

January 27, 2023

Welcome back as we start the spring 2023 semester. Here are a few updates:

PACE. PACE, the annual conference to highlight Mountain Maryland to state legislators in Annapolis, was held last week. We had very good representation from FSU, including two PLC students who had the opportunity to attend meetings and meet with their respective senators and delegates. At the concluding conference breakfast, FSU was recognized for its 125th anniversary. Sen Cardin and Comptroller Lierman specifically mentioned the importance of FSU to the advancement of Mountain Maryland. In addition, I was able to attend the inauguration of Maryland's first African American governor, Wes Moore, prior to the PACE conference. Although the highlight was the swearing-in of Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller, many in the audience wanted to see Oprah Winfrey, who introduced Governor Moore!

PLC students Kristina Thompson (2nd from right) and Amber Greenbaum (right) meeting Maryland State Delegates Sheila Ruth (left) and Aletheia McCaskill (2nd from left).

NCAA Conference. Members of the athletics staff, our faculty athletic representative and I attended the NCAA conference as full members of Division II. In addition to a meeting of Mountain East Conference members, we heard from the incoming NCAA president, former Mass. Governor Charlie Baker, and attended several sessions focused on student-athlete success and mental health.

Construction Updates. If you visit the main floor of Ort Library, you will see progress on the coffee bar, which we hope to have opened in the upcoming weeks once some utility work gets completed. Furniture is being installed in the Education and Health Sciences Center, and inspections are underway for us to get the Certificate of Occupancy. We are still waiting for materials to be delivered to complete the bathrooms and some countertops throughout the building in open study areas. The walkway between Cordts and the new building is nearing completion. We are awaiting the delivery of special glass panels for the connecting walkway between the new building and Lane University Center. We continue to meet biweekly with our project managers for updates on building progress. Delivery of materials continues to be the biggest problem.

125 years ago. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding in 1898 as State Normal School #2, I'm going to share each week reports from the Frostburg Mining Journal leading up to the legislative decision on April 1898. (The first "normal school" in Maryland was Towson. Normal schools focused on teacher preparation that led to certificates early on, not degrees.)

Some information from the January 22, 1898, edition of the Frostburg Mining Journal (published every Saturday):

- 14 Passenger Trains passed through Cumberland daily on their way to either Baltimore or Pittsburgh. Trains arrived as early as 12:40 a.m. and as late as 8:15 p.m.
- The big political story during January focused on who would be appointed postmaster of Frostburg.
- The state legislature had just begun its session in January, and the only mention I can find in the January 22 edition is this cryptic note: "Looking at You: A delegation from Cumberland has already gone to Annapolis to urge the claims of "pulp-mill wotter" as a normal school drinkable. Allegany delegation, the eyes of the people up here are on you!"

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