

The
Frostburg
State
University
Magazine

profile

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FROSTBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY



Expanding Horizons

One University. An Ever-Broader World of Experiences.

profile

Vol. 28 No. 2 Spring 2016

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Interim President

Dr. Thomas L. Bowling

Vice President for University Advancement

John T. Short, Jr., J.D.

Editor

Liz Douglas Medcalf

Profile Design

Colleen Stump

Additional Design

Ann Townsell '87 (pgs. 30-31, 37)

Contributing Writers

Noah Becker M'06

Barbara Filer

Candis Johnson

Ruth LaCourse '14

Charles Schelle

Robert Spahr '13

Kyla Welcher '16

Photographers

Noah Becker M'06

Shannon Gribble '98

Liz Douglas Medcalf

Joe Ogunsanya

Surya Dev Pendulya

Dave Romero

Rosemary Rosser '16

Maura Parks

Charles Schelle

Joni Smith

Robert Spahr '13

Ann Townsell '87

Sarah Zetlmeisl

Editorial offices are located in 228 Hitchens, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Rd., Frostburg, MD 21532-2303; phone 301.687.3171.

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From the Interim President:

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Enlarging our students' sense of what is possible – for themselves and for our world: the Frostburg experience is increasingly having that kind of impact. Stories in this issue of *Profile* demonstrate the power of mentors, faculty and staff who boost our students' confidence by listening to, and often helping to enable, their dreams.

It is not surprising that the research from the Gallup-Purdue Index reveals that the two experiences that are the most powerful predictors of professional success are 1) having a mentor and 2) being involved in a long-term project. Both of these opportunities have been embedded in Frostburg's culture for decades, and now we have the research that makes it clear that these should be an essential part of a student's experience. I am convinced that these experiences, together with the growing internationalization of the campus, are helping to make the Frostburg degree that much more valuable. Frostburg has fared very well in some recent college rankings that focus on return on investment. *The Economist* has ranked FSU in the 92nd percentile among all colleges and universities in the country on that measure – the value that we add to the lives of our graduates.

Projects take many forms – perhaps it's a student from India who is eager to share elements of his culture with those in his Frostburg home. A project may also be an internship, undergraduate research (a great example of how projects intersect with mentoring) or a leadership experience. It may also be an opportunity to be engaged in community service – here in Allegany County, elsewhere in the U.S. or on the other side of the globe. Such projects reveal that the problems that confront our world are unscripted, transdisciplinary and complex. They also discover the importance of relationships, as very little is accomplished without the capacity to develop quality relationships.

During my stint as interim president, the importance of other types of relationships, partnerships, has been made very



Dr. Thomas Bowling

clear – partnerships with universities throughout the globe, with businesses in Western Maryland and beyond, with other USM institutions, with state agencies, with local government officials and with our alumni. Such partnerships will boost our enrollment, create opportunities for our students and contribute to the economic development of this region.

It has been an honor to serve FSU in this role. I have deeply appreciated the support I have received from the campus and the community, and I am looking forward to working closely with our new president, Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk (*see page 2*), during his transition and beyond. I trust that everyone will provide him and his family a warm welcome to Western Maryland.

I look forward to returning to Student Affairs. My service as interim president has given me greater insight into the difference that FSU can make – for our students, for this region and for our world. I deeply value the work ethic of our faculty and staff – both past and present – and the resilience of our students. I am not surprised that *The Economist* gave Frostburg State University a grade of A.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas L. Bowling
Interim President



14 EXPANDING HORIZONS

Frostburg students have an increasing number of ways to gain new perspectives on their world, including scholarships that support the life-changing experience of study abroad, new classmates from around the globe sharing their own culture, an annual retreat that celebrates diversity, even a class using the magical world of Harry Potter to illuminate our own human interactions.



7 EYE ON THE SKY

A team of students was instrumental in establishing the new observatory on the roof of the Gira Center and building the process that allows live images, like this one of the moon, to be beamed directly onto the planetarium's dome screen.



13 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Anatomy students have a far superior way of learning about the human body thanks to Opportunity Grants from the FSU Foundation's Annual Fund.



27 LEWIS INDUCTED INTO COACHES HALL OF FAME

Dr. Robert Lewis has been inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his 31 years of success as a coach and mentor.

24 TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

Along with the challenge of learning lines, dance routines and songs, the students presenting *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* also had to be ready to pack up the whole show and perform it in a series of unfamiliar spaces.

DEPARTMENTS

2 NEWS

- New President Appointed
- Going Greener
- Partnering for Medical Cannabis Research
- FSU's Largest-Ever Gift
- TRiO/SSS Wins Grant
- Time Notes FSU's Growing Diversity
- The Gift of Reading and Writing
- Fall's Record-Breaking Enrollment Numbers
- Nursing Grants
- Staff Awards for Excellence
- Tea Time
- Mentors Recognized
- Capitol Hill Intern
- Campus Accolades Continue
- FSU Takes the "Lead" for NASPA

8 ALUMNI NEWS

- Alumnus to Lead Firestone
- Service to Alma Mater Awards
- Frostburg's First African-American Graduate
- Superintendent of the Year
- Books by Alumni
- New Alumni Board Member
- Winter Sports Receptions
- If I Knew Then ...
- Alumnus Leading in Digital Currency

12 FOUNDATION NEWS

- Sandhir Scholarship
- New Named Funds

14 EXPANDING HORIZONS

- Scholarships Support Study Abroad
- Indian Students' Warm Welcome
- 17th Annual Diversity Retreat
- The Sociology of Harry Potter

26 SPORTS

- Sports Briefs
- Shattuck Shatters Records
- Coaches' Legacy

32 CLASSNOTES/MILESTONES

- Calendar of Events

35 IN MEMORIAM

36 THE LAST WORD



CAMPUS NEWS

Going Greener

FSU Signs Climate Pledge

Interim President Bowling reiterated FSU's longstanding commitment to securing a sustainable world for future generations by signing the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge.

This renewed commitment, echoed by more than 200 colleges and universities across the nation, played a critical role in the U.S. effort to seek meaningful international commitments at the UN Climate Negotiations in Paris last year.

FSU has committed to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2030 and create thresholds for increasing resilience against a changing climate; incorporate carbon neutrality and climate resilience into the curriculum; expand research into sustainable energy usage, carbon neutrality and climate resilience; compost campus food waste; plan future construction projects to LEED Gold standards or higher; and reduce power consumption.

Gira Center Wins Gold!

The new Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology has been awarded LEED Gold certification for its energy efficiency, use of renewable and sustainable resources, water saving measures, indoor environmental quality and other criteria. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a building certification program that recognizes environmentally friendly building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification.



Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk Appointed FSU President



Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk

Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk has been named 15th president of FSU, coming to Frostburg from Clarion University in Pennsylvania, where he is provost and vice president for academic affairs. He will join Frostburg as president on May 9.

"Ron Nowaczyk has the experience to lead and grow a comprehensive campus in today's challenging environment," said University System of Maryland Chancellor Robert L. Caret. "He is a great fit on both a personal and professional level for the Frostburg community and Western Maryland. I believe he will bring the energy, vision, and strategic leadership the campus needs to move forward."

"He has dedicated his career to helping public universities in rural areas advance academically and engage as active partners in improving the quality of life in surrounding communities," said James L. Shea, chair of the USM Board of Regents. "We look forward to welcoming him to the University System of Maryland and the Frostburg community."

Nowaczyk has been provost at Clarion since 2011, and was previously dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, associate vice chancellor for economic and community development at East Carolina University, chair of East Carolina University's Department of Psychology, and a faculty member at Clemson University. His other professional experiences include serving as a visiting scientist at the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and as a visiting human factors research consultant at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Lincroft, N.J.

"I am both honored and excited about leading the Frostburg State University community in the upcoming years," said Nowaczyk. "Frostburg State's history and mission in serving the state and region speak to the commitment and dedication of its faculty and staff. I hope to help the university enhance its value as an educational leader and economic partner in Western Maryland. My family and I are looking forward to becoming part of Frostburg."

Nowaczyk earned his doctoral and master's degrees from Miami University of Ohio and his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, all three in psychology.

FSU Partners With Medical Cannabis Manufacturer to Explore Research and Job Opportunities

FSU has entered into a partnership with Maryland-based medical cannabis manufacturer, Peak Harvest Health (PHH), to explore ethnobotanical research and workforce development opportunities in Western Maryland. The partnership is contingent on PHH's successfully acquiring a license from the Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, which is expected to issue its first licenses this summer.

The PHH partnership will bring potential employment opportunities for FSU's ethnobotany, biology and chemistry graduates at the company's proposed Cumberland, Md., facility.

PHH also agreed to underwrite initial funding of a research incubator called the Appalachian Cannabis Research Cooperative (ACRC). ACRC would provide a setting for researchers from FSU and other area universities to experiment with emerging technologies and advancements in the growing industry. It would also allow FSU faculty and students to collaborate with PHH employees to analyze data and produce white papers based on product-related data collected from PHH's patients and proposed clinical tests.

The nature of the research performed will be strictly limited by federal and state laws.

\$2.5 Million Gift Largest in FSU's History

The late **Woodward D. Pealer**, a Cumberland, Md., businessman and longtime supporter of FSU, has bequeathed more than \$2.5 million to the FSU Foundation, the largest gift ever in the University's history.

The bequest will fund the Woodward and Virginia Pealer Scholarship, established in 1990, which benefits full-time FSU sophomores, juniors or seniors with financial need, giving preference to non-traditional students. It will also support faculty development at FSU.

"This gift demonstrates the high esteem that Woody Pealer held for Frostburg State University and is a fitting culmination of his life of service and charity," said Interim President Bowling. "His extraordinary generosity will support students for generations to come."

More than 90 Pealer Scholarships have been awarded since its creation. At its inception, the scholarship supported one student per year. The number issued has increased as the endowment has grown. In 2015, six students earned Pealer Scholarships. With the addition of Pealer's extraordinary estate gift, the scholarship will benefit many more students in future years.

"Mr. Pealer's legacy will not only assist students directly through scholarships that will help them pay their tuition, but through support for faculty as they increase their knowledge of their specialty and their skills as educators," said John Short, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the FSU Foundation.

Pealer, who had retired from business and as a judge of the Maryland Tax Court, passed away on Jan. 21, 2014, at the age of 92, following a lifetime of service to his city, county, state and country. Virginia Pealer, a businesswoman herself, died in 2006.

In July of 1995, FSU dedicated the Performing Arts Center's Pealer Recital Hall to honor him and his wife. In 2009, in recognition of his lifetime of accomplishments and service, FSU granted Pealer an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.



Woodward D. Pealer



TRiO SSS Wins Competitive Federal Grant

A program that helps 275 eligible students each year has received a competitive federal grant totaling more than \$1.6 million over the next five years. FSU's TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program, the only four-year SSS program in Western Maryland, has been continually funded since 1973.

SSS helps first-generation students, those whose parents do not have a four-year degree; students who meet Department of Education income guidelines; and students with documented learning or physical disabilities. FSU students who participate in the TRiO-SSS program persist and graduate at higher rates than the national average.



The Gift of Reading and Writing

The Frostburg Center for Literary Arts made the 2015 holiday season a literary one for area youths, primarily teenagers, with WRAP – the Writing Reading Advent Program. Packages of new, donated books, writing journals and pens were giftwrapped and distributed across Western Maryland. Allegany Public Schools distributed more than 80 packages, while Toys for Tots distributed more than 30. Other children's books went to the Western Maryland Health System. Preparations for WRAP 2016 begin soon.

Time Notes FSU's Increased Diversity

In a recent *TIME* magazine report "Colleges That Have Diversified the Most," Frostburg is ranked No. 23 nationwide. The study looked at the percentage of students at nonprofit private and public U.S. universities who were not part of the school's largest racial group, and how that changed from 1990 to 2014. Frostburg's diversity increased 34.2 percent during that time period.



Fall 2015 Enrollment by the Numbers

5,756
HIGHEST EVER TOTAL ENROLLMENT

4,961 HIGHEST EVER UNDERGRADUATE
74 HIGHEST EVER DOCTORAL



116
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
HIGHEST TOTAL EVER

77%
FRESHMAN TO SOPHOMORE RETENTION
TIED FOR HIGHEST IN 15 YEARS

CAMPUS NEWS

Maryland Grants to Help Develop New Paths to Nursing

The path to an FSU bachelor's degree in nursing may be smoother – and significantly less expensive – thanks in part to nearly \$2.5 million in grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop new collaborative nursing programs.

Currently, students in FSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program must complete their RN training elsewhere, a process that often requires three years, with another 18 months at FSU, if the program is taken full time.

FSU's partnership with Allegany College of Maryland reduces the time it takes to complete a BSN. Following one year of general education courses on campus in Frostburg, students will complete two years at ACM for an associate degree, followed by online nursing courses at FSU, plus a practicum, to earn a BSN.

FSU will also partner with Community College of Baltimore County sites in Catonsville and Essex to develop a seamless transition from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree over the next five years. The \$1.5 million grant is designed to adapt the Associate to Bachelor's program model for partnerships with five additional Maryland community colleges.

Students who opt for the community college partnerships could save more than \$13,000 in tuition and fees compared to the traditional path to a BSN.



Lyndsey Baker



Joni Smith



Patrick Fairall

Exceptional Employees Honored

Serving FSU for a combined 29 years, three outstanding employees were honored at Fall Convocation with the annual Staff Awards for Excellence. Nominated by their colleagues, these staff members were recognized for exceptional service to the institution.

Lyndsey Baker was honored in the Exempt (salaried) employee category. She joined the FSU community in the spring of 2012 in a part-time role as the Maryland Strategic Prevention coordinator. Her commitment to seeking additional grant funds and her dedication to work led to a full-time position in 2014. Baker is responsible for uniting community members, administrators, law enforcement, city officials, bar owners, health practitioners, high school representatives and others to address underage and high-risk consumption of alcohol. Her commitment has helped reduce high-risk alcohol consumption at FSU.

Joni Smith was honored in the Non-exempt (hourly) employee category. She has been employed as a graphic artist in FSU's Office of Publications for seven years. Smith has a very strong work ethic, a creative approach to her assignments and a congenial and helpful attitude when working with faculty and staff. Professional, eager to help, conscientious, detail oriented and budget conscious are just a few of the phrases contained in her letters of support. These phrases demonstrate why Smith is such a great asset to the FSU team and an exceptional employee.

Patrick Fairall was honored under the Non-exempt employee/facilities-maintenance category. He has been an FSU employee for nearly 19 years. For his first 13 years, Fairall worked as a painter. In 2010, he began working for the Physical Plant's multi-trades shop as a moving and storage specialist. Fairall is one of the employees who works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every FSU event is set up smoothly and broken down without a hitch. According to his supervisor, Fairall and his coworkers performed about 500 event set ups and break downs last year.

Staff Awards for Excellence are funded by the FSU Foundation's Annual Fund Campaign.



Tea Tradition

Xi (Cathy) Wang, an education major from Weifang, China, makes "kung fu" tea during a traditional Chinese tea ceremony, part of a presentation on tea last fall by several international students at the Lewis J. Ort Library. The library celebrated the history of tea, which included the display of a collection of teapots from library staff.



Vincent Morton, Jr. '12 and Dr. Amy Branam-Armiento

Branam-Armiento and Gaumer Encourage Students to Mentor the Next Generation

For **Vincent Morton, Jr., '12**, it was the challenge that **Dr. Amy Branam-Armiento** laid down. For **Stephanie McKnight-Bailey**, it was the lighthearted nudges in direction she received from **Dr. Carol Gaumer '89/M'91** over the years. These alumni nominated their mentor faculty members for the Outstanding Mentor Award, presented each year as part of Homecoming's Career Expo, and "pay it forward" in their own ways.

Branam-Armiento, chair of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, "undoubtedly took me from an ambitious student with potential to an accomplished scholar by the end of my tenure at Frostburg State. She walked me into her office and showed me her degrees. Then, she challenged me to get a few of my own," Morton said. "The kicker: I was sure that a bachelor's was all I was capable of. I didn't really even know if I had it in me to earn that."

Morton not only earned his bachelor's degree, but also a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is now at Tulane University as the senior program coordinator in the College Readiness program.

Gaumer, chair of the Department of Marketing, was McKnight-Bailey's advisor as well as professor, and through that interaction, "we established a lighthearted relationship that has helped me make some very important decisions in my professional career," she said. "I can honestly say that she



Dr. Carol Gaumer '89/M'91 and Stephanie McKnight-Bailey '03

hasn't steered me wrong from the moment she suggested that I acquire a few years of work experience before enrolling in graduate school. ... Dr. Gaumer continues to be the first person I contact for her input in terms of how my education and experiences can be utilized and further honed."

"I will never be able to completely repay her for the thoughtfulness and support she has provided over the years," McKnight-Bailey added, so instead, she returns to speak to current FSU students at Career Expo nearly every year.

To nominate a faculty or staff member who has made a significant contribution to your academic, personal and professional development, send a letter describing that person's mentorship to Dr. Robbie Cordle at rcordle@frostburg.edu or 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532 before July 1. Call 301.687.4404 for more information. The next presentation will be Friday, Oct. 21, during Homecoming.

Capitol Hill Internship Cements Passion for Politics

Taylor Schmitz's eye-opening internship on Capitol Hill last summer convinced the FSU senior to follow his passion for politics, thanks to the support of FSU's J. Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs.

"You can only learn so much from a textbook, no matter how much you read," said Schmitz, a Mount Airy resident, who interned in the office of U.S. Rep. Bill Posey, R-Fla. "There's only so much you can learn before you can get to Capitol Hill and see what happens behind the scenes."

Schmitz double-majors in political science and criminal justice. In Washington, he did everything from calling constituents and reading over legislation to attending committee hearings for Posey. He also met Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the current speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Schmitz originally envisioned himself teaching, but his political interests increased at FSU and were cemented after helping a family friend campaign for state delegate.

He was encouraged to apply by his professor, **Tim Magrath**, executive director of the Beall Institute, which was created in 2005 with gifts to the FSU Foundation from the estate of Beall, a former U.S. senator, and from his family and friends. Ever since, it has helped students serve on Capitol Hill in D.C. and in Maryland's General Assembly in Annapolis.

During his time on Capitol Hill, Schmitz worked with legislative aides, an intern coordinator and the chief of staff. He progressed from performing administrative tasks and setting up tours around the Capitol to writing letters and talking to constituents.

Despite the public's dissatisfaction with Congress, Schmitz was encouraged to see that the legislative system still works.

"Your voice does matter. Calling your representative or senator does matter, even at the federal level. It is very important to hear from constituents, and it's very easy to get involved."

—CS



One of the highlights of Taylor Schmitz's Capitol Hill internship was meeting now-Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.



CAMPUS ACCOLADES

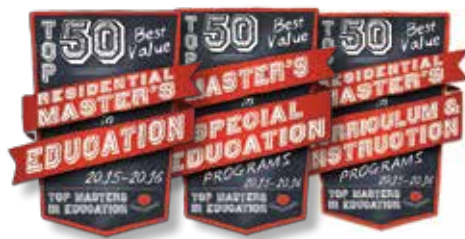
FSU's academic programs continue to earn recognition for their quality and affordability.

Among the most recent:

NURSING:

- **BestMasterofScienceinNursing.com: No. 10** among the most up-and-coming nursing schools in the East
- **Best Master of Science in Nursing Degrees: No. 13** among most affordable competitive colleges for online RN-BSN degrees

- **TopRNtoBSN.com: No. 35** among most affordable accredited online RN to BSN programs



EDUCATION:

- **TopMastersInEducation.com: No. 28** among best value residential master's in education programs
- **TopMastersInEducation.com: No. 28** among best value residential master's in curriculum and instruction degree programs
- **TopMastersInEducation.com: No. 28** among best value master's in special education programs

RECREATION AND PARKS MANAGEMENT:

- **CollegeValuesOnline.com: No. 16** among best value bachelor's recreation degrees for B.S. in Recreation and Parks Management

SOCIAL WORK:

- **Social Work Degree Guide: No. 49** among most affordable selective schools for a bachelor of social work

New Rankings: Value Added by FSU Degree

Two new college rankings studies based on the U.S. Department of Education's 2015 College Scorecard database, one from the *Economist* and another from the Brookings Institute, sought to determine the value colleges add to their students' earnings potential. The studies compared former students and graduates' actual earnings to the earnings researchers projected for attendees of such an institution.

Both studies, using different methods, found FSU enhanced its former students' earnings potential at the midpoint of their careers significantly more than expected for schools of similar type, size and location.

The Economist:

- FSU ranked 101 of 1,275 four-year schools.
- FSU was in the top 8% nationwide.
- 10 years after enrolling, FSU grads earn \$5,000/year more than expected.

Brookings Institute:

- FSU scored 78 out of a possible 100.
- FSU was in the top 25% nationwide.
- 10 years after enrolling, FSU grads earn \$6,000/year more than expected.

Observatory Bringing the Universe Into Focus at Planetarium

By Charles Schelle

The universe is now coming into focus at FSU, where stunning images from the rooftop observatory are being projected on the FSU Planetarium and Multimedia Learning Center's dome screen during weekly sky shows.

The observatory, located on the roof of the Gira Center, features a robotically mounted 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with attachable cameras to capture deep space images and planets in amazing detail.

"Its large aperture allows you to view very faint objects," said **Dr. Jason Speights**, director of the MLC. "At the same time, it's capable of high magnification, so the planets can be seen in great detail."

Images showing Saturn's rings, Jupiter's lasagna-like belts and much more are now being featured during planetarium shows, including some via live feeds from the sky, and could not have been done without FSU students, who continue to fine-tune the equipment.

Dustin Ullery, **Tyler Ram** and **Paul Rooke '15** all helped set up the observatory and other newly purchased planetarium equipment as part of a special projects course. The students also help produce and host planetarium shows.

"I've grown up looking at all these pictures, but being up here on the roof and getting the images myself made it a lot more tangible," said Ullery, who is double majoring in physics and mathematics. "I think it's a better learning experience overall for the students to see



Tyler Ram operates the robotic controls on the 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope installed in the Gira Center observatory.



Dustin Ullery works with computer software to identify and process the best images to be used in the weekly planetarium shows.

Transport System files, which could take minutes or hours, to process images and calibrate the equipment.

"I'd have 1,000 to 2,000 pictures of Jupiter, and I'd have to hand pick it and use RegiStax where it takes the good pictures, gets rid of the bad ones and presses them together to make a good image," Ram said. "That was one of the biggest challenges to make those pictures look like they looked through the telescope."

Ullery appreciated that both students and faculty worked with some newer programs and equipment neither had experienced.

"We all had to figure it out together," he said. "It was nice to have a one-on-one relationship with faculty who worked with this stuff before, but not these exact things, so we could see how they adapted to information that they didn't understand. It really helped us to adapt to situations with new technology."

Speights never tires of witnessing students' reactions from seeing objects in space for the first time.

"They would kind of trip out over that," he said, laughing. "There were some moments where they would spaz out when they got an image or see something for the first time with their unaided eye."

Ram has had one or two of those moments.

"I can see that horizon with trees, and I can't see anything past that," Ram said pointing to Big Savage Mountain from the Gira Center roof. "Yet, I can step five feet in here and see millions of light years away. It's like having a superpower." ■

The observatory is located on the roof of the new Gira Center.



Well-attended Town Hall meetings engaging students, such as junior **A'Lexus Blue**, with government officials and covering local, state and national issues were created as part of the Lead Initiative.

FSU Now Mentoring Other Schools in NASPA Lead Initiative

Last year, FSU created a series of Town Hall Meetings for students and elected officials that focused on government at the local, state and federal levels. Thanks to conversations started there, the city of Frostburg and the FSU Student Government Association have partnered to create an off-campus student recycling program.

The meetings began as a result of FSU's participation in the National Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (Lead Initiative), a program run by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

FSU has been so successful that other schools are now looking to it for advice.

The Lead Initiative partners U.S. colleges and universities to share best practices on how to educate students to become informed, engaged citizens of a democratic society. For the past two years, **Patrick O'Brien '07**, director of FSU's Office of Civic Engagement, has learned from colleagues at other institutions.

This year, FSU has been named a Lead Consulting Institution, which means O'Brien and FSU staff will act as mentors for other Lead Initiative participants, sharing lessons learned at Frostburg with prestigious institutions around the country.

NASPA defines Lead Consulting Institutions as "first among peers, having leadership responsibilities for the mentoring, guidance and support of each cohort." ■

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumnus to Lead Firestone Industrial Division

Scott Damon M'95 now leads Firestone Industrial Products as its president.

Damon, who earned his Master of Business Administration degree from FSU, joined the Indianapolis-based company in August. He will oversee the strategic growth of Firestone Industrial Products and its 1,100 employees. The company will move to Nashville in 2017, where several Firestone divisions will have a combined headquarters with Bridgestone Americas.

Damon's experience includes serving as president for Speedco since 2014 and numerous roles with Bridgestone from 1996 to 2014, including executive director of strategic planning at Bridgestone Americas Technical Center in Akron and vice president of marketing and director of marketing for strategic brands and channels for Bridgestone Commercial Solutions.

Firestone Industrial Products is a group company of Bridgestone Americas and specializes in air spring manufacturing for automobiles and agricultural equipment.



Scott Damon M'95

"Scott is a dynamic leader, and I am confident his years of experience and extensive background across the Bridgestone portfolio of companies will help Firestone continue to meet and exceed the needs of our global customer base," said Mick Suzuki, vice president of diversified businesses with Bridgestone Americas. "We look forward to his contributions."

Damon earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. ■



Honored for Service

The Alumni Association honored four alumni with the Service to Alma Mater Award during the Board of Directors fall meeting as part of FSU's 2015 Homecoming celebration. From left are **Rebecca A. Brown-McCusker '85/M'88**, **Mary E. Clapsaddle '83**, retired Air Force **Col. Ronald G. Forrester '67** and the **Rev. James L. Mason '75/M'87**.

Frostburg's First African-American Grad Reflects on His Experience

By Liz Douglas Medcalf

Leon Brumback '61/M'67, Frostburg's first African-American graduate, recently reflected on his time in college and the difference that made in his life during an interview with students at Frostburg's Mountain Ridge High School as part of their documentary on the history of FSU.

"It was just a wonderful experience for me," said the 1994 recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. "You have to remember, I was basically a country kid. Integration was just another word for me when I was growing up. We were a poor family. The word 'college' never entered my vocabulary until my senior year. And then it all just kind of fell into place."

Brumback reflected that coming to Frostburg allowed him to fully take part in the college experience, opportunities he had largely been unable to have before.

Until his senior year in high school, he traveled by bus 45 miles each way to segregated schools. All that time in transit meant no sports, no clubs, no activities.

Things improved in his senior year at his local school and at then-Hagerstown Junior College, although most of his non-studying time was spent hitchhiking to and from HJC.

"Then I got here, it was a different story. There was so much going on all the time that I was able to join a number of clubs and organizations. And there was always something going on in the dorms. It was just good times, all the time for me," he said. He played three sports, joined the French and drama clubs, and took advantage of as many opportunities as he could.

He admitted to some apprehension when first arriving on campus, so much so that he requested that he not be assigned a roommate to avoid creating friction. "Coming out of segregation, you just never know," he said.

It turns out that he needn't have worried. His favorite memory of Frostburg was the reception he received.

"As soon as the guys discovered that I was there by myself, they all welcomed me as a roommate. It was smooth sailing from the very beginning," he said. "Overcoming that apprehension of what I thought might have been because I was the only black student, and then being totally accepted right from the beginning and just being one of the guys, just another student, was a good experience for me."

After graduating, he taught for some 30 years. He loved his job and was often honored for his skill. And signs of his success are everywhere: His dentist, doctor and lawyer are all former students of his. ■



Leon Brumback '61/M'67

Daugherty is Delaware Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Merv Daugherty '77 has been named the 2015-2016 Delaware Superintendent of the Year. Daugherty has been the superintendent of the Red Clay Consolidated School District in Wilmington, Del., since 2009. During that time, he has coordinated interventions and awareness school programs and helped to develop after-school programs for students. While speaking about his honor, Daugherty said, "I look forward to continue working with all stakeholders on our shared goal of a quality education for all students." ■



Dr. Merv Daugherty '77

Books by Alumni

The Essay

By **Isabell Niland '97/M'03**

Benjamin "Stubs" Stafford, now an adult, recalls his years in elementary school when his classmates would tease him for having a deformed leg and hand. Benjamin finally gets a chance to show his classmates the meaning of compassion when he wins an essay contest that changes his life and the way people see him. Niland, whose book won the Mom's Choice Gold Award, is an elementary school teacher.



The Soldier's Word

By **Kenn Woods '92**

A Civil War re-enactor, Woods examines Confederate letters, diaries and memoirs to respond to a debate in that historical community – was the idea that Confederate uniforms were ragged simply a romantic myth that arose following the war? The book includes surprising anecdotes and some "firsts" of that era on a variety of topics.



MEET YOUR NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER

JASON GRAHE '97 | Havre de Grace, MD

Teacher, Harford County Public Schools

Accomplishments/Activities: While at FSU, I was in the GOLD Program, Student Alumni Ambassadors, Judicial Board and traveled abroad to Ireland and Quebec through two study abroad programs. Since graduation, I've acquired my M.A. in education, am working to complete my first administrative certification and have successfully taught in numerous school districts in four states while raising a "blended family" of two daughters, a stepdaughter, a son and preparing for a new child this summer!

What is your favorite FSU memory? Friends and family always come to mind whenever I think of FSU. I met some of my best friends while living on campus, participating in organizations and at different campus events and during study abroad.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member? I plan to be a helpful and informative ambassador for FSU to the seniors I teach. I will assist in increasing applications and attendance of HCPS seniors to FSU and help to create opportunities for them to visit FSU on an ongoing basis. In addition, I'd like to help recruit new members for the Board and help increase alumni participation in FSU activities.



Sharing Their Bobcat Pride



Alumni, families and friends of our Bobcat winter sports teams came together recently to celebrate their student-athletes. Pictured, from top to bottom, are gatherings for the women's basketball team and the men's basketball team, held before each faced off in February against St. Mary's College of Maryland, and one for the swim team before facing Marymount in January.

If I Knew Then ...

Each Homecoming, alumni from a variety of fields take the time to meet with current students during the Career Expo, giving them the benefit of their perspective. Students use this networking program as an opportunity to ask questions, make connections and collect business cards. Here are some of the bits of advice and reflections that were shared this year.



STEPHANIE MCKNIGHT-BAILEY '03
Business

Contracting Officer, FAA

How would you compare your training and preparation at Frostburg versus some of your colleagues?

I think the class size was integral to the attention we got from our professors. . . . I think with the smaller class sizes we had, we were able to better absorb the material to interact with the professors as well as our colleagues. . . . I can't tell you how much time I spent in Dr. (Carol) Gaumer's or Dr. (Tony) Stair's office. I'm surprised they didn't claim me on their taxes.



DR. CRYSTAL ELLIS-DOBRATZ '05/M'06
Business

Strategic Development Manager/Specialization Sales Representative, Chesapeake Lighting

What advice do you have for students?

Take every opportunity given to you. . . . You can at any time do your time management in order to focus on where you need to be. If it results in less social activity with your friends, then so be it. They will be there. You will have time later on to spend time with them. But you are developing your career right now. Those opportunities you miss can be the one thing that got you the job over somebody else.



MATTHEW SMITH '14
History/Accounting

CPA, Sarfino & Rhoades LLP

What did you learn from your internships?

You have to keep trying, trying and trying. Sometimes you have to take what comes along and you just build from there. Where you start does not determine where you will end.

You have to learn to mesh with the culture. . . . You have to read people and know how everyone interacts. It's a mistake if you don't understand that culture first or else you won't be employed for long.



DANA REINHARDT '04/M'06
Educational Professions

Allegany County Public Schools, Third-Grade Teacher

What advice do you have for current students?

Ask your mentor teachers a ton of questions. . . . In my first year of teaching, it was, "Why didn't I ask her this? Why didn't I do more of that? Why didn't I look at her lesson plans and dig into the standards? ... I don't want you to have any regrets. . . . Really dig deep into what the teacher is doing day in and day out. We wear many hats during the day. It's not just teaching.



WILL CLAUSON '13
Engineering

Product Engineer, Orbital ATK

What did you gain from your experience at FSU?

I didn't realize how much practical application you learn here at Frostburg State University and the University of Maryland and how much that applies to a real world job. . . . You will use what you learn here.

Tutoring was a great way to stay fresh with things you've already learned. . . . Also, for me, tutoring helped me get out of my shell a little bit. . . . I didn't live up here so I didn't really talk to anybody. But I met a lot of awesome people through tutoring. I learned to talk to people. It was a great experience for me.



AARON LITTLEJOHN '13
Physics

Ph.D. Candidate in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

What tips do you have for someone going to grad school?

It's good to have internship or research experience if you can. I had the pleasure during my senior year to do research with Dr. Jason Speights. . . . I did a little bit of astrophysics research here, and that was crucial for me. It opened up an entire new world for me. . . . I remember reading my first (peer-reviewed scientific paper), and it probably took me a couple of hours, with the paper here and Google here, to get through the first paragraph. . . . Look at Google Scholars and just type in a keyword. Your mind will be blown. ■

"Computer Guy Who Understands Business"

Beauregard at Forefront of Digital Currency

By Robert Spahr '13

Early personal digital assistants, or PDAs, were once called a useless fad. Yet their development led to today's revolutionary smart phones. Today, cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin face similar skepticism, but many, including **Steve Beauregard '87**, believe they will forever change the face of global commerce.

During Career Expo 2015, Beauregard spoke to students and alumni about his company, GoCoin, a Bitcoin payment processor, and about the essence of digital currencies.

"Bitcoin now is like where Tesla [Motors] is today," Beauregard said, explaining how the currency exists and functions according to design, but the infrastructure needed to use the currency across a global marketplace is still being created.

Beauregard's company implements that infrastructure. GoCoin is to Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies today essentially what PayPal was to the U.S. dollar and other fiat currencies – those created and backed by governments – at the dawn of the millennium: a tool for commercial outlets and individuals to conveniently accept digital currency transactions in a secure, verifiable manner. The company is integrating its software into websites and businesses around the globe.

The software works with websites, ATMs and point-of-sale terminals to allow users to pay with cryptocurrencies about as anonymously as they could pay with cash – a significant benefit to individuals living under hostile governments. It guarantees merchants receive the correct payment in fiat currency for the bitcoins they accept. Merchants pay GoCoin just 1 percent to process Bitcoin transactions – less than the 3 to 6 percent typical for credit cards. GoCoin makes up the difference by strategically trading the Bitcoins they take as payment on currency exchanges.

Beauregard said his FSU education uniquely prepared him to launch a tech-based financial company.

"I got both a degree in computer science as well as accounting," Beauregard said. "One of my professors told me early on, 'If you're a computer guy and you understand business, you're going to be invaluable, because most computer guys don't understand



Steve Beauregard '87

business and most business guys don't understand computers."

Though Beauregard founded and runs GoCoin, he honed his skills at established tech firms after graduation. He emphasized the importance of that step.

"My recommendation is go get some experience with a big company doing big software development jobs," said Beauregard. "Once you understand the methodology of being part of a big development team and really get to the point where you can move up from software developer to being an architect and team leader and so forth, then you can take on any project you want."

While many would-be entrepreneurs have promising ideas and believe they can figure out the details along the way, Beauregard has noticed an issue when companies are founded by novices.

"Lots of guys come out without the proper experience, never really been trained, and just sort of wing it and feel like they're going to understand methodology," Beauregard said. "But what you find is you end up writing really tight code when you follow a very strict methodology. Otherwise you have mishmash; when it's time to upgrade and you cause problems, you break things that you've fixed before."

The attendees left with questions answered and Beauregard's business cards in their pockets. A few also left a bit richer than they arrived.

In a small-group chat, Beauregard demonstrated how

digital currencies work, instructing students to download digital wallets on their smartphones. He then transferred each a small fraction of a Bitcoin from his own digital wallet with a few swipes on his phone. Although the amount sounded trivial – just 0.05 Bitcoin per student – at that time, it equated to slightly more than \$13 each.

What is Bitcoin?

Bitcoin is a new form of decentralized currency, created in 2009 and maintained by a diverse network of computer users around the globe. It enables people to anonymously exchange goods for payment without involving banks or government. Bitcoin owners are identified only by randomly assigned account numbers and "coins" are stored in digital wallets. Security is maintained through a complex algorithm run by the worldwide Bitcoin network.

Users earn new coins by running that algorithm. The network will allow only 21 million Bitcoins to be created, though they can be traded in minuscule fractions of a coin. Due to the limit on the number of Bitcoins, if people continue using them, the coins' value should theoretically only grow.

In 2010, the first Bitcoins ever traded were valued at less than a penny each. Value rose as traditional businesses – and reportedly some black-market sellers – began accepting Bitcoin. At its highest point, November 2013, each coin traded for about \$1,242. In October 2015, when Beauregard spoke at Career Expo, the value was approximately \$265 per coin. By January 2016, the value had risen past \$400. ■



Beauregard demonstrated the use of Bitcoins to a small group of students after his speech.

Supporting Education for the Love of Community

By Robert Spahr '13

More than 40 years after arriving to practice medicine in Cumberland “for a little while,” the legacy of the late Dr. Sikander Sandhir and his wife, Prabhat Sandhir, is supporting future teachers studying at FSU through the Dr. Sikander and Mrs. Prabhat Sandhir Education Scholarship.

“Education is the most important thing we can give our children,” said Prabhat.

The Sandhirs first came to America in 1972 for the educational opportunities it would offer their sons. Sikander had been born in India, Prabhat in Nairobi, Kenya. After living in Kenya, England and Scotland for training and medical practice, they came to Cumberland, Md., not realizing that would be where they would settle for good.

“When we first moved to Cumberland, we thought we would stay for a little while,”

Prabhat said. “The love of the community made us stay here.”

Sikander’s successful medical practice provided a comfortable life and educational opportunities for their sons, who all became doctors themselves. He taught them all the importance of giving back to the community that had shown so much love to his family. Giving back, he told his family, was their duty.

The Sandhirs decided to give back to the educational institutions that had drawn them to settle in America.

Prabhat became involved with the Allegany County Board of Education. In the 1980s, the couple helped introduce Western Maryland to their cultural heritage during the Festival of India in Frostburg. They established awards at area high schools for students excelling in math and science. They also supported Allegany County’s “Teacher of the Year” award.

In 2004, they created the Sandhir Foundation to continue to support activities and causes in Allegany County. Their FSU scholarship was established in 2012 and is being awarded, and they have another at Allegany College of Maryland.

Sadly, Sikander succumbed to a rare blood disorder in November 2013. Yet over the course of four decades in Western Maryland, he and Prabhat gave much back to their adopted community. As other doctors left Western Maryland for other opportunities,

Sikander told his wife he wouldn’t abandon his patients in Frostburg. He served the people of Allegany County for 37 years until his 2009 retirement.

“The community is my family,” said Prabhat. “We are so blessed. This may not be a rich community, but it is a very loving one.”


While her children have now grown and moved to larger cities around the country, Prabhat has no desire to relocate. She does travel frequently to visit her young grandchildren, including the twin boys who were born on her husband’s birthday – a miracle, she said. Prabhat hopes to instill the same community-oriented values in them that she and her husband passed to their children.

“It can make an impact in life to do a little something for people,” Prabhat said. “The religion of the whole world is humanity.”

The Sandhir Education Scholarship started by Prabhat will continue to help prospective educators for generations to come, and its impact will resonate through the children they go on to teach. ■



Prabhat Sandhir continues to share her heritage with her community. In partnership with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, she arranged a presentation about Gandhi’s lifework and planted two trees in honor of his message of humanity and peace in Cumberland. She is shown with her sons, Sanjay, Ajai and Vinay. Another tree planting is being planned at FSU.



THE FSU FOUNDATION, INC.

New Named Funds

(as of February 1, 2016)

Bloom Belcher Gilliam Scholarship

Class of 1966 Scholarship

The Hon. Gene W. Counihan '63 Scholarship

Herold Family Scholarship

Judge Gary and Barbara Leasure Presidential Merit Scholarship

Monaco Family History Scholarship

Betty Jane Phillips and Karen Soderberg-Sarnaker Research Endowment

Theta Delta Pi Legacy Scholarship

Opportunity Grant Serves as Heartbeat for Human Anatomy Courses

Peering upward from her seat, **Hannah Tavik** is carefully locating the mylohyoid muscle on her patient’s neck using a metal pointer. It’s OK if she pokes around or feels for the muscle because this patient is actually a \$6,900, anatomically correct model provided through an FSU Foundation Opportunity Grant.

“Being able to use a real model is helpful because you get to physically touch each model,” Tavik said during her Human Anatomy and Physiology class. “You can see where the muscles, nerves and veins lie on the body versus a picture, which is two-dimensional.”

The grant allowed the Department of Biology to purchase a three-quarter-scale muscular anatomy figure complete with internal organs and interchangeable genders. The grant also paid for a deluxe medical-grade disarticulated skeleton. One of the uses of Opportunity Grants is to allow instructors to fund additional materials and classroom experiences.

About 130 students will use these models each semester across several courses, said **Dr. Karen Keller '89/M'92**, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology.

“It’s a vital part of class,” Keller said. “The students absolutely need the hands-on models to learn this.”

The FSU Foundation previously purchased other models for the lab, Keller added.

Before, students would exclusively rely on photos and software to identify parts of the body. The software – A.D.A.M. – is a little like the board game Operation, but much more high-tech.

“The trend now is to go back to hands-on models,” Keller said. “The first thing we do is we learn all the muscles we possibly can



Above, FSU students **Casey Felker**, left, and **Kelly Skoczynski** examine the jaw on the anatomy model recently purchased by a Foundation Opportunity Grant for use in labs.

on human models. They see them on several models, so they recognize they’re not exactly the same, then we do the dissections.”

Keller is thankful Foundation gifts were able to provide the experience to students because she sees the difference in class.

“It makes a huge difference. I can tell by their test scores,” Keller said. “I can tell when students email after they get into a professional school. They say, ‘Thank you for making me learn this. I can do this now.’”

Tavik, a sports and exercise science major, said the class will help her with her career goal of being a college athletic director.

“I might have to be a personal trainer or coach, and by learning the body, I’ll be able to work my way up to my career,” Tavik said.

Opportunity Grants are funded by gifts to the FSU Foundation’s Annual Fund. To support the Annual Fund, visit www.frostburg.edu/waystogive, or call 301.687.4161. ■



A World of Experiences

Study abroad has a lifelong impact, giving students the opportunity to rethink preconceived notions and see the world from a different perspective. Faculty and staff at FSU who have seen the change in their students have established funds to make this life-changing experience more accessible.

By Robert Spahr '13



FSU juniors **Nick DeMichele** and **Haylee Wilson**, shown here in Venice, studied in Newcastle, England, at the University of Northumbria, which allowed them to travel throughout Europe.

Bobcats Beyond Borders

Victoria Gearhart '12/M'15, associate director of FSU's Center for International Education (CIE), loves seeing her study abroad students come home.

"I meet face to face with them throughout the semester or semesters before their departure," she said. "So when they return, I just see a confidence in them that I didn't see before they left. I see an attitude of 'look what I've done. Look what I've conquered.'"

Junior **Nick DeMichele**, a dual major in political science and English, came to FSU with an eye toward study abroad. As a sophomore, DeMichele spent a semester at Northumbria University in England and traveled throughout Europe. Later, he spent another semester at the National Taipei University of Business in Taiwan in 2015.

"I also visited Hong Kong and Tokyo," DeMichele said. "Along the way, I travelled through monasteries, Buddhist temples, night markets and some of the tallest buildings in the world. Frostburg has helped me travel three continents – and I hope I'm not done."

The experience forced DeMichele to solve problems across cultural and language barriers. Even in a globally interconnected world, surprises can still abound.

"I have learned of cultures different from my own and realized that a seemingly shrinking world still has many surprises to offer."

As happy as Gearhart is when students like DeMichele return from abroad, she found herself heartbroken every time financial difficulties prevented a student from studying abroad.

"I love my job, but it's so hard to have a student sitting across from me saying,

'Victoria, I don't think I'm going to be able to make it work. I'm going to have to withdraw my application.' And I have a whole file cabinet full of students who've had to withdraw due to financial reasons."

Gearhart maintains a webpage with available scholarships offered by outside groups around the country. She also directs students to apply for existing study abroad scholarships at FSU – the Harold R. Rowe International Scholarship, the Gira Fund and two Wickert Family Study Abroad Scholarships, one in memory of Alan and Jane Wickert and another in memory of Catherine Morrow.

Still, she wanted to do more. To increase the scholarship awards available for study abroad students, Gearhart contacted the FSU Foundation. The result was **Bobcats Beyond Borders**, a scholarship fund, which she hopes will inspire former study abroad students to give back to current students.

Gearhart speaks to her current students about the importance of giving back to support the generations of students to come.

As students give back and the Bobcats Beyond Borders fund grows, the scholarship will make life-changing study abroad experiences possible for more and more students, regardless of their financial limitations.

Robert M. Moore, Jr., Memorial Scholarship

For **Dr. Robert M. Moore, III**, chair of FSU's Department of Sociology, it was once difficult to make sense of the discrimination and prejudices he faced as a young African-American in the 1960s and '70s. After spending a semester in Rome in 1980, Moore returned with a newfound understanding of American culture.

He advises his own students to travel abroad to better understand the core concepts of sociology – how groups of people interact, and how cultural traditions and expectations affect that interaction in different places. And now he is also working to make cross-cultural experiences more affordable for FSU students.

Moore created the **Robert M. Moore, Jr., Memorial Scholarship: For Sociologists to Experience Cultural Difference Through Living Abroad** in memory of his father's long struggle against segregated housing practices in Philadelphia.

Moore's father lived with a sociology professor during college because, in 1943, the dormitories were whites-only. After graduating, the elder Moore founded the first integrated dormitory at his alma mater. His education helped him provide for his

"I think we use culture and race as scapegoats to say, 'This is why we should remain feeling different from each other.' And going abroad, in some ways, breaks those thoughts down."

— **Dr. Robert Moore, III**

family, and in the 1950s they moved from Philadelphia to its suburbs, which were also whites-only at the time. There, he and his wife continued to fight against segregationist practices until he passed away in 2009.

At the younger Moore's suburban middle school, only two other students identified as African American. While the people who knew him were nice, he recalled seeing his first onscreen interracial kiss at the movies in the 1970s. The crowd booed.

Despite his family's economic prosperity, it was a reminder that many in his community did not accept him or his family.

"I definitely felt marginalized, absolutely marginalized, growing up," he said.

Moore's Rome experience allowed him to reflect on his childhood and American culture in new ways.



Victoria Gearhart '12/M'15, associate director of FSU's Center for International Education

"I think we use culture and race as scapegoats to say, 'This is why we should remain feeling different from each other,'" he said. "And going abroad, in some ways, breaks those thoughts down. ... You're an American first when you go abroad. So that really catches some people off guard – being an American first rather than being African-American first."

Moore returned from Italy better aware of himself and his country, even his own fears.

"I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I feared going into the cities just like everyone else," Moore said. "My first urban experience was living in downtown Rome, and I fell in love with cities. So I came back here and lived for 10 years in Philadelphia."

He saw similar changes in one of his own students after she returned from abroad.

"I remember one African-American student who had a lot of reservations. She ended up going off to Ireland and came back with an Irish boyfriend," Moore said. "And I think it enabled her to look at America in a different way: to continue to

look at race but also to look at class, background and other variables as well."

Moore hopes his father's story will resonate with African-American sociology majors, encouraging them to travel abroad and to support the new scholarship. Recipients will present the lessons learned from their cross-cultural experiences to the Department of Sociology after returning to FSU.

"I think, for African-American students, going abroad is important ..." Moore said. "To see the different nuances in the way racism plays out in different parts of the world, I think, is very important for personal growth, for realizing what one wants to do."



Dr. Robert Moore, III, chair of the Sociology Department.

Katherine Ann Almquist Scholarship

Dr. Katherine Almquist was an assistant professor of foreign languages at FSU from 2002 through 2012, when she passed away unexpectedly. After her death, her parents learned that she had started to fund a scholarship in their honor to support students with financial need studying in a non-English-speaking European country, with preference for first-generation students.

Her parents, Dick and Loretta Almquist, were surprised to learn of the tribute. Appreciative and humbled by the gesture, they renamed the scholarship the Katherine Ann Almquist Scholarship in her memory and worked to endow the fund.

The scholarship is a fitting tribute to a woman whose love of foreign languages informed her career, an interest shaped during her studies abroad in France and Italy.

"We feel the exchange experience solidly directed her career to French, and the Italian experience broadened it to more languages," said her father. "The experiences abroad – living in other cultures – resulted in greater appreciation for and ability to deal with them."

The first Almquist Scholarship was awarded in 2015, and with the fund endowed, it will continue to support study abroad students as they broaden their linguistic horizons for generations to come. The Almquists expressed their satisfaction that the award their daughter envisioned is now making a difference for the students she never got the chance to teach.

To support any of these scholarships, visit www.frostburg.edu/waystogive. To create a new scholarship, call the FSU Foundation at 301.687.4161. ■



Dr. Katherine Almquist in Athens in the 1990s.

Warm Welcome

8,000-mile Journey to Frostburg Beyond Rewarding to Indian Students and Their Hosts



Graduate students **Rajitha Basetti** and **Yashvanth Gowda** offer the traditional Namaste greeting to the audience at the Diwali celebration.

By Charles Schelle

S pending Sundays rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Wednesday nights competing at trivia in Dante's Bar could sum up the downtime for many Frostburg State University students. It was true for **Mohan Vorganti**, a 24-year-old then-master's degree student from India who became just another Bobcat living the typical American twentysomething life. But thanks to his presence, and that of 36 other Indian students studying at FSU last fall, the Bobcat experience for American students also includes cricket, yoga and customs from the Indian holiday, Diwali. No one at the University could anticipate these cultural exchanges becoming so popular, or that the population of Indian students would grow so fast.



Mohan Vorganti M'15

"I come from a diverse country, but they're very open to foreigners here," said Vorganti, who received his master's degree in computer science in December. "The way they received me, that's overwhelming. That's why they call America the land of the immigrants."

Actually, nobody could anticipate FSU receiving so many Indian students in such a short time.

"We had fewer than 10 Indian students last year," said **Victoria Gearhart '12/M'15**, associate director of the Center for International Education (CIE). "Those students here last year started telling us, 'We have cousins who want to come to FSU. We have some friends who want to come to FSU.'"

"Little by little we kept hearing reports of friends, cousins, family members, and Graduate Services telling us of this increase in students. This summer it occurred to us that, 'Wow, we would have a huge group of students coming.'" All told, FSU went from having eight Indian students in spring of 2015 to 78 in the current semester.

That number is expected to continue climbing, in part thanks to Vorganti himself. His post in a Facebook group of 37,000 Indian students looking to obtain their master's degrees in the U.S. went viral among its membership as Vorganti urged his Indian

peers to broaden their horizons, citing FSU as a place to do just that.

"My inbox was filled with people asking me questions," he said. So were the inboxes for FSU's Graduate Services and CIE, so much so that those offices enlisted the help of current Indian students to provide answers.

Coming to America

Most of the influx of Indian students come from southeastern India, which includes Vorganti's hometown of Hyderabad. The 425-year-old city is in a tech industry boom where companies like Google, Monster and Dell all have a presence. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is from the same city, where it happens to host the company's largest research and development office outside of North America.

Vorganti had a comfortable job working for video game maker Electronic Arts as a quality assurance engineer in its mobile division in India. Yes, he tested video games for a living, with one of his biggest projects being *The Sims FreePlay* for Android devices.

"When I got the job, I updated my Facebook status: 'All my life my parents were scolding me for playing video games, and now it's earning me my bread and butter,'" Vorganti said, beaming.

Interacting with developers from America during product development, Vorganti wanted to broaden his horizons and immerse himself in American culture. He thought he would get that at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, but when he arrived, he saw that every student in his computer science classes looked like him.

"I thought, 'OK, I have come this far, and if I wanted to get a master's degree in India, I would easily be getting that without spending thousands of dollars,'" he said. "But I came here to do something unique, something where I could learn from the people who are surrounding me."

After searching state by state for master's programs in applied computer science, he found Frostburg. He transferred, and it proved to be the right place for him.

FSU went from eight Indian students in spring 2015 to 78 in spring 2016.



Shanthan Mareddy

His passion for Frostburg spilled over to that Facebook post: “The whole point of study abroad is not to sit in a class of Indians and hang around Indians all the time instead of exploring people from other countries and cultures,” he wrote.

His phone lit up with questions and messages from students in the 37,000-member group asking how they can apply, what grades they need and if they can transfer, and those same messages soon flooded inboxes at FSU offices.

“They are definitely coming for our Computer Science program. FSU has a great computer science program for graduate students,” Gearhart said. “This type of marketing – word of mouth – has been successful. Our students have a great experience here. They’re making those connections, so they want other students to have those experiences.”

Shanthan Mareddy is among the Indian computer science students at FSU thanks to word-of-mouth marketing. Mareddy heard about FSU from a friend last year and finished his first semester in December.

Mareddy, also from Hyderabad, previously earned a master’s degree in computer systems engineering – integrated systems from the University of East London, which had 120

“I love this place, and I love the people around here. ... They give you a lot of opportunities to explore your thoughts and dreams. It makes you a better person.”

– **Shanthan Mareddy**

Indian students. He, too, felt as if he never left India and wanted a more diverse experience. Now at Frostburg, he’s earning another master’s degree while learning about database management in classes where Americans blend with students from Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and India.

“I love this place, and I love the people around here,” he said. “It’s totally different from India and totally different from the U.K. They give you a lot of opportunities to explore your thoughts and dreams. It makes you a better person,” Mareddy said.

Bringing India to Frostburg

The transition to American life and studies wasn’t seamless for Vorganti, who Americanized his name from SaiMohan Voragante. Homesickness hit hard during that first semester and his grades suffered.

“But the hospitality in town was so awesome that I found ways to overcome it,” he said.

CIE is that first touch of hospitality that the students receive, helping students with processing their visa applications, potential questions they need to answer at the embassy and, in this case, finding housing.



Dr. Phil Allen, left, who is British, shows off his cricket skills.

“Many of the Indian students don’t know each other until they get here. The current Indian students will meet with those students, talk with them and make those housing arrangements,” Gearhart said. “Typically we don’t help students find housing off campus, but due to this large increase, we’re not just going to sit back and not help them. We’re going to assist them and make it a great experience when they arrive.”

As Vorganti connected with Americans, more Indian students came to campus, starting a way to bring the two cultures together to go beyond conversations about Bollywood and chicken curry.

A new student organization called the Indian and South Asian Student Association (ISASA) formed to help bring some of the comforts of home to FSU.

“A major part of the Indian Student Association is to keep them engaged with activities, so their brain is occupied all the time, and they don’t feel homesick,” he said.

They banded together for some pick-up cricket matches on the softball field when they noticed American students started to show up and watch. Come October, the association called out for students, faculty and staff to join in on the fun.



Priyanka Kondeti, one of the hosts of the Diwali celebration, watches as **Interim President Bowling** lights a candle as part of the ceremony.

Left: Bowler **Yashvanth Gowda** gets ready to deliver the ball during a cricket match. After the ISASA invited the campus to join the games, enough people showed up for three teams.



Nithin Kovuri participates in a yoga class led by fellow Indian student, **Sampath Mora**.

Right: In October, the Chinese Culture Club and the Indian and South Asian Student Association joined together for a Cross-Culture Party, sharing cuisine, music, dancing and traditional dress.



The Diwali celebration included dance demonstrations.

So many people showed up, it was enough for three cricket teams. Forty percent of the 50 people who showed up were non-Indian. “Even in India, we wouldn’t have that many show up,” Vorganti said.

Nithin Kovuri of Tirupati, India, was in charge of setting up the cricket match. The computer science graduate student thinks the



Yoga sessions proved to be so popular that a larger space had to be found.

game will lead to something bigger in 2016.

“Right now, we are deciding on forming a cricket club,” he said. “The seasons don’t cooperate here. I’ve learned that the winters are very harsh, so we hope to have more participation in the spring semester.”

Then came yoga sessions, taught by **Sampath Mora**, who studied under a yoga master in India. Seventy people registered for the first session, forcing the group to find a larger space and to take down all of the promotional flyers on campus.

In November, Indian students invited the campus community to celebrate Diwali, a holiday described as the “festival of lights.”

Interim President Bowling lit the Diwali candle to commence the celebration that included multiple song and dance acts from the Indian student population. Following the performance, it was time to break bread when the Indian contingent brought out a buffet worth of homemade dishes for the audience to devour.

“Your enthusiasm and your engagement in this campus community and your desire to share your culture with us are what our University should be all about,” Bowling told the students during the Diwali celebration.

It’s all part of the changing face of Frostburg.

“You drive on Main Street and you quickly realize Frostburg is changing. You see Indian students walking down on one side of the road and see Chinese students walking on the other side of the road,” Gearhart said. “We’re definitely becoming more diverse. I believe not only our campus but our community is embracing that.” ■

BREAKING BARRIERS and Building Connections at the Annual Diversity Retreat

By Robert Spahr '13

For 17 years now, a feature of the fall semester has been the annual Diversity Retreat, whose theme this year was “Building Community: Deeper Connections,” which meant breaking down cultural barriers and sharing personal experiences to better understand how people are shaped by the world around them.

Robin Wynder '80/M'87, director of FSU's Diversity Center, facilitates each off-campus retreat according to principles of the National Coalition Building Institute. NCBI is an organization that strives to create communities in which everyone wants to belong by training teams of peer leaders to address discrimination, with an emphasis on building strong, inter-group relations. It's not an easy process, but the retreat's activities promote student awareness and empowerment in diversity, equity and inclusion issues, and in coalition building.

Just getting the more than 50 students to interact at first can be a challenge. Wynder's solution was

to pass out nametags – to the wrong individuals. Participants had to find the person with their tag and return the wrong one to its right recipient.

“Being somewhere with a group of students that large that you really don't know, it can be hard because there's going to be five or six students who do know each other,” said **Shaniya Johnson**, president of the Black Student Alliance (BSA) and a junior law and society major. “So there's bound to be cliques, but to break apart the cliques was really fun to do.”

Once nametags were sorted, the students set to the weekend's work, led by Wynder and her co-facilitators, **Dr. Terri Massie-Burrell**, assistant provost for

Student Success, and **Victoria Snyder**, former assistant director of FSU's Diversity Center and current director of Robert Morris University's Office of Multicultural Student Services.

BSA helped the Diversity Center organize the retreat in conjunction with the Student Government Association and the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. On Saturday, Johnson and her BSA board members led team-bonding exercises and presented about their organization's mission on campus.

The application to participate in the retreat encourages a thoughtful response and an indication of commitment to the participation the retreat requires. As students spent most of the day in a series of presentations and rigorous workshops, they learned what that entailed when some tensions were brought to the surface.

“It was difficult,” Wynder said. “. . . I haven't had explosive reactions to components of [that workshop] in a while, but we did. . . . For a few of the participants, it was more than they could handle at that point.”

That's when Wynder handed the reins to Massie-Burrell and Snyder and spoke privately with the participants experiencing conflict.

“And the response to that was fantastic. There were two groups in particular who needed to have a conversation with each other. And they yelled and they screamed and they fought in the beginning, and then they just calmed down and started really hearing each other. And then they started really



More than 50 students participated in the 17th annual Diversity Retreat, spending a fall weekend working through sometimes difficult cultural differences and making new connections.

caring about each other and accepting each other's perspective as being important,” Wynder said.

Such conflict is natural when trying to build cohesion in a diverse group, but Wynder was pleased overall.

“I didn't see anyone who appeared to be disgruntled, unhappy or uncomfortable by the end of that evening, and definitely by the end of the retreat,” she said. “They made me work hard, but that's OK, because they need to be as open and honest as they can be in order to grow. If they sit there and pretend everything's OK when it's not, that's not effective at all.”

Johnson was particularly moved by the stories of some of the international students. Several Muslim

students, born abroad, spoke about experiences in America where people randomly accused them of being terrorists.

“I genuinely didn't think that they were going to speak up on that, because a lot of people, they don't,” Johnson said. “So to hear that they were going through the same struggles that the African-American community basically goes through, just definitely different terms and things like that, but it was really groundbreaking. . . . They're just happy to be here, and people are just constantly throwing them down.”

Victor Rising, a nontraditional senior in Interpretive Biology and Natural History, was also touched by the stories students told during the retreat.

“Growing up in the diverse community surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area and experiencing different cultures while traveling and living overseas, I really love meeting people who enrich my life with their culture, beliefs and views,” he said. “The caucuses were extremely moving and emotional.”

Participants sorted themselves into groups they identified with and discussed how they felt others perceived them. Then they presented those discussions to the retreat and spoke about how they wished others would perceive them.

“I learned a lot of new things about people who I already knew,” said Johnson. “You just make new friends and start to enjoy the campus a little bit more when you can be diverse.”

Wynder has seen that transformation firsthand.

“I had a couple of freshmen who were really withdrawn,” Wynder said. “And I was surprised when they signed up for the retreat. And it was just exactly what they needed because it gave them a point of connection.” ■



CLASS EXAMINES SOCIOLOGY AS FOUND IN

The Wizarding World

By Charles Schelle

How does the Minister of Magic influence criminal justice in Harry Potter's Wizarding World? Does villain Voldemort's control rival that of Adolph Hitler during World War II?

The fascinating questions and arguments about the lives of wizards and muggles are just some of the discussions in a special topics sociology class that was offered at FSU in the fall: The Sociology of Harry Potter.

"Everybody knows at least something about the Wizarding World, even if they are not fans of Harry Potter. They know there are wands and there is magic. They might even know about Death Eaters and Dementors," said **Dr. Mandy Vandivier '99/M'01**, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology who taught the 400-level, three-credit course.

Students based at two sites, the Frostburg campus and at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, explored the interpersonal relationships and how they influence society in Potter's world in the online class. Sociology is the study of human society, so recognizing the same forces at work in a fictional society can be illuminating.

Zachary Yeager was excited he could take the course at Frostburg.

"I've seen it at big D-1 schools, but I didn't think we'd have something cool like this," said the FSU senior.

Vandivier wanted to create a sociology class that can dive deep into a familiar world.

"We can take this opportunity and review all of it using sociological imagination to gain a deeper understanding of someone else's culture without explaining what it's like in that culture, because we have such an inherent knowledge about that culture and our own," she said.

The class also attracted students who weren't Potter fanatics, but who were intrigued by what the course offered.

"I'm not a Harry Potter nerd, as I would say, but I decided to take it, and I like it," said sociology and psychology double major **Maame Ackon**.

Ackon has not read any of J.K. Rowling's books, but saw some of the Potter movies. The class actually sparked her interest to revisit Potter.



Wizard's robes were part of the uniform for some Quidditch players.

"We have Harry Potter nights with my friends, and we do a game together when we watch the movies," Ackon said. "It's pretty fun."

Some issues that have been discussed in class include stigma, how people with mental illness are seen in both worlds, criminal justice or the comparison of werewolves in the Harry Potter world to those with HIV in the real world, Vandivier said.

"There've been times when a student has said something, and I said, 'Wow, I never thought about it that way. That's a brilliant idea!'" she said. "It's awesome to see my students come up with great ideas."

Ackon compared arch-villain Voldemort to Hitler in one of her posts.

Students explored the interpersonal relationships and how they influence society in Potter's world in the class.



FSU's Quidditch did not involve flight, but it did require broomsticks.

"It's a weird analogy, and people didn't agree with me on that, but in my mind they kind of controlled their worlds," she said.

Yeager pulled from his law and society studies and compared criminal justice in the U.S. with Potter's society, looking at the frequency of death and murder as well as prisons. He was just as interested in a classmate's argument about Squibs – someone without magical powers despite having magical parents.

"They brought up how they're the outsiders of the Harry Potter world because they don't have magic and can't really do anything," Yeager said. "The student compared Squibs with people who have diseases in the real world because they're looked at like outcasts. I would have never thought of that."

Ackon said she felt connected to her online classmates through replying to each other's posts on discussion boards.

"It's all completely interactive, and we all 'talk' to each other," said Ackon, who also completed another special topics course in the spring, The Sociology of Reality Shows.

To bridge the two campus communities, as well as bring the online students together in real life, the class organized several events, including a Quidditch match played on the Upper Quad on the Frostburg campus. Students were all smiles, running from end to end with broomsticks between their legs in a hectic game that combines elements of handball, dodgeball, soccer and tag.

"It's a lot of running – more than people thought there would be," Yeager said. The Quidditch game was so successful that students have expressed interest in starting a Quidditch club.

Students also marched in the Frostburg Halloween Parade and joined together for a costume party in Hagerstown, furthering the celebration of Potter.

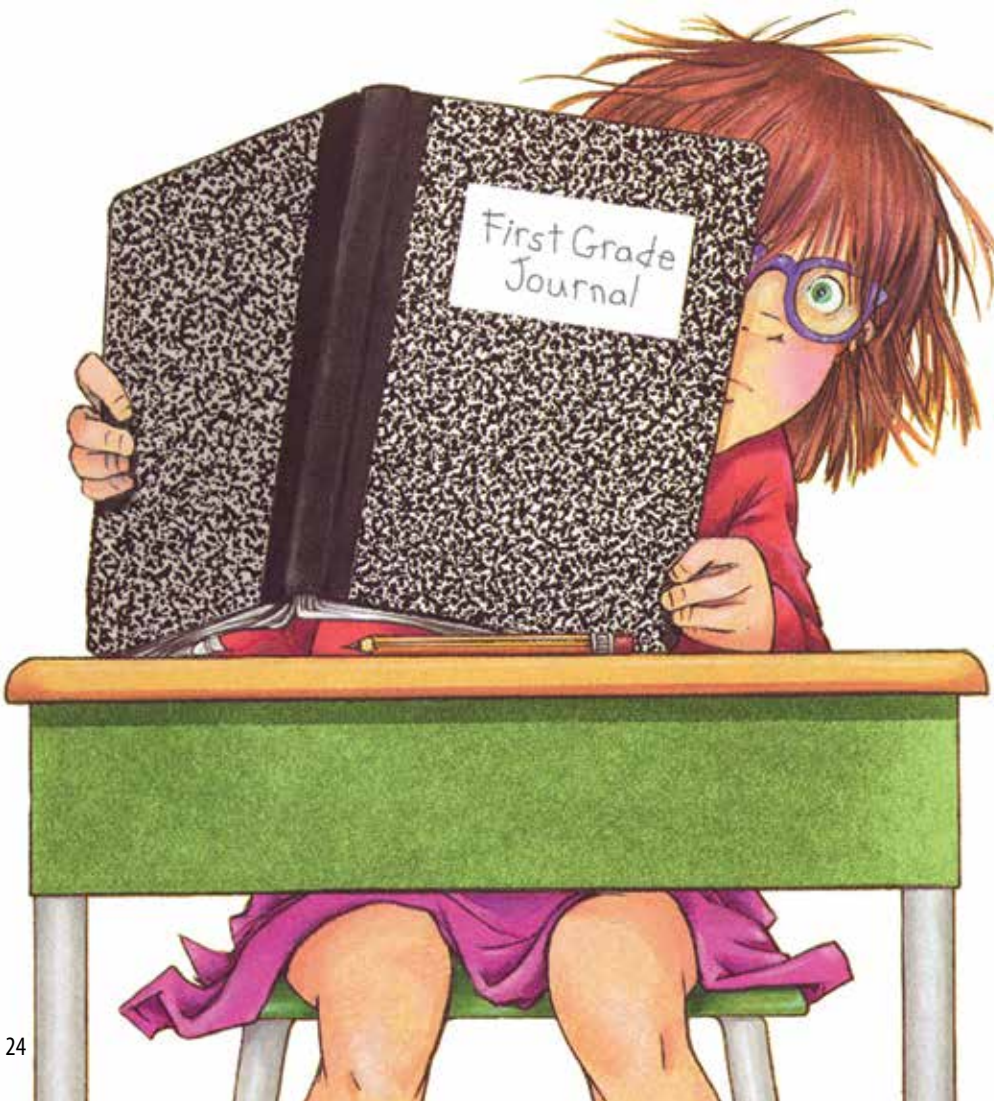
Vandivier is also thrilled that Harry Potter's story is continuing, creating new source material for when her class is offered again in fall 2016. A new play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I & II*, debuts next year, serving as the eighth story in the Potter series.

Vandivier is offering Social Movements of Harry Potter this semester, examining the movements of Hermione Granger's Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.), Dumbledore's Army and other aspects. ■

Students Learn to Take a Show on the Road With Junie B. Jones

By Charles Schelle

Just like the title character of *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*, the show's cast and crew can stand out in a crowd for all the right reasons. The children's musical is part of FSU's Roundabout Theatre and CES Arts for the Schools, which travelled to area schools to stage the play during the fall semester.



The musical, featuring student designs at a number of levels, had a challenge not faced in most shows. In addition to shows in their regular home in the Performing Arts Center, they had to be ready to pack everything up and perform in unfamiliar spaces when they took their show on the road.

The fast-paced work featured non-stop singing, dialogue, dance steps and subtle set changes that made Junie B. Jones' world come alive. It's a must to hold the attention of a young audience.

"Children are very energetic, so you need to give them an energy so they'll pay attention," said choreographer **Erienne McEldowney**. The FSU senior leaned on a jazzy style of music to execute a high-energy show.

"You need to give the actors really popping dance moves. The actors have to have energy, whether they're speaking or singing or dancing," she said. "I was using that jazzy style to energize the movements and everything else. We have a lot of running here, running there. Quick shuffles there."

Despite the controlled chaos, lead actress **Jasmine Proctor** said McEldowney's work easily translates into *Junie B. Jones*.

"You have a lot to remember, but you just have to be really calm and have a lot of focus," the FSU sophomore said. "I really get lost into what I'm doing. After I get my costume on and makeup on, I'm not really Jasmine anymore. I'm Junie B., so it feels really natural. So I don't really feel overwhelmed with what I'm doing."

Behind the dancing and acting, the actors interacted with the set that transformed from a closed notebook to an open notebook that doubled as a classroom and a home. Building blocks that spelled out Junie B. Jones were also used as seats throughout scenes, all thanks to set and props designer **Kimberly Lartz**.

Cover illustration from *Junie B. Jones: First Grader (at Last!)* Illustration ©2001 by Denis Brunkus. Used by permission of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.



Junie B. Jones cast members, from left, **Jasmine Proctor**, **Melani Finney**, **Habtamu Anderson** and **Michael Mobley**, practice a "dodgeball" dance sequence.

"I love children's theater," the FSU senior said. With all of the colors and everything around me, I thought, "What was the most outrageous thing I could think of that I could put in here and just make sense?"

Her pride and joy of the set was a chalkboard that lowered down to reveal a kitchen window and a table for house scenes. The pictures on the interior walls were inspired by scenes in the musical.

"I chose my favorite moments from the *Junie B. Jones* show. She has the moment with Herb on the bus, and that stole my heart," she said, identifying the picture of the bus on the wall. "That needs to go right there and needs to be one of the big things you see. It's kind of, 'What is her life and what is important to her?'"

Lartz also channeled her inner Junie B. Jones by showing that different can be cool. She challenged stereotypes with her carpentry skills, which were especially useful when building a collapsible set for touring.

"It's definitely been an interesting experience. I learned to embrace the fact that I'm



Alexander Serrano strikes a triumphant pose.

a small woman. Going beyond that, I wear steel toes; I always have a nail gun on me," she said. "It challenges everyone around you to change what they think a carpenter should be."

Proctor hopes that the kids who saw *Junie B. Jones* were inspired by the message of the play and the hard work of the cast and crew.

"I hope that some kids relate to Junie B. because they're that little kid too, and realize



Erienne McEldowney



Jasmine Proctor



Kimberly Lartz

that it's OK to be yourself," said Proctor, who was an avid reader of the eponymous book series by Barbara Park. "I also hope that a lot of little kids get interested in theatre because it's a great art form. It's a great way to really express yourself. I wish that I had more people to try to push me into theatre when I was growing up, especially being so young."

The cast and crew say they could not have staged *Junie B. Jones* if it weren't for the opportunities given to them at FSU.

"All of our professors and all of our teachers are so hands on. They go above and beyond to help us and to better us as actors and actresses," Proctor said. "I'm really thankful for them for showing me the ropes and helping me better myself as an actress." ■



FALL 2015 BY THE NUMBERS:

20	All-Conference honorees, CAC and NJAC
9	ECAC All-Stars
6	All-Region honorees
3	DIII Senior Bowl Selections – Football
1	NJAC Special Teams Player of the Year
1	NJAC Rookie of the Year



NJAC Special Teams
Player of the Year
Austin Bonsall



NJAC Rookie of the Year
Connor Cox



Platinum Eight Years in a Row

The women's soccer Bobcats' 2015 season was Platinum, according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, which named the team its Ethics and Sportsmanship Award winner. The Platinum Award, one of the most difficult to achieve in college soccer, is given to teams that have received no yellow caution cards or red ejection cards throughout the season.

This marks the eighth year in a row the Bobcats have been honored. They are one of only eight teams nationally to receive the award. They finished the season with a 10-7-3 record and appeared in the first round of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Tournament.

Bobcat seniors, from left, **Kelsey Wentworth**, **Jessa DiTullo**, **Abby Aposporos**, **Paige Gray**, **Brooke Longo**, **Erin Worthman** and **Chelsie McCoy**



Christian March



Macey Nitchie

Swimming Standouts

Sophomore **Christian March** has 27 wins and remains undefeated in the 200 breaststroke event. He broke two meet records and two school records, as well as earned two NCAA provisional "B" cut times in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events this season. March enters the championship season ranked second in the CAC in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events.

Meanwhile, sophomore **Macey Nitchie** broke school records in the 500-yard freestyle (5:20.69) and the 100-yard freestyle (53.74), and has posted 20 first-place finishes this season. Her teammate, freshman **Maddie Weinberger**, broke a 20-year school record in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:08.08) and a school record in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:28.41). Weinberger has also posted 20 first-place finishes and currently holds the top time in the CAC for the 200-yard breaststroke (2:28.41).

Outstanding in Their (Track &) Fields

Senior **J.R. Lowery** holds the nation's seventh-longest throw in the shot put after breaking the Frostburg record and qualifying for the ECAC Indoor Championships with a toss of 16.48 meters (54' 1"). He also holds the nation's 28th best throw in the weight throw after breaking his own school record with an ECAC Indoor Championship qualifying distance of 16.18 meters (53' 1").

Sophomore **Kayla Truesdel** is currently ninth in the country in the 60-meter dash (7.83) and 16th in NCAA Division III in the 200-meter dash (26.11).



J.R. Lowery

Lewis Inducted Into Coaches Hall of Fame

By Noah Becker M'06

Dr. Robert Lewis, who for 31 years was head coach for 112 Frostburg track & field and cross country teams, was inducted into the 2015 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Hall of Fame in December. He was one of six inductees honored.

Spanning over 30 years, Lewis' coaching career began at Frostburg in 1970 and lasted until 2001. In that time, Lewis elevated the track & field and cross country programs to national prominence.

He guided his track & field teams to NCAA Division III National Championships during the indoor season in 1986 and during the outdoor seasons in 1986 and 1987. Lewis was selected as the NCAA Division III National Track & Field Coach of the Year three times and NCAA Division III South/Southeast Region Cross Country Coach of the Year three times.

He led the FSU men's and women's cross country teams to a pair of top-10 and 10 top-20 national finishes with 11 Mason-Dixon Conference championships and 18 championships in other conferences. He also guided the teams to a combined 56 victories at invitational meets.

"I'm just as proud of those conference championships as I am the national ones because they involved so many of our very talented athletes," Lewis said.

During his track & field coaching career, 68 of Lewis' athletes received All-American honors and turned in 113 total All-American performances. Frostburg produced 14 NCAA Division III National Champions and established six national meet records.

Lewis' track & field teams produced 12 top-10 Division III finishes, and his final team in 2001 finished third nationally. The Bobcat track & field programs won ECAC Indoor Championships in 1987 and 1988, captured Mason-Dixon Conference Championship titles 29 times, won 22 invitational meets and posted a 117-4 overall record against rivals Towson, Salisbury and UMBC.

FSU Hall of Famer and former men's track participant **Carl Schueler '78** won the 1978 NAIA National Championship in the 2-mile walk and was a member of the 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992 U.S. Olympic track & field teams.

"We sought out the most competitive schedule we could find, including competing against some eventual Olympic champions," Lewis said. "Our athletes really responded to being challenged at very high levels." Lewis took pride in having a full roster of competitors at every level of competition. "The whole sport is what we wanted to do."

Lewis still serves as a professor in Frostburg's Department of Kinesiology and Recreation.

"This recognition is really for the entire Frostburg State University program of track & field and cross country, not just me," said Lewis. "We have benefited so much from the work of other coaches, most particularly that of (professor emeritus) **Dr. Charles Hircock**, who coordinated our recruiting efforts and coached the throwing events for three decades. Without Charles' work, we would not have been nearly as successful." ■



Stan Soper '72/M'77, left, a member of Dr. Robert Lewis' first track & field team and a member of the Bobcat Hall of Fame, nominated his former coach, at right, for the honor. Soper went on to be a college coach himself, becoming the longest-tenured coach at the University of Mary Washington.



Zach Shattuck

Shattuck Lapping the Competition in Record-Breaking Season

Zach Shattuck is like lightning in the water.

His electrifying season saw the sophomore break 23 Paralympic American records in the 2015-16 season, including five Class S6 records in a single meet. The 4-foot-6-inch Bobcat is a No. 1 U.S. ranked swimmer in his events among S6 swimmers – a classification based on stature.

His performance has him ranked worldwide as 15th in the 50-meter freestyle, 15th in the 50-meter butterfly and 16th in the 200-meter individual medley. Shattuck, who only started swimming competitively in 2014, hasn't taken too much time to reflect on his accomplishments.

"When I'm with my teammates and hanging around, I'm just another kid trying to beat my own times," Shattuck said.

Regardless of the class or division, Shattuck had an unforgettable season for head coach **Justin Anderson**.

"Zach had one of the most prolific seasons of anyone I've coached," he said.

Several records stood for years – decades, even – including one set before Shattuck was born. On Jan. 30, he broke an American record in the 50-meter butterfly that was set in 1994.

"That was really cool to be able to say somebody set this record before I was born, and I beat it," said Shattuck, who will turn 20 on March 20.

His most commanding performance was in the 400-individual medley, Anderson added. Shattuck swam 6:18.11 in the medley on Jan. 28. The previous record, set the year before, was 7:25.22.

"It's one of the most grueling events in all of swimming to be able to tackle," Anderson said.

Shattuck is on the U.S. Emerging Team and will compete in the U.S. Paralympic Swim Trials in Charlotte, N.C., from June 30 to July 2, to earn his way onto the team that's headed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September.

"His record-setting performances today are a direct reflection of his dedication," Anderson said. "The whole team is so proud of him and excited to be a part of his quest to making the Rio Paralympic Games!"

– Charles Schelle

Put Me in, Coach

Frostburg Coaches' Influence Continues to Pay Dividends

by Charles Schelle

Few people have more influence on a student-athlete than does a coach. And when those athletes go on to become coaches themselves, that wisdom transcends generations. Here are some examples of that generational wisdom.



Women's soccer head coach Brian Parker '92 sets the tone for a team that succeeds on the field and in the classroom.

Parker's Persistence Pays Off

The Bobcats women's soccer squad prides itself on playing an honest game, and the results are evident both on and off the field thanks to the tone set by head coach **Brian Parker '92**.

Consider some of these major accomplishments:

- Parker's teams have never had a losing record in his 13 seasons.
- They've earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's College Team Academic Award eight years in a row, based on team GPA.
- They've earned NSCAA Ethics and Sportsmanship Award for eight years in a row for sportsmanship.
- They've made eight NCAA tournament appearances in the last 15 seasons.

"If you want to have successful athletic teams at any college or university, you need to recruit talented players and need to put them in an organized environment where they can excel," Parker said. "That's what we tried to create here where smart, athletic young ladies can succeed in a college athletics environment. It's a matter of continually pushing the bar a little higher each year and raising the expectation level."

Parker is detailed and methodical in how he gets his players to respond to both their responsibilities on the field and in the classroom, setting specific

guidelines for performance, dress, language, academic goals and field goals.

"We put everything in writing, and we go through it every day," he said. "We want our players to have a fun and rewarding experience."

The former goalkeeper for the men's Bobcat squad turned to coaching after an injury ended his playing career, taking the reigns of the women's club team from 1990 to 1993.

He built the Urbana High School girls soccer program from the ground up when the school opened in 1995, winning two regional championship titles. In 2002, an opening came up at FSU that he couldn't pass up: becoming the Bobcats' head coach.

Parker makes it clear to his players that at Division III, the time is now to be the "fit-test, smartest and fastest soccer player they'll ever be."

At the same time as Parker tries to squeeze every ounce of effort out of his players, he wants them to do the same out of FSU by getting involved on campus.

"We use the phrase, 'You should squeeze the school for everything you can get,' he said. "One of the great things about the D-III model is the calendar encourages us to take advantage of what we have to offer."

It's that bond and trust that has Parker saying his proudest moments with his players are when they invite him to their weddings. (Parker also found his wife at FSU—**Karen Parker '93**.)

"I think that the happiest moment that I have is when a player feels they're connected enough that they invite me to be a part of their lives after Frostburg State," he said.

On the field, Parker and the squad are still chasing the ultimate joy: A NCAA D-III tournament championship. That is a tall feat, considering only 14 different schools have won the tournament in 29 years.

"If we can get to the Sweet 16 to compete, that would be enough, but I also know that's not just how we measure our ultimate success here," Parker said.

Pushing for the next win in the post season is more about never wanting the season to end.

"I want the season to last a little longer to go out and train these girls every week," he said. "That, frankly, is almost rewarding enough."

Bobcat Standout Guides First-year Lourdes Program to Postseason



Jackie Donovan '09/M'11

Bobcat player from 2005 to 2009, coupled with her communication studies degree and her master's in business administration from FSU.

"My MBA helped with managing large groups of people. Within the program we had management courses, and you have different managing styles," she said. "In coaching, and running the program, you're managing 25 players. Your ability to do so and getting the most out of those players is directly influenced by the MBA program. If you can't manage the athletic and mental sides of managing players, it can be very tough."

She built a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II program from scratch at the private university on the edge of Toledo, Ohio. She didn't want her players to use being in a first-year program as an excuse for their performance, and they responded.

Donovan was able to guide 20 players – a team made up of incoming freshmen and junior college transfers – to a postseason appearance after an 8-8-1 season. That run

included knocking off a Top 25 national team and playing in a challenging Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference that features two nationally ranked squads.

The Hollidaysburg, Pa., native was attracted by the chance to shape her own soccer program after building her soccer résumé. She started 83 games with the Bobcats, leading to a NCAA Division III tournament appearance in 2005, then spent two years as a graduate assistant coach at FSU. She then moved on to associate women's head coach in 2011 at Adrian College, where the team won the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association regular season championship.

A part of her success comes from instilling the same high expectations in her players for both their play and academics that her FSU head coach **Brian Parker '92** had when she played.

"A lot of values I instill are the ones I learned from Frostburg. Major ones like accountability – making sure girls are accountable for themselves and teammates," Donovan said. "Respect is a very big one for us as well."

Parker knew Donovan would make an excellent coach.

"Jackie was one of the most focused and determined athletes I coached here – just a really smart, skillful athlete," Parker said. He added that he knew she would be an excellent coach from having the "it factor" of using her body language and voice to command people's attention, coupled with her knowledge of the game.

Donovan knows she has to keep evolving as a coach and works with her players on film analysis to adapt play and build skill. As she continues to build Lourdes University's program, she will never forget what FSU did for her to put her in that position.

"My time at Frostburg is something I'll always remember. It was a fantastic experience playing at the collegiate level," Donovan said. "I can't speak enough about the university. I gush about my time there and the fact I was able to play collegiately while getting my education and master's."

Longabardi Joins Cleveland Cavaliers as Assistant Coach



Mike Longabardi '96

NBA champion assistant coach and Bobcat alumnus **Mike Longabardi '96** is taking his talents to Cleveland.

Longabardi was hired in January as the new assistant coach for the Cleveland Cavaliers, where he will coach LeBron James and company. He joins head coach Tyrone

Lue, whom he coached under for four seasons with the Boston Celtics.

Shortly after his hire, Longabardi was named to the coaching staff for the 2016 Eastern Conference All-Stars for the NBA All-Star Game in Toronto.

Longabardi won the 2008 NBA title with the Celtics, helping Boston reach two NBA Finals and three Eastern Conference Finals thanks to his stingy defensive system and talented squad. He spent the last two seasons with the Phoenix Suns.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native majored in Health and Physical Education while at FSU and was a guard for the Bobcats basketball team.

Brown Earns Head Coaching Job at Pitt-Bradford

Former Bobcats basketball standout **Sean Brown, Sr. '03/M'05** is entering his first season as head coach of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford women's basketball team.



Sean Brown, Sr. '03/M'05

The NCAA Division III team plays in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

Brown spent eight years at FSU as the men's assistant basketball coach where he

helped the Bobcats to the AMCC Tournament in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons and the Capital Athletic Conference Tournament in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons. He also served as a graduate assistant in the 2004-05 season and a student assistant from 2002-04.

Brown played for the Bobcats for three seasons, including an AMCC Championship in 2001. He led the Bobcats that season in steals (66), assists (167) and three-point percentage (46.2) to earn an All-AMCC honorable mention recognition.

Brown has a bachelor's degree in recreation and parks management and a master's degree in education from FSU.

He is married to **Jennifer Edith Brown '03/M'05**, and they have two sons and a daughter.



Kelsey Wentworth



Six new members were inducted into the Bobcat Hall of Fame. Pictured from left are Kathy Harding '88/M'90; Tracey Little '05/M'14; Denise Chase '88, the widow of Tony Chase '87, who accepted the award on her husband's behalf; Maria Ferguson '03/M'06; Dante Myles '03; and Dr. David Tuel.



Enthusiastic FSU fans gathered for pre-game festivities, tailgating and team spirit.



The 1993 Football team was honored during the Hall of Fame dinner for the mark they made in FSU athletic history.



Men's basketball alumni reconnected and closed out the weekend by joining the current team for a rousing game of hoops.



Tyler Reinhardt '15 hung out with Bob E. Cat at the Welcome Center and greeted alumni as they returned to campus.



Nicole Leighty lost her father, Mark Leighty, this past fall. He was a dedicated supporter of the Field Hockey team and a plaque has been placed on the Wall of Recognition in Bobcat Stadium to honor his commitment.



Dr. David Fell, professor Emeritus, had an opportunity to meet the Fell Social Studies Educator Scholarship recipient, Monica Keller, during the Retired Employee Luncheon.



Steve Cramblitt '71/M'75, Howard Reynolds '69/M'75/M'85 and Barry Hecker '70 have been friends for more than 40 years and they returned to their alma mater for the Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Brunch.



Kaniece Hurley and Brandon Holmes were crowned the 2015 Homecoming Queen & King.



Retired employees, Yvonne Beal, Dr. Alice Manicur and Dr. David Gillespie reunite during the Retired Employee Luncheon.



Alumni from the 1980's return to their alma mater for a weekend of reminiscing and took a moment to pose with Bob and show their school spirit.



CLASSNOTES

ClassNotes listed are those received as of January 11, 2016.

1966

Tom Slater was named the historian, a newly established position, for the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee.

1969



David Diaz was awarded the top prize, the Mayoral Award, for his painting “The Hook” at the Art in the Open painting competition in Wexford, Ireland. A plein air artist with works in collections in the U.S., Europe and Asia, he is also an art educator. For information, visit www.artintheopen.org.

J. Ron Hennings retired from K-12 education in 2012 after 43 years, with 36 in administration, including 20 as superintendent. For the past three years, he has taught Teacher Prep and Educational Leadership courses for Prescott College in Prescott, Ariz., and was appointed associate professor and chair of its M.Ed. — Educational Leadership degree program.

1975



Retired Air Force Col. Donald J. White, right, has been elected over the last 3 years as a fellow of the Aerospace Human Factors Association; a fellow in the Royal Aeronautical Society, London; and a fellow in the Aerospace Medical Association. He was recently appointed by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Prevented Medicine/Biostatistics.

1976

Ken Krieger M’83 was named head coach of the D.C. United Under-16 U.S. Soccer Development Academy team. Ken was director of coaching at McLean Youth Soccer. A veteran coach, he holds a USSF A license and an NSCAA Director of Coaching diploma.

William Payne M’84/M’98 was appointed assistant principal at Braddock Middle School in Cumberland, Md. He most recently served as assistant principal at the Career Center in Cumberland.

1981

Alan Beulah M’84 joined M/I Homes of Charlotte, N.C., as vice president of Operations in Sales and Marketing. He will be responsible for recruiting, training and developing the division’s sales team and managing all marketing activities for M/I Homes communities in the Charlotte region. He will also advise senior management on market development and land acquisition.

1982

Brett Hull M’85 was named the Jerome Gottlieb ’64 Coaching Fellow for Exemplary Mentoring at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. He is in his 24th season as head coach of the Hamilton College men’s cross country and track & field programs.

1984



Dr. Jeffrey Musser, right, clinical associate professor in veterinary pathobiology at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in College Station, Texas, was recognized with the prestigious Association of Former Students College-Level Teaching Award for his talent, expertise and devotion to students. He also was awarded the Zoetis Distinguished

Veterinary Teacher Award for his outstanding achievement and dedication in the field of veterinary medicine.

1985

Col. John Graham raises tilapia, trout, black seabass and catfish at his Graham Bass Fish Farm in Bedford County in Virginia. John uses biological filters to keep the water fresh and at the correct temperature in different tanks indoors and outdoors. For information, visit grahambassff.com.

1987

Russell Strickland M’87 was appointed executive director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. He brings more than four decades of experience in the fields of emergency services and management, first-responder activities, law enforcement and fire inspection and investigation.

1988



Tonya Sturm was appointed chief financial officer at First United Bank & Trust in Oakland, Md. Tonya has more than 20 years of experience in banking and financial management, most recently as Finance Manager, part of First United’s Senior Leadership Team.

1989

Susan Bojarski Waite was promoted to vice president of Lending at Point Breeze Credit Union, responsible for indirect, consumer and mortgage lending departments. She has been with Point Breeze for more than 25 years.

1990

Richard King M’03 was appointed assistant principal at the Career Center in Allegany County in Cumberland. He began his tenure as a special education teacher and has also held positions as coordinating teacher and assistant principal at various schools in the system.

1991



Michael Gentry was promoted to director at KatzAbosch, one of the largest CPA and business consulting services in the Mid-Atlantic region. Mike chairs

the Construction Group and heads up the Pricing and Realization Committee. Employed since 1998, he also services closely held businesses in the distribution, health care and transportation sectors. Michael holds the prestigious distinction of Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional, a certification held by fewer than 50 professionals in Maryland. He is also a Certified Construction Auditor.

1993

Kelly Cassell M’03 was appointed the academic dean at Allegany High School in Cumberland. Kelly began her career as a social studies teacher. She also served as a middle school and high school assistant principal. A new initiative in the school system, academic deans report to the principal and the system’s chief academic officer.

1994

Sarah Ivy participated in an invitation-only panel discussion titled “Are YOU Prepared for the Upcoming Affordable Care Act Filing Requirements?” on behalf of Grassi and Co. and HR Best Practices. Sarah, counsel in the firm’s Labor and Employment Practice Group, focuses primarily in the areas of ERISA, employee benefits and executive compensation.

Michael Lewis M’94 was named the new principal at Keyser High School in Keyser, W.Va. Michael was employed as a reserve officer coordinator with the Natural Resources Police based in Annapolis, Md. He is also an adjunct professor at FSU and a general manager with Creative Intellectual Capital LLC, a Frostburg consulting service for education and juvenile justice programs. Michael is a member of the Frostburg Community Coalition.

Glenn Rice, Jr. M’00 was appointed assistant principal at Fort Hill High School in Cumberland. He began his career as an elementary teacher and has also taught middle school science and served as a coordinating teacher and a middle school assistant principal.



Albert Burnham ’08 was named recreation manager with the city of Unalaska Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation. Albert was elected to the Alaska Recreation and Park Association Board of Directors last fall and has been a regular presenter at the Annual ARPA Conferences. He has been an active member of the Unalaska community through Unalaska Christian Fellowship where he serves as an adult Sunday school teacher and youth leader.

1997



Jodi Lum Blair was recognized as an Emerging Leader at the 2015 Women to Watch Awards ceremony, sponsored by the American Institute

of Certified Public Accountants and the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, in recognition of women leaders who have made significant contributions to the accounting profession. She is responsible for the Estate Planning and Compliance Department.

1999

Christine Frye Lewis M’03 was inducted into the National Association of Professional Women 2015-2016 VIP Woman of the Year Circle. Christine was honored as a leader and a role model for her profession, for her commitment to achieving success, according to her personal standards of excellence, and for her outstanding accomplishments in enriching the field of education with her diversified proficiencies. She is director of student life at West Virginia Schools for the Deaf & the Blind.

2000



Andrew Miller was named a principal of Bose Public Affairs Group LLC, a government affairs and strategic communications firm. In addition to his

primary focus in state and local govern-

ment relations, he supports the firm’s daily operation and strategic planning.

2001



Matthew T. Growden M’04 was promoted to vice president and chief information officer at First United Bank & Trust in Oakland, Md. He also acts as the chair of the External Technology Committee, sits on the Cyber Risk Management Committee and is a member of the Maryland Bankers Association Security Committee and the Cyber Security Committee, as well as the chair of the bank’s internal Wellness Committee.

2004



Dr. Daniel Filer M’06/M’08 was selected the chief of Business Management for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. As parkwide volunteer coordinator, he made the park’s volunteer program into one of the largest in the system, engaging nearly 4,000 volunteers in more than two dozen programs. Most recently he assumed the role of partnerships coordinator at the C&O Canal, working cross-divisionally within the park on program development and budget management and contributing to the revisions of the National Park Service’s policies on phi-

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2

Track & Field Alumni & Family Reception
Hospitality Suite, Bobcat Stadium
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

APRIL 9

Field Hockey Alumni Game
Bobcat Stadium
1 - 3:30 p.m.

APRIL 15

Learning From Leaders
FSU Campus

APRIL 16

Alumni Association Board of Directors Spring Retreat
Room 397, Gira Center

Men’s Lacrosse Alumni & Family Reception
Hospitality Suite, Bobcat Stadium
11 a.m. - Noon

Softball Alumni & Family Reception
Softball Field
Noon - 1 p.m.

Women’s Lacrosse Alumni & Family Reception
Hospitality Suite, Bobcat Stadium
2 - 3 p.m.

Greatest Couples of All Time
Lyric Theatre
8 - 11 p.m.
\$25 per person

APRIL 17

Women’s Lacrosse Alumni Game
Bobcat Stadium
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

APRIL 17

Baseball Alumni & Family Reception
Baseball Field
1 - 2 p.m.

APRIL 30

FSU Spring Golf Invitational
Fore Sisters Golf Course

MAY 20-21

Golden Anniversary Reunion
Celebrating the Class of 1966 and before
FSU Campus

MAY 21

148th Commencement Ceremony
Tickets required

JUNE 10-11

Frostburg Football Golf Outing & Reunion
Rocky Gap Casino & Resort

JULY 16

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
Frederick, Md.

OCTOBER 20-23

Homecoming 2016

We are adding more events to our calendar! Please visit www.frostburg.edu/alumni for information and to find events in your area!

For more information or to RSVP for any event listed, call 301.687.4068 or email alumni@frostburg.edu.

2006



Coty Warn-Forno was recognized as one of *The Daily Record’s* 2015 Maryland Leading Women, which honors women age 40 and younger for their career accomplishments based on their professional experience, community involvement and commitment to inspiring change. Coty is the founder of Mountain City Center for the Arts, LLC, in Frostburg.

lanthropy and partnerships. Daniel also serves as an adjunct professor at FSU.



Tracy Minnick Morey was promoted to director at Squire, Lemkin + Company LLP, a certified public accounting firm in Rockville, Md. A CPA, Tracy received her Master of Science in Accounting from the College of William and Mary in spring 2005. Since graduation, she has worked for SL+Co, specializing in audits and tax compliance for nonprofit organizations.

2007

Amber Blackmire was selected as Officer of the Month for June 2015. Amber has been employed by the city of Hagerstown for two years and is assigned to the Patrol Division. She was selected for her role in working with and promoting the Special Olympics program.



2008

Matthew Ancarrow played the role of Martius in the Halloween horror production of William Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore.



2009

Jennifer Hunt Stone was selected as the first civilian public information officer for the St. Mary's County, Md., Sheriff's Office. Jennifer will be responsible for establishing cooperative relationships with the media in addition to managing communication with the citizens of St. Mary's County.



2010

Tai Shadrick M'10 is an associate attorney with Spilman Thomas & Battle, returning after serving for a year as a judicial law clerk to Fourth Circuit Judge Robert B. King. Her primary area of practice is consumer finance litigation.

2013

Kellie Reese M'13 was promoted to supervisor at Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC. Kellie, a CPA, is an auditor for employee benefit plans and manufacturing clients.

2014

Kevin Free developed Cinema-Sync as the next major innovation in mobile live streaming. A project he started while at FSU

(see Fall 2014 *Profile*, p. 4), Kevin's team of a half dozen programmers has developed a fully functional prototype and is now working to complete a beta version of the software. In an effort to introduce consumers to the app, Revmatek will release a free preview version of Cinema-Sync on Google Play and the Apple Store that will allow users to live stream video through their mobile devices. For information, visit www.cinema-sync.com.

Michael Schoelen was named a GIS technician at the Library of Congress.

Kyle Seifert joined 84 Lumber Company as a manager trainee at the company's Somerset, Pa., store.

2015

Morgan Hoover was named assistant volleyball coach at Washington College in Chestertown, Md. Morgan was a two-time Team Most Valuable Player at FSU and graduated ranked third all-time for the Bobcats in career blocks and 11th in career kills with 677. During her last semester, Morgan interned at the Frostburg Volleyball Club, helping start the organization and serving as assistant coach for the under-16 team.

James Purpura M'15 was named assistant men's lacrosse coach at Queens University of Charlotte, N.C. While at FSU, he worked as a graduate assistant with the men's lacrosse team, during a season in which they posted a 16-3 record. The University was nationally ranked for six straight weeks during the season. ■

Marriages

1989



Sherri Clark married **Michael Sheetz '86** on April 25, 2015. Sherri is a budget analyst at FSU, and Mike is director of General Accounting at the University. The couple resides in Ridgeley, W.Va.

2000



Sara-Beth James married Zachary Bittering on Sept. 26, 2015. Sara-Beth is director of Assessment and Institutional Research at FSU. The couple resides in Midland, Md.

2002

Kathy Arnold married Nicholas Hozik on July 18, 2015. Kathy is in her 10th year at Trigger Agency as a senior event manager.

2007

Carly Muletz married **Robert Wolz '07** on Aug. 16, 2014. Carly is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland and a researcher at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and received a fellowship through the Environmental Protection Agency. Robert is serving an electrician apprenticeship with IBEW Local 26. He is employed with Power Services.



Kelly Emery married **Chris Romer '07** on June 20, 2015. Kelly is a third-grade



Colin Fagan '12 married Kari Nailer on Oct. 24, 2015. Nearly 50 FSU grads attended their Annapolis, Md., wedding.

teacher in Bethesda, Md. Chris is a school counselor in Gaithersburg, Md. The couple resides in Rockville, Md.

2010

Alexandra Jenkins married Brent Felton on Aug. 23, 2014. Alexandra is employed as a substitute teacher in Mineral and Allegany counties.

2012

Sharita Sivels M'15 married Lester Stevens in May 2015. Sharita and her husband have a daughter, Shalaih, and became homeowners in 2014. She works as a child therapist for a community center.

2014

Megan DeWitt married David Mertz on Sept. 26, 2015. Megan is employed at CBIZ. The couple resides in Cumberland.

2015

Karissa Fitzgerald married Richie Brandenburg on Aug. 23, 2014. Karissa is employed as a language arts teacher at Braddock Middle School. The couple resides in Cumberland.

Families

1976

Jo-Ann Umstot-Verdiglione and her husband, **Ralph Verdiglione '77**, announce the arrival of their second grandchild, Adeline Verdiglione, on Sept. 16, 2015. Their grandson, Nicholas, just turned 4. He was born on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2011 (11/11/11). The children's father, **Vincent Verdiglione '03**, is an assistant principal in Staten Island, N.Y. The Verdigliones are retired.

1997

Megan Jensen Lupoli and her husband, **Shawn '00**, announce the birth of their son, Baxter Pryce, on Aug. 8, 2015. Baxter joins big brother Bowen.

1998

Amy McGuire announces the birth of her son, Luca Weiss, on Dec. 19, 2014.

2001



Kandi Ashby Macauley M'03 and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey, in June 2015.

Amanda Paul and her husband, **Sam White '96**, announce the birth of their son, Samuel James Paul-White, on Sept. 24, 2015.

2005

The Rev. **Frankie Revell** and his wife, Kerry, announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Frances, on Oct. 3, 2015. Frankie is the pastor at LaVale United Methodist Church.

2006

Sarah Greenwood Ports and her husband, **Justin '08**, announce the birth of their daughter, Harper, on May 2, 2015.



2009

Shenay Johnson announces the birth of her daughter, Dakota, on Feb. 8, 2015.

2011

Andrea Warnick Fitzwater and her husband, **Joshua '11**, announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Zander, on June 22, 2015. Andrea is employed at FSU as an alumni relations and events specialist. ■



In Memoriam

Alumni

- 1942 Mary Weimer Thoeirg** Sept. 27, 2015
- 1944 Mary DeWitt Truly** Aug. 6, 2015
- 1951 William P. Kildow** July 23, 2015
Elloveen Lipscomb Oct. 10, 2015
- 1952 Donald R. Burgess** Oct. 7, 2015
- 1953 Edith Utt Carter** Dec. 26, 2015
L. Hays Chambers, Jr. July 2015
Dr. John O. Diggs, Sr. Sept. 21, 2015
Patricia Martz Hout Nov. 15, 2015
Mary Jane McDonald Stanley-Broadwater Dec. 21, 2015
- 1956 Dr. Russell G. Fitzgerald, Jr.** Oct. 15, 2015
Betty McLaughlin Stafford Aug. 18, 2015
- 1958 Rose Winner Montgomery** Sept. 19, 2015
- 1960 Martin J. Eichhorn, Jr.** Nov. 12, 2015
- 1961 Carroll H. Staggs, Jr. M'66** Aug. 1, 2015
- 1963 John M. Smith** July 6, 2015
- 1965 David E. Day** Aug. 7, 2015
Kenneth K. Kelly Nov. 22, 2015
- 1966 Blaine L. Griffith** Sept. 14, 2015
- 1970 Michael S. Warne** May 20, 2015
- 1971 Sharon M. Carey** July 11, 2015
Ardis Richardson Diaz Sept. 17, 2015
Stanley L. Mentzer Aug. 9, 2015
- 1973 Olive G. Creek** Dec. 24, 2014
William F. Dean, Jr. Aug. 10, 2015
- 1974 Patricia Hargadon Kohler** Aug. 11, 2015
- 1975 Rev. Gerald J. Sanders, Jr.** Nov. 23, 2015
- 1977 Stephen L. Haag** Aug. 31, 2015
- 1978 Robert R. Nixon M'78** Feb. 17, 2015

- Dr. Stephen M. Nzuve M'78** Dec. 12, 2015
- 1979 Robert C. Barnard II** Sept. 29, 2015
Dr. David D. Heavner Sept. 8, 2015
Warren D. Neal M'79 June 30, 2015
- 1980 Ernest M. Overbey, Jr. M'80** Jan. 2, 2016
- 1981 Carol Cook Rembold** Dec. 19, 2015
- 1986 Olive Lewis Corliss** Nov. 21, 2015
- 1989 Betty Mongold Walker M'92** July 1, 2015
- 1990 Eric L. Whitesell** Aug. 17, 2015
- 1995 Vance C. Ishler M'95** June 13, 2015
- 1996 Jose F. Reyes, Jr. M'02** July 18, 2015
- 1997 William M. Thomas III** Feb. 19, 2015
- 2008 Sara E. Tresselt M'08** Sept. 11, 2015

Friends of the University
Mary Scoffel Acker

- Aug. 16, 2015
- Hon. Miller "Goose" Bowen** Sept. 10, 2015
- Elsie Davis Buskirk-Fazenbaker** Nov. 12, 2015
- Delores Jefferies Footen** Nov. 1, 2015
- Mark Leighty** Sept. 26, 2015
- Dale R. Lewis, Sr.** Sept. 3, 2015
- J. Scott Voorhees** Dec. 31, 2015 ■



Jane Grindel '32 Cumberland, Md., and was director of guidance at Beall High in Frostburg, working summers as a social worker for women in the Maryland prison system. She was a member of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors for more than 20 years, serving on its Scholarship Committee. A member of the Old Main Society, she established the Jane H. Grindel Scholarship to benefit high-achieving Allegany County students.



Francis Poland '57 Francis C. "Bud" Poland '57, who died Jan. 16, 2016, was a teacher, owned an auto parts store and, for the last two decades of his career, was executive director of the Diesel Institute of America's Training School and the Mountaintop Truck Driver School of Garrett County. He was the 31st inductee into the Bobcat Hall of Fame in 1978 for excelling in soccer, where he was an All-American, and in baseball. For 18 years, he served as president of the Bobcat Club and the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. ■

Farewell and Thank You

Frostburg State University wishes the following faculty and staff the best of luck in their retirements:

Dr. Robert Doyle, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering, joined FSU in 1975.

William Getson, moving and storage specialist, Physical Plant Department, joined FSU in 1979.

Ronald Mease, HVAC chief, Physical Plant Department, joined FSU in 1988.

Dr. William Pegg, associate professor in the Department of Biology, joined FSU in 1971.

Gary Robinette, carpenter in the Department of Theatre and Dance, joined FSU in 1989.

Retirements from September 2015 to January 2016



Tiny Warrior

This beaming little recruit trying on a Marine's cover, or cap, was ready for duty thanks to a visit from FSU student veterans.

Two-year-old Weston Rock is putting up a fight against a brain tumor, receiving intensive chemotherapy at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and his warrior spirit is evident in his love for all things military.

Three FSU student veterans, **Kodi Bowers**, pictured, **Anthony Pitts** and **Colton Wassell**, were just as excited to lift Weston's spirits when they showed up in uniform last fall bearing military-themed gifts. The students were responding to the boy's request, received via nurses and Weston's family through the FSU Veterans Services Office.

This visit is just one of the many charitable endeavors Veterans Services participates in throughout the year.



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Help Give Our Fiercest 'Cats a New Home

Whether simply driven to compete or motivated by a deeper purpose, Bobcat women push themselves constantly on the athletic fields and in the classroom.

As NCAA Division III athletes, their teams are funded only by student athletic fees and the support of alumni, family and fans. Their commitment to athletic excellence is matched only by their dedication to academic achievement.

In FSU's first five years in the Capital Athletic Conference, Bobcat women have captured CAC Championships, made NCAA Tournament appearances and captured the 2013 ECAC South Region Championship. Impressively, during that time, Bobcat women have earned 335 spots on the CAC's prestigious All-Academic Teams, some achieving Academic All-American!

FSU and the FSU Foundation want to show our women Bobcats how much they mean to us. We are raising money to build new locker rooms for all of our women's teams. Make a gift to the Women's Locker Room Fund today to show your Bobcat pride!

P.S. Individuals giving \$1,000+ will receive naming rights for a locker in one of the new rooms. Wouldn't you like to see YOUR name or the name of a loved one displayed for generations to come?

YOU CAN HELP with a gift to the Women's Locker Room Fund. Use the enclosed envelope, call us at 301.687.4161 or make a gift online at www.frostburg.edu/makeagift.

