockpit and between your ears."

As for when he gets to go into space, "That's the million dollar question." More will be known when the shuttle is returned to regular flight.

Arnold's main designation is mission specialist-educator, a program in its formative stages, an extension of the plan to send teacher Christa McAuliffe into space in 1986. She perished in the explosion of the Shuttle Challenger.

Unlike McAuliffe, a civilian, Arnold and his three fellow mission specialist-educators are fully trained astronauts. Education is their primary mission, but they also perform the tasks of any astronaut. Arnold's first assignment is evaluating the components Japan built for the ISS.

Arnold has already visited schools and a science fair, where he was encouraged by what he saw.

"Kids still do get excited about space flight," he says. "Today's students are going to be the ones walking on the moon and Mars."

NASA has formed the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers to encourage math and science education.

"The thing we recognize is there are only four of us. Our success depends on our teaching colleagues. They help us by telling us what they need," he says.

Arnold has said being an astronaut was a boyhood dream, but one he had set aside by the time he headed to FSU to study accounting. A required science class re-ignited the spark. In his senior year, 400-level biology classes shared his schedule with 400-level accounting classes.

Arnold later returned to FSU to earn his teaching certification in 1988. He taught while working on a master's in marine, estuarine and environmental science at the University of Maryland.

His career has taken him all over the earth, doing marine sciences aboard ship and teaching in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Romania.

Outer space may be the next logical step.

"There's always a lot of choices that come up in life," Arnold said in an interview with Baltimore's WJZ-TV, "and if you pay attention at those crossroads, you can end up doing some interesting things."

—Liz Douglas Medcalf

**Jennifer Jean (Fazenbaker) Porter** is a teacher at Keyser High School in Keyser, W.Va.

**Robert Jason Wentz** married Kristy Marie Miller on Dec. 11, 2004, in Hanover, Pa. Robert is employed as a financial analyst with Citicorp.

**Jennifer Louise Snow** married Brian McLucas on Nov. 5, 2005, in Hagerstown, Md. Jennifer is employed with the Washington County Health Department in the Addiction and Mental Health Division, and Brian is an assistant manager with Adidas America. The couple also resides in Hagerstown.

**Angela Jean Moberly** married Joshua T. Miles on Oct. 1, 2005 in Clear Spring, Md.

## 2003

**Angela Lynn Laffey** married Wayne Boal on Aug. 21, 2004, in Westernport, Md. Angela is employed with the James Law Firm.

**Christy Dawn (Pressman) Bucy** is an elementary school teacher in the Allegany County Public School System.

**Daniel Paul Eckenrode** opened Free State Mortgage LLC, a mortgage broker business, in June 2005. He serves as president and has eight employees serving residents of Maryland.

**Paul William Fulk** married Kimberly Spielman on May 6, 2005, in Martinsburg, W.Va. Paul is employed with the city of Hagerstown. The couple resides in Sharpsburg.

**Emily Louise Baranowski** married **Azal Khan** (Class of '03) on Jan. 15, 2005, in Las Vegas, Nev. Among their wedding party was **Ari Perril** (Class of '02), **Andy Mulieri** (Class of '02), **Jonas Durst** (Class of '04), **Lindsey Hall** (Class of '03) and **Adrienne Liebal** (Class of '04). The couple resides in Nashville, Tenn. Emily is preceptor at Hemophilia Health Services, a freelance advertising writing for Business Outlooks LLC, and teaches swim lessons at the YMCA. Azal works at Progress Inc., a non-profit agency that helps adults with disabilities. He moonlights at Huntsman Entertainment, a studio on Music Row. When they aren't working, Emily and Azal enjoy the arts and entertainment scene in Nashville, fixing up their 1950s craftsman cottage and hanging out on their deck with their dog, Kaycee, and friends and neighbors.

**Jillian Mary Edmiston** married **Michael Mosier** (Class of '02) on April 17, 2004. Michael is computer science teacher for Howard County Public Schools. Jillian is a project engineer with Centex Construction Corp.

**Laura Lee Windsor** married Christopher Quinn in September 2004. The couple welcomed a son

on Feb. 1, 2005. Laura is working toward a master's in curriculum and instruction while teaching in Prince George's County.

**Benjamin Ray Russo** played "Eddie" in the Bay Theatre Company's production of "Fool for Love."

**Andrew Lee White** married Tara B. Burdock on Dec. 11, 2004. They reside in Frostburg. Andrew is employed at the Department of Juvenile Services Green Ridge Youth Center.

## 2004

**Sarah M. Bittner** is an elementary school teacher in the Allegany County Public Schools.

**Deron R. Crawford** married Megan E. Bowman on July 16, 2005, in Hagerstown, Md. Deron is an assistant principal at Western Heights Middle School. The couple resides in Hagerstown.

**Heather Lynne Figura** is a learning support teacher at Parkside Elementary School in LaVale, Md.

**Sherry Lynn Hartman** is teaches math at Calvary Christian Academy in Cresaptown, Md.

**Amanda Jo Maust** is an English teacher at Mount Savage School.

**Amber Ballases** married **Charles Robert Nolan** (Class of '03) on Oct. 2, 2004 in LaVale, Md. Amber is pursuing a master's degree in education. Charles is employed by CSX Transportation in Cumberland, Md. The couple resides in Frostburg.

**Paul Peluso** is working as a writer at The View Newspapers covering news, politics, etc.

**Kelly Miller** married Richard Secrest on May 21, 2005, in Hagerstown, Md. They reside in Mercersburg, Pa. Kelly is a third-grade teacher at Lincolnshire Elementary School.

**Jeremy Scott Shupp** married Kendra Hause on July 9, 2005, in Hagerstown. Jeremy is a seventh-grade math teacher at Springfield Middle School.

## 2005

**Lisa Beeman** is a part-time planner for Mineral County, W.Va.

**Julie Ann Bonnett** is a math teacher at Brad-dock Middle School in Cumberland, Md.

**Elizabeth Anne Pannone** married Stephen J. Buffa on June 11, 2005. Elizabeth is a third-grade teacher at Parker Elementary School, N.J. The couple resides in Lawrenceville, N.J.

continued▶

Monday - Got up. Swam.  
Tuesday - Got up. Swam.  
Wednesday - Got up. Swam.  
Thursday - Someone tapped on the bowl.  
Friday - Got up. Swam.



**Let us know of any “earth-shaking” developments in your life!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name

Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Email

Graduation Date/Major

Employer

Job Title

### News About Yourself:

News and photos should be addressed to: *Profile*, 228 Hitchins, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532-2303. You can e-mail to [alumni@frostburg.edu](mailto:alumni@frostburg.edu) or FAX us at 301/687-4069. You can also send us your info via our Web site: [www.frostburg.edu/](http://www.frostburg.edu/) (click on "Alumni").

**Shawna Marie DeVore** is teaching Pre-K at Bel Air and Parkside elementary schools.

**Trisha Suzanne Dowden** is employed as an elementary school teacher for Loudoun County, Va., Public Schools.

**Whitney Blair Gotay** is an art resource teacher in the Allegany County Public School System.

**Edward Red Hampton** is a fifth-grade teacher at South Penn Elementary School.

**Jennifer Ann Hendershot** has published her first book of poetry entitled, "Because You Asked." She is the editor of *PublishAmerica*, a Frederick print-on-demand publishing company.



Larry D. Kump

**Robert Rentschler** is the new principal at Warm Springs Intermediate School in Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

**Larry D. Kump** was recognized by the advisory board of the Maryland Classified Employees Association (MCEA) of Western Maryland on Nov. 4, 2005, for his hard work and dedication to state employee workplace justice. Larry serves as the president of the MCEA Public Safety Non-Custody Employees Chapter. He has also been elected as director of his local Rotary Club.

## Friends

**Reida Krieger** is a reading recovery instructor at Orchard View Elementary School in Winchester, Va.

## FABG Plans Exciting Events!

The Frostburg Alumni Business Group is planning great upcoming events. Unveiled last spring in Washington, D.C., the group is setting its sights to expand to Baltimore and the surrounding area.

The FABG took over Homecoming and was a visible presence both on campus and off with the [www.gotfrostburg.com](http://www.gotfrostburg.com) T-shirts positioned as the must-have souvenir. A January event was held at the Saphire Café in Bethesda (which is owned by FSU graduate **Jason Bang**) and the group heard **Bill Buckley** from CGS (also a grad) speak about marketing challenges and specifically some of the challenges your alma mater faces going forward. Bill's talk was both inspiring and educational.

In addition, our first attempts at guerilla marketing achieved a modicum of success as our banner was displayed at two broadcasts of the *Today Show*, one in New York and one in Torino, Italy.

Please register at the [www.gotfrostburg.com](http://www.gotfrostburg.com) Web site so you can be included in future networking events. Our mission is to provide professionals the opportunity to leverage the FSU experience to help each other be MORE successful.

*Join today — it's free!*

**www.gotfrostburg.com**

# got frostburg?



## In Memoriam

### Alumni

- 1925 Emma Weisenborn**  
Nov. 21, 2005
- 1931 Helen H. Brumbaugh**  
Oct. 25, 2005
- 1934 Virginia Genevieve Killen**  
Oct. 18, 2005
- 1941 Mary W. Peretti**  
Dec. 13, 2005
- 1943 Marjorie Hamill**  
Nov. 17, 2005  
**Mary Margaret Winner**  
Nov. 22, 2005
- 1946 M. Idabelle Ewing Neilson**  
Oct. 14, 2005
- 1948 Christine Stakem**  
Nov. 10, 2005
- 1952 Ruthie Farrell Hilderbrand**  
Dec. 4, 2005  
**Charles Hamilton Slick**  
Jan. 6, 2006  
**Gwen T. Treiber**  
Dec. 15, 2005
- 1953 Mae Louise Mathews**  
Nov. 22, 2005
- 1954 Alan Charles Sweitzer**  
July 23, 2005
- 1955 Wilda Winterberg Jeffries**  
Jan. 18, 2006
- 1960 Laura Hamilton Clise**  
Dec. 13, 2005  
**Betty L. Foy**  
June 16, 2005
- 1965 Robert W. Myers**  
Sept. 21, 2005

- 1966 Giles Eugene Maurey**  
Sept. 5, 2005  
**Henry L. McRobie**  
Jan. 7, 2006
- 1967 Edward Francis Dressman**  
Sept. 21, 2005
- 1969 Linda Barkman**  
Dec. 8, 2005
- 1982 Mark Carson Lyons**  
Nov. 25, 2004
- 1994 John Aloysius McDonald**  
Nov. 6, 2005
- 1995 Beth Ann Moore**  
Oct. 9, 2005

### Friends

- D. Janet Stearn Bartik**  
Dec. 19, 2005
- Grace Bittner**  
Nov. 5, 2005
- Robert Brian Boileau**  
Jan. 29, 2005
- Rhoda Byrd**  
Sept. 12, 2005
- E. Gilbert Glime**  
Sept. 4, 2005
- Verl A. Perkins**  
Oct. 22, 2005
- Walter J. Rissler**  
June 1, 2005
- Ralph Race**  
Feb. 20, 2006 (*see story*)
- J. Glenn Beall, Jr.**  
March 24, 2006 (*see story*)

## Ralph Race

Long-time Frostburg native and University advocate and supporter **Ralph M. Race** died on Feb. 20. He was 97.

As a young man, Race worked in several jobs including his family's livestock business. He opened a soda shop in Frostburg called "Ralph's" which became a popular hangout for college students. In the early 1930s, Race joined Fidelity Bank as a trainee. Forty-four years later, he retired as president and chairman of the board of Fidelity. His community commitments were countless, including a 73-year affiliation with the Rotary Club and many City of Frostburg and local civic committees.

In the 30s, Race attended Frostburg for three weeks before dropping out. "I was as green as grass and it didn't dawn on me that most of my classes would be in education," Race recalled. "Besides, I was about 16 or 17 years old. At that age, I already knew everything."



Ralph M. Race

Race took an active role with a group of city residents who helped Frostburg State President Lillian Compton rescue the college from closure in the 1940s. He joined the FSU Foundation, Inc., in 1976 and two years later became treasurer, a post he would hold for 12 years. In 1993, Race was the first-ever recipient of the Pinnacle Award, an honor bestowed by the FSU Foundation.

Race was a firm believer in Frostburg's university and would visit campus often. One time in his later years, the ever-witty Race quipped, "Next to me, Old Main looks modern." His presence is missed both on campus and in the community.

— TD

## J. Glenn Beall Jr.

U.S. Sen. **J. Glenn Beall Jr.**, who served 12 years representing Maryland in Congress and all of his life serving his community, died on March 24 after a long illness. He was 78.



J. Glenn Beall, Jr.

Beall, R-Md., served as Maryland's U.S. senator from 1971 to 1977, before that serving as the 6th District U.S. representative and as a delegate to the Maryland General Assembly, much of his time there as minority leader.

In the Senate, Beall sponsored legislation that created the Senate Budget Office and the Congressional Budget Office and served as one of the first members of the Senate Budget Committee. He was a principal sponsor of The Physician Manpower Shortage Act, which brought more doctors to rural areas, and the C&O Canal Development Act, establishing the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, among others.

After leaving office, he continued his tradition of public service, serving numerous national, state and local initiatives, most recently chairing the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, dedicated to preserving the history of the C&O Canal.

He co-founded the Cumberland insurance business, Beall, Garner & Geare Inc., now part of The CBIZ Companies.

His connection to FSU began with his first six years of school, spent at the Frostburg State Teacher's College Training School. That connection will continue into the future through the Ort Library's Beall Archives and the J. Glenn Beall Jr. Institute for Public Affairs.

The Beall Archives house the papers of Beall, his senator father, their wives and his brother, George Beall, who as U.S. Attorney for Maryland had a pivotal role in the investigation into wrongdoing by Vice President Spiro Agnew.

The Beall Institute came about some years ago when Beall first became ill and started to think about ways to leave a legacy for the next generation — "something to get young people involved in government and public service," he said at the Institute's dedication in 2002.

It was eventually decided to create a public service institute to promote a spirit of civic responsibility and an increased knowledge of government affairs and the political process at all levels. In addition to scholarships, the Institute supports internships, outreach programs and research fellowships — in particular to make use of the wealth of information to be found in the Beall Archives.

— LDM

By Mike Mathews

Originally published in *The Cumberland Times-News*.  
Reprinted with permission.

## Bob Wells Field is a Reality

# Beloved Coach Honored at Homecoming



Coach Wells poses next to the expansion plans for the new Bob Wells Field, named at the 2005 Homecoming.

The day that many alumni, school officials and friends of Frostburg State University had long been waiting for officially arrived over Homecoming.

The act of naming the baseball field in honor of the winningest coach in school history, a member of four halls of fame and former FSU instructor of the year, was labeled a “no-brainer” of a decision by most, even the chancellor of the University of Maryland System.

Quoting Shakespeare, in front of friends and former players from California to New Jersey with a backdrop of cold drizzle and fog that no doubt

“You’ve never done anything alone. There are always more people involved. The strength, support, love, the things required to go and do everything you need to do comes from the people you love.”

Wells built a national baseball power at Frostburg State, and in 29 seasons piled up a 600-327-3 record. The Bobcats were fifth in the NAIA World Series in 1972, were nationally ranked nine times in one 10-year span (1967-1976) and won 11 district or conference championships in the 1970s.

A member of the Bobcat, Maryland State Baseball Coaches and University of Rhode Island halls

brought back memories of weather conditions of games gone by, a humbled Bob Wells admitted a bit of uneasiness about the whole situation.

Whether it be on the baseball field or in the classroom, teaching is what has always driven Wells. On Saturday morning of Homecoming, fighting back emotions at times, Wells turned the library patio overlooking Bob Wells Field into a makeshift classroom.

Wells said he always wondered why some people, when receiving some sort of recognition, would say they were both honored and humbled. He understood the honored part but not the humility. At least not until lately.

“There are a lot of memories, and I feel those memories have a lot to do with more than just baseball,” Wells told the assembled crowd. “In 1965, the first game was played on that field and it was my first game, too. The next three years here, my children were born, and I don’t remember a time until their high school years that they weren’t always here.

of fame, Wells won 16 baseball coach of the year awards, served as athletics director in 1977-1978 and was the head basketball coach in 1968-1969, leading the Bobcats to the Maryland Intercollegiate championship that season.

Wells played college baseball at the University of Rhode Island. The native New Englander’s accent may still be evident, but nothing is more important to him than the people he met and students he taught at Frostburg State.

“When Shakespeare wrote that the whole world was a stage, he was in effect saying that all of us, therefore, are players on that great stage,” Wells said.

“Playwrights like to tell us that there’s no such thing as a minor role. We’ve all played significant roles, no matter how minor it might appear.

“That stage down below,” he said of the baseball field, “had hundreds of players and they all played significant roles, no matter how minor they may have seemed.



Wells posed with Bobcat Baseball players from the early 1970s.



"That field has been dedicated before, thousands and thousands of times by those hundreds of guys. Every act committed, every thrown ball, batted ball, slide, squeeze play, are acts of dedication. Not just dedication of a field, but dedication to their own desire to learn and, in fact, dedication to learning itself.

"That stage is more than a ball field. It's located in the middle of an institution of learning," Wells continued. "Everything that takes place on that field had better be educational or it doesn't belong.

"That stage is more than a ball field. It's a classroom, a laboratory. Sometimes, the usual methods were lecture and discussion, and certainly lots of drill. It was a learning classroom.

"Other days, in order to test what we've learned, in the crucible we call competition, it became a laboratory. It's a hall of learning, not unlike these buildings."

While there are buildings on campus named in honor of others at FSU, the baseball field will be the first athletic field.

"It's a hall of learning, and I'm honored to be affiliated somehow with a hall of learning," Wells said. "That's the greatest honor. I'm proud of all the players, who were learners. I'm proud of all you've achieved since you left here. I'm proud to think that maybe I had a little bit to do with something there. I'm proud to have been one of your teachers.

"Certainly, I'm honored. But far more important than that, I am humbled by it."

Wells asked that somewhere in the facility be enshrined the name of Pat McKenna, a popular team manager in the early 1970s who died in a Frostburg fire almost 30 years ago. "There's no name more symbolic of everything that that hall of learning stands for than the name of Pat McKenna."

### University Officials Outline Plan for Wells Stadium

Officials from Frostburg State University and the FSU Baseball Alumni Association unveiled architect's drawings of Bob Wells Field, a three-phase project with an expected price tag of \$1.5 million.

The stadium phases, and projected fund-raising goals:

\*Phase 1: Scoreboard, press box, concessions, storage area, seating for 150, \$250,000.

\*Phase 2: Locker rooms, clubhouse areas, restrooms, storage areas, \$750,000

\*Phase 3: Bleacher seating, \$500,000

If you're interested in contributing to the stadium project, please contact Jack Aylor at the FSU Foundation at 301-687-4068.



### Baseball Forever: Mirror of American Life

## FSU Conference Will Celebrate America's Pastime

By Liz Douglas Medcalf

**Dr. John Wiseman**, in his many years teaching in FSU's Department of History, has a philosophy about conferences here at FSU: If you hold them, they will come.

He's organized four major conferences at Frostburg, two on Maryland life and culture, one on film, television and history and one on the legacy of World War II. They drew participants and contributors from across the nation and attracted names like Dr. Benjamin Spock and Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

"The thing I like about having conferences at Frostburg is bringing people here, people who wouldn't normally come here," Wiseman says.

This time, it's all about baseball. The National Pastime. The game that launched a thousand metaphors. And it's that fascination that Wiseman wants to tap.

"Changes in the game grew out of changes in American society," Wiseman says.

The conference is called Baseball Forever: Mirror of American Life. It will be held at FSU from Nov. 8 to 11. Keynote speaker will be longtime *Sports Illustrated* columnist and author, Frank Deford, a member of the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Sportscasters and Sportswriters. Among his many fiction and non-fiction books are a number on baseball history.

"He's a perfect keynoter," Wiseman says.

Wiseman says the people he has asked to make presentations have all been universally enthusiastic. He's reached out across the country, looking for a variety of presenters, truly informed fans, historians, sports writers, all with the common trait of a passion for the game.

Among the other speakers who have confirmed that they will attend will be retired FSU baseball coach Bob Wells, Bob Wood (the son of Smokey Joe Wood), *Baltimore Sun* sportswriter John Eisenberg and veteran sports announcer Ted Patterson.

Some pieces have yet to fall into place, but the majority of the conference structure is there, Wiseman says. Funding may dictate the additional elements, he says.

"There are a lot of people out there who still love the game. They like to talk about it and hear other people talk about it," Wiseman says.

And while Frostburg may not be known for its role in baseball history, it should be.

Wiseman says when he was speaking to members of the Major League Baseball Players Association, one, after studying a map, finally said, "Where's Frostburg?"

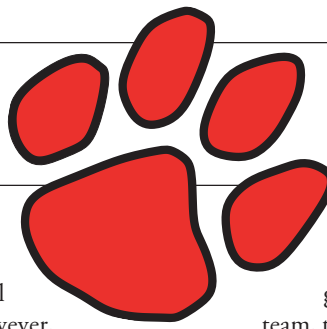
As it turns out, the area surrounding FSU has strong claims to baseball past and present, from Lonaconing native and Baseball Hall of Famer Robert Moses "Lefty" Grove to Cumberland native Sam Perlozzo who is managing the Baltimore Orioles with Westernport native Leo Mazzone as his pitching coach. In between, there have been a number of notable players, including John Kruk in the '80s and '90s, Bob Robertson in the '60s and '70s and Jack Fisher in the late '50s and '60s.

And the baseball links don't stop there. FSU President Catherine Gira's first cousin was Jim Russell, outfielder for the Pirates, the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Braves in the '40s and early '50s.

So John Wiseman is making his pitch to make a little baseball history in Frostburg.

For more information on the Baseball Forever Conference at FSU, visit online at [www.frostburg.edu/baseballforever](http://www.frostburg.edu/baseballforever).

# Fall Sports Wrap-Up



## Women's Soccer

The women's team (11-6-3, 8-0-1 AMCC) had yet another stellar season. Head Coach Brian Parker (Class of '92) guided the Bobcats to their fifth straight AMCC Tournament Championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. For the third straight year, FSU downed Penn State Behrend in the conference championship game. However, this season the game was decided in a shootout, with the Bobcats outscoring the Lions 4-3. In the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, Frostburg State fell to Denison 2-0.

The Bobcats garnered numerous post-season awards. Six players earned all-conference honors including Danielle Carter, who was named the AMCC Co-Player of the Year. Jodie Gittleston was named to the Jewish Sports Review 2005 All-America Soccer Team and Beth Hlebasko was selected to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District II First Team. Hlebasko finishes her career at Frostburg State as the school record holder with 33 assists.

## Football

The FSU football team (6-5, 1-4 Atlantic Central Football Conference) rebounded from a disappointing 2004 campaign with a much improved 2005 squad. The Bobcats thrilled fans all-season long with their late-game heroics. FSU earned its first win of the season in thrilling fashion, blocking a Montclair State 31-yard field-goal attempt with no time remaining to earn a 17-14 victory. Two weeks later, the Bobcats used a missed two-point conversion and a crucial fourth-down stop with 22 seconds left to escape with a 27-26 win over Buffalo State. Against Westminster, freshman kicker Mark Sedlock booted a 41-yard field goal with 23 seconds showing on the clock to give FSU a 16-13 win, and the very next week, FSU needed overtime to defeat Waynesburg, 17-10. Under sixth-year Head Coach Rubin Stevenson,

the Bobcats were selected to host the Eastern College Athletic Conference Southwest Bowl Game against Moravian. However, FSU lost the contest, 14-7.

The Bobcats were honored with nine All-ACFC selections, including senior defensive end Kevin Culbert who was named the Defensive Player of the Year. Culbert was also named the Don Hansen Football Gazette All-South Region Defensive Lineman of the Year. He was selected to the Don Hansen Football Gazette All-American first team, the D3football.com All-American second team, the D3football.com All-South Region first team and the ECAC All-Southwest Region first team. He was also selected to play in the East Coast Bowl in Petersburg, Va., and the Aztec Bowl in Toluca, Mexico.

## Field Hockey

The Bobcat field hockey team (11-7) started the season red hot with four straight wins. Frostburg State would lose four out of their next five but came back with back-to-back wins over Villa Julie (3-1) and Philadelphia Biblical (4-3). FSU would close out its season winning four out of the last five games including a 1-0 win over No. 15-ranked Catholic. Goalie Kristin Cousin was selected to play in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III North/South Senior All-Star Game and five FSU players were named to the 2005 NFHCA Division III National Academic Squad. Heidi Zook, Jessica Brittingham, Brittney Blystone, Brittany Russell and Whitney Young all earned academic honors.

## Volleyball

The women's volleyball team (17-16, 7-2 AMCC) began a new era this fall under the direction of first-year Head Coach Peter Letourneau. With just

three players returning from last years Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championship team, the Bobcats struggled at the beginning part of the season with a rough non-conference schedule. FSU would rebound by winning five out of its first six conference matches. During that run, the Bobcats recorded 3-0 victories over Medaille, Mt. Aloysius, Hilbert and La Roche. After losing a hard-fought match against rival Penn State Behrend, the Bobcats finished the regular season with three straight wins. In the opening round of the AMCC Tournament, Frostburg State downed Pitt-Greensburg 3-1. Unfortunately, the team lost in the league semifinals to Penn State Altoona.

Carly McDonald, Amanda Hernandez and Amanda Frantz earned second team all-conference honors for their outstanding seasons.

## Men's Soccer

The FSU men's soccer team (9-10, 6-3 AMCC) struggled through the early part of the season with a 1-6 record. The Bobcats then went on a tear, winning five out of their next six games while outscoring opponents 17-3. After 1-0 setbacks to Penn State Behrend and La Roche, Frostburg State defeated Lake Erie and Hilbert to close out the regular season. In the opening round of the AMCC Tournament, senior Matt Moffa scored a goal with 46 seconds left in regulation to give the Bobcats a 2-1 win over rival Penn State Behrend. With the victory, FSU earned a trip to Buffalo, N.Y., to face Medaille in the semifinals. After neither team could score in regulation, the game went into overtime where FSU would eventually lose 1-0.

Five Bobcats were named to the All-AMCC team, led by Kenny Dotter, who was voted to the first team. Joining him on the all-conference list were Matt Moffa, Wyatt Sagers, Gregg Laskow and Adam Gracia.

## Brewer Receives NAACP Community Service Award



At its celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Allegany County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) presented **Ralph Brewer**, director of Athletics at

Ralph Brewer

Frostburg State, its Community Service Award.

The award acknowledges Brewer's contributions as a mentor to youth through the university's partnership in the Bridge to Youth program. The program provides disadvantaged youth in the county a means by which they both learn skills from sports instruction but also how to grow through sports participation.

About the award, Brewer said, "It is an honor to be recognized by the NAACP. The award, though, should go to all of the coaches and student-athletes who give their time and knowledge to the young men and women. Without them, the program would go nowhere. I accept this award on their behalf."

—NB





## An "Olympic" Surprise

The FSU Swim Team had a special "guest swimmer" this past fall, when Olympic swimming medalist **Michael Phelps** stopped by the Cordts Physical Education Center. Phelps, whose parents are from the Westernport area, was in town on a family matter, and needed a place to practice. The winner of six gold and two bronze Olympic medals, Phelps made a big splash with the team when he signed autographs and posed for photos.

## Cross Country

The Bobcats men's cross country team captured its fifth consecutive AMCC crown while the women's team finished third at the conference meet. During the season, the men recorded first place finishes at the Lebanon Valley Invitational and the DeSales Invitational.

The men placed seven runners on the All-AMCC team, including Marshall Lawrence, who was chosen as the Newcomer of the Year, and Head Coach Randy Lowe, who was honored as the men's Coach of the Year. Three women also took home all-league honors.

At the NCAA Mid-East Regionals, the men placed 11th out of 40 teams while the women were 19th out of 42 teams.

## Women's Tennis

The FSU women's tennis team (1-15, 1-5) struggled this past season. Frostburg State dropped its first 14 contests before defeating Chatham, 7-2, to earn its first win of the season. In the AMCC Championships, Jenn Tolbert and Reidon Dare

won their first-round singles matches to account for FSU's lone points.

Dare and Tolbert were both named to the 2005 All-AMCC women's tennis team for their efforts.

## Golf

In just its second year as an FSU sport after a 20-year hiatus, the Bobcat golf team captured the AMCC Championship after finishing seventh last year. Frostburg State shot a combined 316 to down defending AMCC champion Penn State Behrend and Pitt-Bradford, which both shot 320. Ian Estabrook fired a 76 and finished as the individual runner-up. He was joined by Ian Umphrey as the only other Bobcat selected to the All-AMCC first team.

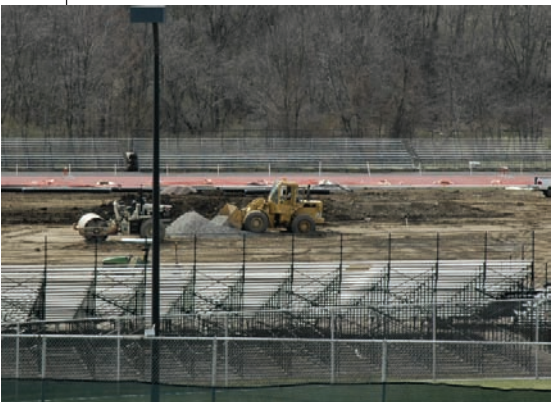
At the ECAC South Region Championship, FSU shot a two-round total of 685, to finish sixth out of 10 teams.

— Noah Becker



## Car Raffle Winners

Billy Bender Chevrolet in Grantsville and Billy Bender Carsmart in Frostburg donated a 2006 Chevrolet HHR to Frostburg State University Athletics, through the FSU Bobcat Club. Through the efforts of coaches, players and others, a raffle was staged and \$36,565 was raised to support FSU's intercollegiate athletic teams. FSU alumni Nancy and Carl Rihard of Hampstead, Md., won the HHR in a drawing held on Feb. 4. Billy Bender, also a FSU alumnus, (far right, above) is pictured presenting the keys to Carl Rihard. Looking on from left to right are Jeff Krone, director of the FSU Bobcat Club, Ralph Brewer, FSU director of athletics and Nancy Rihard.



## Bobcat Stadium Adds Turf

FSU's Bobcat Stadium received a much-needed facelift this spring with the addition of Sprinturf on its playing field.

Sprinturf is the leading American-owned installer and manufacturer of synthetic turf systems. Sprinturf revolutionized the industry by patenting and installing the first non-abrasive, non-compacting, all-rubber infill system.

Five FSU sports will directly benefit from the newly renovated field including football, men's and women's

soccer, track and field as well as women's lacrosse. Intramurals will also have a chance to host their activities on the new field.

Funding for this project came directly from designated student athletic fees.

The addition of Sprinturf is the second renovation to Bobcat Stadium since last year. In September of 2005, the stadium, which was built in 1974, saw the addition of 95 stadium lights.

—NB



*You're invited!*

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DR. CATHERINE R. GIRA  
MAY 20, 2006

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*present*

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**DR. CATHERINE R. GIRA**  
*President of Frostburg State University  
on the Occasion of Her Retirement*

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2006  
EIGHT O'CLOCK UNTIL MIDNIGHT  
LANE UNIVERSITY CENTER  
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

*Dancing and Refreshments ~ Black Tie  
Tickets \$100 per person*

*Proceeds will support the Catherine R. Gira  
Campus to Community Endowed Fund.*

*Save the Date!*

**FSU HOMECOMING OCTOBER 27-29, 2006**







## Student Documentary Profiles Alumni Living Their Dreams

**Editor's Note:** *In January of 2006, four FSU students traveled to Los Angeles, Calif., to film a documentary about Frostburg alumni who are pursuing their dreams. The idea was inspired by Roadtrip Nation, a group of three Pepperdine University graduates who, realizing they did not know what they wanted to do with their lives, set out on the open road in a green Winnebago and interviewed people about their paths in life. The original Roadtrippers have used their documentary, which has appeared on PBS, to inspire people, young and old, to think outside the box and follow their own passions in life. FSU students were inspired to make their own trip.*

By Ty DeMartino (Class of '90)

### A "Roadtrip" Diary

If you know one thing about me, it's that I love Hollywood — the glitz, the glamour, the glitterati. So when Dr. Tom Bowling, associate vice president of Student and Educational Services at FSU, asked me to partner with him in taking a team of students to L.A. to film a documentary about Frostburg alumni in the entertainment industry, I literally extended my arm and said, "Twist it."

And in that "twist" of fate, "Roadtrip: Frostburg" was born.

Tom stumbled across the original "Roadtrip Nation" concept online. He clicked on the link and was inspired by the three Pepperdine grads who traveled the nation and interviewed everyone — from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Starbucks Coffee Chairman Howard Schultz to "Elvis" Impersonator Bruce Nye and "Manny" the Lobster Fisherman — for their documentary. From there, Tom thought, "Why can't FSU do its own version of this trip?"

With an enthusiastic thumbs-up from the FSU executive committee, Tom and I set out to create



The FSU students who traveled to L.A. to film the documentary included Carolyn Killus, Ron Correa, Desiree Lake and Ashli Mazer.

FSU's own version of Roadtrip Nation, but we veered off in a slightly different direction. The focus would be Frostburg alumni and the location would be sunny Los Angeles (it was January in Frostburg, after all.) The first order of business was to assemble a team of students who could not only bring documentary skills to the trip, but who also were at a crossroads in their lives.

Tom had met a student named Ron in his Freshman Orientation class. A photography major, Ron had decided against a career in the military and surrendered a full-tuition ride to the Air Force Academy to attend FSU. My student writing intern in the Office of News and Media Services, a senior named Carolyn, was a mass communications major with a passion for filming and editing and was admittedly clueless about her future post-graduation. We quickly targeted Ron and Carolyn as the basis of our team, to which they readily accepted.



After weeks of on-campus publicity, 16 students applied. Like two casting directors with a stack full of resumes and headshots before them, Tom and I set out to find the perfect team members to round out our trip.

Enter Desiree — a free-spirited freshman Mass Comm student with a zeal for life and openness to learn about L.A. and meet new people. Ashli, a sophomore double major in Theatre and Mass Comm (who rivals my knowledge of Hollywood trivia) told of her dream to move to L.A. and become an actress. We quickly found our remaining cast members. Carolyn and Desiree could take the lead in filming. Ron could document the trip in photos. And Ashli could serve as a lead interviewer. We were missing only one tiny thing — alumni to interview.

In their first meeting together, the four students were given a list of FSU graduates living in the L.A. area and were asked to choose ones that they wanted to meet and, more importantly, hear their stories. Six alumni (an actor and actress, a producer, two marketing execs and a production assistant) were selected by the students. With every phone call to set up an interview, each alum reacted the same way — with enthusiasm and eagerness to meet with the students.

### Day One: Frostburg to Hollywood

On the morning of Jan. 8, the “Roadtrip Frostburg” team flew to L.A. Our first order of business was a crash course in “Documentaries 101.” Tom had arranged for his friend and award-winning documentarian Brent Scarpo to meet and give us a hard, fast tutorial. Brent, who has visited Frostburg several times to present his documentary *Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium*, met us at our hotel, shared footage and prepped the students on interviewing and filming techniques. While Brent stressed the importance of preparedness for the interviews, he also told the students how it was crucial to think on their feet (a valuable piece of information).

### Day Two: Roadtrip Nation, Costa Mesa

Through networking with the original Pepperdine roadtrippers, Tom managed to get the FSU team in for a tour of the Roadtrip Nation headquarters in Costa Mesa. After a brief stop at Laguna Beach for the students (something about a T.V. show on MTV??? I’m not sure...) and a time for the students to dip their toes in the Pacific, we landed at the Roadtrip Nation headquarters, greeted by a small fleet of green Winnebagos. The three original Roadtrippers — Brian, Mike and Nate — gave us a tour of their production studio/warehouse and allowed our FSU team to try out their fresh interview skills on them. Ashli was the lead on the interview and prepared a set of questions. When



The Frostburg gang was inspired by the original “roadtrippers” from Roadtrip Nation (back row, left to right) — Nathan Gebhard, Brian McAllister and Mike Marriner — who traveled around the country in their green Winnebago.

the cameras started rolling, a sudden wind blew her list of questions off her lap, forcing Ashli to think on her feet. Brian, Mike and Nate told our FSU students some of the logistics of taping on the road, but also encouraged our team to seize opportunities during this trip to learn about themselves and their own directions in life.

### Day Three: Jennifer Keister, Hollywood

While Lana Turner might have been discovered at the corner of Hollywood and Vine, we discovered FSU theatre grad Jennifer Keister (Class of '98) on the corner of Hollywood and Highland for our interview. Jen moved to L.A. from New York a few years ago to pursue acting in film and television. We established a great filming location at Hollywood and Highland with the famed “Hollywood” sign as Jen’s backdrop. Perfect, right? Not so for the Hollywood and Highlands security. Tom met with the H&H authorities who informed him, despite telling them that our documentary was for educational purposes only, that we’d need a \$2,000 permit to film on that spot. We packed up and scooted our location to a park a few blocks north across from the Hollywood Bowl. There, Jen shared her views on attending a small school like Frostburg versus a huge conservatory (Jen had been in an estimated 17 theatre shows while at FSU!) and how everyone must



Jennifer Keister (Class of '98).

find their passion and stick with it. Later, Tom received a call from the manager of Hollywood and Highland complex saying we could shoot for “free” since our film was for educational purposes. But the footage was already “in the can” (as they say...)

### Andrew Hossom, West Los Angeles

After a quick bite to eat (thanks to the craft service expertise of Tom Bowling and Subway), the Roadtrippers said their byes to Jen and headed to the Fox Sports Headquarters to meet Andrew Hossom (Class of '94). A self-proclaimed slacker at FSU who was told by one administrator to “go to trade school,” Andrew eventually earned a geography degree. Knowledge of a specialized computer software got him a job in the direct marketing industry. That position led to his current position as the head of Fox Sports interactive, which encompasses all the web-related activities for the network. The secret of his success? Andrew managed to combine two of his greatest loves — marketing and sports — and make a career out of it.



Andrew Hossom (Class of '94)

### Day Four: John Wayne (JW) Myers, Sherman Oaks

JW Myers (Class of '88) fell in love with acting at Frostburg. Now, he’s sharing his love with others by teaching comedy improv in California. Shortly after graduating, JW and two fellow Frostburgers packed up and made their way across country with dreams of stardom. Fifteen years later, JW is the only one of the three remaining on the west



JW Myers (Class of '88)



coast. A Frostburg native, JW is now working at Big Bad Wolff Entertainment and has a film in the company's queue that he will direct. At JW's improv class, "Idiot Central," the students and Tom participated in some acting exercises and "off-the-cuff" stand-up comedy (I couldn't partake ... SOMEONE had to work the camera... darn!) The admiration JW receives from his improv students was apparent, as he continues to share his passion.

## Greg Garcia, Van Nuys

The night before our meeting, Greg Garcia (Class of '92) was on stage at the Shrine Auditorium accepting the People's Choice Award for Best New Comedy for his show *My Name is Earl*. Garcia, who created the sitcom show *Yes, Dear* has struck both ratings gold and critic raves this past season for *Earl*, a tale of a reformed crook who, with the help of Karma, attempts to right all the wrongs of his past. After a long night celebrating his win, Garcia met the FSU Roadtrippers at the Van Nuys studio for a private tour of the sets (including the



The team interviewed Greg Garcia (Class of '92) on the set of *My Name is Earl*.

Crab Shack, inspired by Frostburg's very own Repub/Diamond Lounge.) Greg shared with the students his journey and how a class in television writing at FSU led him to an internship at Warner Brothers Studios. Despite repeated closed doors (and some TV veterans telling him this type of job wasn't for him), Greg persevered and found work as a writing assistant and eventually landed jobs scripting sitcoms, which led him to the world of producing. He also spoke of his own personal belief in Karma, which follows Earl's mantra — "Do good things and good things happen." And good things are definitely happening for Greg.

Day Five:

## Philip Rosenthal, Studio City

For 23 seconds on any given day, Phil Rosenthal (Class of '83) may be broadcasting from your television. Phil, a musician who performed throughout his college days, wrote the theme song for the popular '90s sitcom *Boy Meets World*. Now,

Phil's catchy lyrics can be heard in syndication for eternity. Upon graduating Frostburg, Phil played the club scene in the D.C. area and eventually moved to L.A., where his band "Twenty-Cent Crush" performed at such legendary Hollywood hotspots at The House of Blues, The Roxy and Whiskey-A-Go-Go. Phil now focuses on writing music tracks for commercials and films in his spare time as president of Peak Advertising, an online ad agency that recently landed a contract with the Nickelodeon Channel. Phil spoke about the balance between following one's passion and juggling family responsibility and finding that healthy balance. When the students asked him to play a little of the *Boy Meets World* theme, the former rocker was quick to don sunglasses and grab his electric guitar. And the FSU team sang along.



Phil Rosenthal (Class of '83)

Day Six:

## Matt Bozin, Universal City

We were so impressed with Matt Bozin (Class of '00), the youngest alum we visited. Matt is a production assistant on the Universal Studios lot for Shady Acres Entertainment, a production company headed by Tom Shadyac who directed such box office hits as *Ace Ventura*, *Patch Adams* and *Bruce Almighty*. Matt, who helps out in all aspects of running the company, is a budding scriptwriter who spends his free-time drafting his own ideas. Like most of the other alumni, Matt came to L.A. with friends, who since returned to the East Coast. Matt's drive kept him pursuing his dream and he took small production assistant jobs on shows like *Project Greenlight*. His hard work "East Coast" mentality led to other P.A. jobs on television shows, including the late John Ritter's last sitcom *8 Simple Rules*... The night that Ritter suddenly fell ill on the set in September of 2003, Matt drove him to the hospital, where a few hours later the comedian passed away from an undetected heart ailment. Matt shared with the documentary the importance of hard work and perseverance in the industry and how making contacts in the business can lead to exciting opportunities. Matt took the Frostburg crew on a backstage tour of the sets on the Universal lot, before bidding us a farewell to our L.A. road trip.



Matt Bozin (Class of '00), second from right

## Post Production

During our last meal in L.A. at a fondue restaurant, the team had the opportunity to unwind and process the week before we flew back on Saturday a.m. But the process is still ongoing. Since returning to the FSU campus, the students watched and logged the 21 hours of footage shot, noting the significant items for inclusion in the documentary. As editing is under way, the team has split up responsibilities to include editing the footage, finding appropriate background music and collecting additional images. A tentative May premiere of the documentary is planned and the film can be used in Admissions recruiting.

This past March, Brian and Mike from Roadtrip Nation visited Frostburg to share their story with members of the FSU community. Ashli, Carolyn, Desiree and Ron joined the discussion and offered how the trip to L.A. and the interviews changed their lives. "You can live your dreams and follow your passions," Ashli told the group. "It's okay not to have the right answers," Desiree added. "I was so focused on not failing... Now I just want to find a job that makes me happy," Carolyn said. "You have to take risks...and do your own thing," Ron commented. Tom and I looked at one another: mission accomplished.

As we continue to share the story of our road trip, our enthusiasm is contagious. Some instructors are anxious to include the road trip experience in their classroom curriculum and alumni have generously offered to help out and even host future "Roadtrip: Frostburg" documentary teams. Everyone involved agrees that getting students out of the classroom and into the world is an important part of the student's educational and personal journeys.

For now, that's a "wrap," until the open road calls again.

For more information on Roadtrip Nation visit online at [www.roadtripnation.com](http://www.roadtripnation.com).

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