

profile

FALL 2020



FROSTBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Bobcats**

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PREVENT THEIR **FUTURE.**

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP
FUND

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As a result of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, many current and prospective students are unable to pay for the education they deserve.

In preparation for the 2020–2021 academic year, we are seeking contributions for our Emergency Scholarship Fund so that we may support these students in need. Your monetary gift will provide vital assistance with tuition, room and board, and other educational expenses.

Visit www.frostburg.edu/GiveESF to give.



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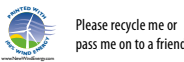
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FSU is a smoke-free campus.



Please recycle me or pass me on to a friend!

At No Other Time ...



At no other time in the 122-year history of Frostburg State University has this institution faced a situation like what now is before us. Frostburg State survived the Great Depression and barely survived World War II; the upheavals of the 1960s were hard, but I believe they ultimately made us stronger. The needs and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to our campus and our community, however, are unprecedented.

As the University community — and all those we work, live and interact with — have been asked to address so much change and so much unknown, I have been truly heartened by what I have seen.

The cover of this issue features the faces of just a few of the many Bobcats who have given back in a time of global need. They are the faces responsible for inspiring acts of decency and good.

Here's to the countless, uplifting acts many of us have seen or been a part. Here's to the perseverance our May 2020 graduates have shown in setting off on their lives, more uncertain but more determined than

any class before them. Here's to the hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who are coming together to plan a fall 2020 that provides the best of what Frostburg State University is about.

And here's to those who, in the midst of everything else going on around them, are continuing to work for justice, to ensure we are not distracted by our immediate concerns from the ongoing quest for equality.

By the time you are reading this, planning for the fall 2020 semester will have been under way for months. Those plans have been and are continuing to be adjusted in response to how the pandemic is affecting our community. Every day there are new data, new guidance and new concerns. While we must remain flexible in the face of the current unknowns, know that we are creating an experience for our students that reflects the core goals and values that Frostburg State has always offered.

Lastly, I want to remind you of the power that you have in your hands. Alumni, employees, students and community members are all part of the Bobcat family. We have the power to support our current and future students in so many ways: dealing with the hardships they will face this year, adapting to different structures of learning and overcoming personal challenges, yet still grabbing opportunities that come their way. Please support our Emergency Scholarship Fund using the enclosed envelope or by visiting frostburg.edu/GiveESF. Now more than ever, this support is essential.

Thank you,

Ronald Nowaczyk, Ph.D.
President

From the New FSU Foundation President



As a Frostburg graduate ('86), I can only imagine what a trying time this is for parents and students in our community. We are all dealing with the

COVID-19 global pandemic, and many students and families are suffering from the economic and mental hardship caused by the measures put in place to keep us safe.

Furthermore, social justice protests are occurring all over the world, prompting challenging and important conversations about the kind of community we want to live in. Young people are wondering how their voices can be heard. Though this dialogue may be difficult at times, it is a necessary part of progress and healing that will foster stronger bonds among our students, and ultimately lead to a more equitable society.

In this time of uncertainty, our need to support our students this year is greater than ever. Frostburg State University and its Foundation are dedicated to that cause. Please join us by going to the FSU GiveCampus site frostburg.edu/GiveESF and donating to the Frostburg Emergency Scholarship Fund. The fund ensures that current and prospective students can get the financial assistance they need.

While the upcoming school year will look a little different, we are all Bobcats! It is that spirit that will make 2020-2021 a success!

Sincerely,

Sandra Adams '86
President
FSU Foundation



With students and employees mostly continuing the semester at home, the campus took on an unusual stillness.

Pandemic Disrupts, FSU Responds

As the coronavirus pandemic began to sweep the nation and the world this spring, the University responded to address the immediate needs of the community, maintaining its educational mission and building systems for a future in conditions that are constantly changing.

Coronavirus appeared in Maryland in early March, and the state of Maryland and the University ramped up efforts to contain the spread. Within days, an initial decision was made to move classes to an all-online format for at least two weeks following spring break, which began on March 14. Soon after, with the pandemic's intensity increasing, it was determined that classes would

remain online for the rest of the semester and students would not return to campus following break, except for those who had no alternatives. All NCAA athletics were cancelled, and planned events were postponed, cancelled or moved online.

As March ended, the University was readjusting to a new format for learning. Faculty restructured their classes, students adapted to online learning and staff helped assist students and fellow employees in the many complexities of the transition to virtual education. FSU added a pass-for-credit/no-credit option for students who had concerns about keeping up and maintaining their GPAs.

Commencement

Spring commencement was postponed — a ceremony will be held when large-scale events are permitted — so a virtual Grad Week Celebration recognized graduates' achievements. Spring grads shared their stories and participated virtually in a few uniquely commencement-related activities, including a mortarboard-decorating contest and a commencement message from President Nowaczyk that allowed graduates to "turn their tassels" on May 21, the original ceremony date. To review the celebrations, visit www.frostburg.edu/commencement.

Communications

With so many changes, the need for communication increases dramatically. A website for COVID-19 information (www.frostburg.edu/covid) was

created — and once initial plans were announced for the fall semester, a fall 2020 site was added (www.frostburg.edu/fall2020). Virtual Town Halls offered the president and leadership team the chance to present updates and answer questions from students, employees, alumni and community members. More than 1,000 people participated, and hundreds of questions were submitted and addressed. Those have been posted in Q&As on the fall 2020 website. Weekly updates now offer key decisions the institution has made, such as announcing that classes will start Aug. 17 and end before Thanksgiving, and that all classes would be in a blended format to limit time in classrooms. Updates and new decisions are being made every week as University leaders continue to evaluate all scenarios for the fall.



Work continued through the spring to complete the new residence hall, which will welcome students with the fall semester.

Bobcats Will Persevere

With the shutdown of many businesses in April, the needs for many of our students dramatically increased — and the Frostburg State community responded. More than

\$20,000 in student crisis funds were raised in a matter of days to help students with immediate needs.

Bucking the trend of many Maryland schools, Frostburg created a personalized distribution model of federal CARES Act dollars. To date, more than \$1 million has been issued to more than 600 students to help cover changes in financial status, loss of employment or other unforeseen circumstances that would hinder the students' ability to complete the spring semester or return in the fall. The monies can be used for rent, utilities, food expenses, technology and access, course materials, emergency moving expenses, medical bills or medications, childcare and other needs. Additionally, monies are being used to help students returning this fall with housing costs and other shortfalls.

The University has also launched an ongoing Emergency Scholarship Fund drive to help students continue their studies. Visit frostburg.edu/GiveESF.

In addition, undergraduate and graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will remain at the 2019 rates for the coming academic year, as approved by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents.

Depending on the residence hall, FSU single room rates will be the same or lower for the coming year. Because of precautions being taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all on-campus residence halls will be single rooms only. Assistance is being offered to students with difficulty affording a single room.

Moving Forward

As this issue goes to print, planning efforts for the fall 2020 semester continue. Stay updated about the work of hundreds of students, faculty staff and community members creating a deliberate and flexible plan for fall 2020 by visiting www.frostburg.edu/Fall2020. ■



Travis Named Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Artie Lee Travis has been named the new vice president for Student Affairs. Travis comes to Frostburg from Bowie State University, where he had been vice president for Student Affairs since 2006.

Prior to his tenure at Bowie, he served in senior student affairs leadership positions at three universities and in other student affairs roles at three others.

Among Travis' initial priorities are forming a top-notch residential living experience across all campus sites, creating an experience for the University's commuter population that encourages them to stay on campus after classes, ensuring that wellness and counseling services are high quality, and fostering an enriching student leadership experience that will prepare them to enter a diverse world.

"Diversity and inclusion are very key to student success. Students will graduate and transition into very diverse workplaces, and this is where they will prepare," Travis said. "I have been intentional in making sure co-curricular experiences celebrate diversity and inclusion. As students, they can learn to live it, they learn to celebrate it and learn how to think about it."

Travis earned a doctorate from the University of South Carolina and bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Illinois University. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army. ■

Nationally Known Educator Chosen as College of Education Dean

Dr. Boyce C. Williams has been named dean of the College of Education. The nationally renowned educator has served as Frostburg's interim dean since 2017.

Williams has a broad background in higher education and related fields. She has worked in teacher education programs, was a vice president for the teacher education accrediting body NCATE (now CAEP) and has experience on both sides of the accrediting process. She worked in education policy matters on Capitol Hill and with the U.S. Department of Education, was senior vice president and chief of staff at the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education and president and CEO of the National Alliance for Learning, Inc. She also worked in public school administration.

While at Frostburg, she led the College of Education through a complex and successful accreditation process, inspired faculty to create new programs and partnered with the University System of Maryland and other USM schools. She also brought significant attention to issues of diversity, inclusion and equity and forged strong relationships with colleagues.

A recipient of eight honorary doctorate degrees, Williams earned master's and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University and a bachelor's from Lincoln University. ■



Monument to Honor Brownsville/Park Avenue Community

A monument to recognize the community of Brownsville/Park Avenue, the African American community that was displaced as Frostburg State grew between the 1920s and the 1960s, is scheduled to be erected on the Upper Quad by the fall. Its placement and dedication, postponed from the spring by the coronavirus pandemic, are being scheduled for fall as well.

Initiated by a student history research project, the project has had many supporters over the years to keep it alive. These include former residents of the community and their descendants, faculty and staff members, students, community members and alumni. The monument is being supported now and into the future primarily by grants and funds raised through donations.

The explanatory plaque begins: "Near this spot, a vibrant African American neighborhood existed prior to the construction of the Frostburg State University campus.

"The name and spirit of Brownsville emerged in the late 19th century largely due to the courage and dedication of Ms. Tamer Brown, a laundress who acquired land here in 1866. A formerly enslaved person, she was a leading force in the establishment of the Lincoln School and in the creation of the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church."

It goes on to describe the cultural hub that the community became for the African American families who lived there, and the period between 1927 and 1962 when property owners were forced to sell to accommodate the growth of the school that became FSU. ■

This medallion, featuring key structures of Brownsville and FSU, and an explanatory plaque mounted to a large boulder will make up the Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument.

University Rededicates John Leake Hall of Fame Room

FSU has rededicated the Hall of Fame Room in the Harold J. Cordts PE Center in honor of John Leake, a coal miner who became a member of the House of Delegates and played a crucial role in the establishment of State Normal School No. 2 at Frostburg. The room had been named for Leake before it was changed in the 2000s.

In 1898, it was Leake who introduced to the House a bill to establish State Normal School No. 2 at Frostburg. This bill failed, so Leake then added an amendment to the Appropriations Bill during that same session, which finally assured that the school would be built. ■



More than 35 descendants of John Leake attended the rededication of the John Leake Hall of Fame Room in the Cordts Physical Education Center.

FSU One of 10 Schools to Join Global Civic Literacy Project

FSU has been selected as one of 10 universities nationwide for the Global Civic Literacy (GCL) project, designed to increase awareness and encourage action among students regarding global issues that influence everyday lives. The project is a collaboration between Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and the Beall Institute for Public Affairs.

"This program gives students the opportunity to turn their passion into impact," said **Dr. Joan Andorfer**, professor of Political Science and one of the leaders of GCL at FSU.

The Global Civic Literacy Program will increase students' global awareness in two ways. First, by working with the resources of World 101, free content available from the Council on Foreign Relations, students will gain insight into the basics of international relations and foreign policy. However, educating students on these issues is only half the task. Getting students involved in projects designed to make a difference at the national and international levels is the main objective of the program.

Participants will be encouraged to identify projects that address global issues that reflect their interests and passions.

The program, which is by application, is open to all majors, regardless of GPA. All that is required is a desire to turn passion into impact. ■

Damon Named Group President of Operations for Bridgestone Americas, Inc.



Bridgestone Americas, Inc., has named **Scott Damon M’95** as its group president, operations. His new position was part of a series of global leadership changes from Bridgestone Americas’ parent company, Bridgestone Corp.

In his new position, Damon is responsible for the company’s operational functions, including logistics and supply chain, procurement and strategic sourcing, information technology and manufacturing.

Damon’s new role is designed to create a greater focus on the company’s end-to-end supply chain capabilities and includes some of the previous responsibilities of the chief operating officer role.

Holding a variety of leadership roles during his 23 years with Bridgestone, Damon previously served as president of the commercial group, U.S. & Canada for Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations.

Bridgestone is the world’s largest tire and rubber company with operations in more than 150 countries. Bridgestone Americas is headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.



Xander Named First Female Secretary of Senate for Maryland Assembly



In January 2020, **Nicole M. Xander ’96** made Maryland history. When the 441st session of the Maryland General Assembly convened, the senate confirmed Xander’s appointment as the state’s first-ever female Secretary of the Senate. She replaces William B.C. “Billy” Addison, who retired after more than 22 years in the position.

Xander brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked in Addison’s office for 11 years, most recently as Assistant Secretary. Before that, she was a healthcare policy analyst for Johns Hopkins Health System and a legislative assistant for former Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, Jr.

Xander has called the Secretary of the Senate “the silent partner on the floor.”

“We work for all 47 members of the Senate in ensuring that bills are processed and passed without partisan interference. I appreciate the opportunity and historic distinction,” she said. ■



- 1 Alumni Day at Nationals Park**
What a fun day it was for alumni and friends of FSU as they swarmed to and sold out our event at the Washington Nationals game in July 2019.
- 2 USM Night at the Aquarium**
Frostburg State University alumni joined alumni from other USM schools for an exclusive, sold-out event at the National Aquarium in Baltimore in January. **Katlyn Cropp ’15/M’18** and Ryan Hilditch are caught getting their photo taken by FSU staff.
- Alumni Crab Feast**
- 3** Some 150 of our close friends attended the sold-out Alumni Crab Feast in September. This has become an annual event enjoyed by alumni from many decades. Pictured, from left, are **Gregg Wavle ’92**, **Kristen Szal Wavle ’95** and **Scott Gawitt ’92**.
- 4** The FSU Alumni Association (represented by **Eric Manns ’10**) presented **Dr. Shavonne Shorter ’07** with the Young Alumni Achievement Award.
- 5 Class of 1966 75th Birthday Party**
Members of the Class of 1966, in honor of their collective 75th birthdays, held a party to celebrate in October at the Prospect Bay Country Club in Grasonville, Md. Pictured, from left, oldest to youngest, are **David Schrodell**, **Bob Grimm**, **Lois Hobbs**, **Noel Kunkle**, **Carole Dorn Grimm**, **Jim Richardson**, **Dr. Bill Roy**, **Margaret Morley Yates**, **Tom Slater**, **Kathy Turner Richardson**, **Barbara Renick Graves**, **Diane Stonesifer Bair** and **Vince Catania**.
- 6 West Side Elementary Networking Luncheon**
LOTS of Bobcats work together every day at West Side Elementary in Cumberland, Md. In December, we treated them to lunch and shared some fun FSU swag with them. Pictured, from left, are **Heather Shipe Felker ’14**, **Sarah Williams Kalbaugh ’03/M’09** and **Tracy Clark Eberly ’99/M’05**.

2020 Alumni Awards

Honorary Alumni Award	Service to Alma Mater Award
Richard E. Pesta	Eric Manns, Jr. ’10
Jason Sweitzer	Rachel Sooy ’04
Young Alumni Achievement Award	Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
Antoine C. Boyd ’13	Rosemary Fagler ’83
Brandon S. Butler ’05	Greg Garcia ’92
Dr. Justin W. van Fleet ’02	Dr. Johnston N. Hegeman ’73/M’81
Mark J. Freeman Price ’11	William J. Murray, Jr. ’79
Aaron “AJ” Rosenthal ’14	
Keenan Scott II ’09	

The Politics of Collecting

Feldstein Presidential Campaign Button Collection Finds Home at FSU

BY TY DEMARTINO '90

Albert Feldstein M’77 remembers walking up Baltimore Street in his hometown of Cumberland, Md., as a boy, collecting political buttons and cards from local shops.

“My two older brothers used to collect presidential campaign buttons,” Albert said. “I liked the color of them. I liked the graphics.”

Albert’s collection grew from a cigar box full to more than 15,000 items, including buttons, T-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, newspapers and other memorabilia. Now he has parted with his beloved collection, donating all of his presidential campaign buttons and memorabilia exclusively to the J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Archives in the Ort Library. The new Albert and Angela Feldstein Collection contains more than 2,000 presidential items.

“For 50 years, this has been a passion,” said Albert, who knows the history of almost every piece and even individually digitized and logged many of them for his personal websites.

“I never thought of myself ... as a collector. I was more of an accumulator,” he said, noting his interest grew when he was a government/political science major at the University of Maryland in the late 1960s during a time of political unrest.

The collection is named for Albert and his wife, Angela. His “accumulating” has been a part of their relationship from the start —

their first date was to a rally in D.C., where he left her on the sidelines to march in a gay rights parade in exchange for a specific button.

The couple later settled into a home in LaVale, where Angela was drawn to a peaceful lake scene painted on the basement wall. Albert — naturally — chose that wall to showcase his floor-to-ceiling collection. Angela had not seen the mural in almost 40 years until the 70-plus cases were removed.

“It was time,” said Albert, a retired program manager for the Maryland Department of Planning. His two grown daughters did not have their father’s enthusiasm for the collection, so he decided to find appropriate permanent homes.

In addition to Frostburg, Albert donated portions of his collections to the Arab American Museum, the Jewish Historical Society in Boston, the Holocaust Museum, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, State Museum of Pennsylvania, University of Kansas, University of Virginia and the World War II Museum in New Orleans, among others. Allegany Museum in Cumberland received all of his local and Maryland memorabilia. He wanted the state and presidential items to “stay local.”

Albert feels the presidential collection charts the issues and causes of American history. He is especially proud of the items representing the sometimes-forgotten third-party candidates.

The Albert and Angela Feldstein Collection is available to be researched in the Ort Library’s J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Archives. A permanent exhibit is planned for the library’s fourth floor and parts of the collection may be displayed during the presidential election in November.



Above, George and Barbara Bush join, from left, **Albert Feldstein M’77**, archivist **Liza Zakharova** and Ort Library Director **Dr. Lea Messman-Mandicott** as Feldstein delivers his presidential collection to FSU. Below, some of the collection’s newest buttons — the 2016 election — and the oldest — from the turn of the 20th century. Bottom, Feldstein and his collection in 1976, in a photo from a *Cumberland Times-News* article.

Many of the benefitting institutions specialize in political memorabilia and were thrilled with gifts that filled significant gaps in their collections. He had one stipulation: “I asked that they never sell them.” It was also important for him to keep the presidential collection as a unit, instead of donating pieces to individual presidential libraries.

Liza Zakharova, FSU’s special collections librarian and archivist, and her team immediately got to work.

“Due to the value and importance of the collection, we targeted it for immediate archival processing, which includes describing the materials, organizing the collection into series, ordering supplies such as oversize archival boxes to contain the posters and writing the funding aid for the collection,” she said.

Angela admits to her favorites — mostly the older ones with personal ties. But, for now, she is looking forward to sitting down with a warm beverage and admiring that lake mural hidden since Ronald Reagan was in office. ■



Meet the Board

Introducing the newest members of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors.



Melvin “Chip” W. Carr III ‘93
Carr is from Round Hill, Va., and is the Business Development & Geospatial Partner manager for NVIDIA Corp.



Christie L. Keplinger Clark M’14
Clark is from Fort Ashby, W.Va., and is the CEO, president and treasurer of ACT 1st Federal Credit Union.



J. Matthew Gilmore, Esq. ‘99
Gilmore is from Cumberland, Md., and is the president of Geppert, McMullen, Payne & Getty.



Timi M. Scaletta Hadra ‘99
Hadra is from Keyser, W.Va., and is a partner at the IBM Rocket Center. She currently serves as the president of the Greater Cumberland Committee.



Estelle M. Martin ‘77
Martin is from Chambersburg, Pa., and is the retired director of Acquisition and Facilities Management for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. She previously served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

*The following members have also returned to the board after an absence of at least a year: **Quincy Crawford ‘65**, **Russell Younkens ‘68** and **Anthony Zook ‘82**.*

New Named Funds

(as of June 9, 2020)

- Doris L. Anderson Memorial Baseball Scholarship
- John and Karen Bambacus Civic Engagement Scholarship
- Kathy A. and Earl S. Boykins, Sr., Scholarship
- Dr. Philip F. Brode III Class of ‘74 Chemistry Fund
- Ruth F. Brown Nursing Scholarship
- Glenn G. and Mary E. Durst and Dr. Jack E. Arch Memorial Scholarship
- Emergency Scholarship
- Filer Family Scholarship
- Gilmore Family Football Scholarship
- Dr. Rommel B. Gonzaga Physician Assistant Scholarship
- William H. Graves ‘65 Scholarship
- James A. Jeffries WFWM Endowed Fund
- Shayna Kramer Scholarship
- Deborah Jo Maloid Memorial Scholarship
- T.J. and H.S. Shin Finance Scholarship
- Soroptimist International of Frostburg Jane Grindel Memorial Scholarship
- Student Affairs Crisis Emergency Fund



Shirley Giarritta Donates Artwork with Frostburg State Roots to FSU

BY LIZ DOUGLAS MEDCALF M'17

When **Shirley Giarritta '70** and her late husband, Dr. Nicholas Giarritta, were gathering their extensive collection of art over the course of their marriage, they did so because they loved the art, but they also had a goal in mind.

“We wanted to leave them to the community. We wanted to find them a home,” she said.

In a first step toward that goal, Shirley has generously given some 60 works of art produced by Frostburg State students, faculty or alumni a homecoming of sorts, donating them to the University for display in public areas on campus.

“The arts should enrich and entertain. That’s a very important part of learning,” she said.

They chose FSU as a “home” for their art because of their extensive connections to the University. In addition to Shirley, a number of family members attended or graduated from FSU, including her daughter, **Gina Hill**, and three of Nick’s nephews. They have also been involved in arts initiatives with FSU, most notably the founding of the Cumberland Theatre.

“This collection presents an impressive range of types of art, and reflects well on the taste of the Giarrittas in their selection,” said President Nowaczyk. “It also speaks



to the artistic talent that has come through this University.”

When Shirley returned to Cumberland after teaching mostly in Winchester, Va., she dove into promoting arts in the community wherever she could. With her perspective as a nine-year member of the Maryland Arts Council, she saw the areas where the Allegany County arts community could use more

support. She and Nick provided that support whenever they could, including through their significant involvement in the Cumberland Theatre, to featuring artwork on the walls of their businesses, including the popular Bistro Restaurant and Shirley’s design company, Connoisseur Interiors.

“Frostburg State University is extremely grateful to Mrs. Giarritta for this thoughtful and generous



gift of artwork,” said John Short, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the FSU Foundation. “The Frostburg State connection in every single piece makes this gift so much more special.”

For information about making gifts to the FSU Foundation, call 301-687-4068 or visit frostburg.edu/foundation. ■



Shirley Giarritta’s generosity was honored during a reception in the Stephanie Ann Roper Gallery last fall. From left are Maureen Lavan, John Short, Shirley Giarritta '70, Dr. Ron Nowaczyk and Dustin Davis.

Cumberland Doctor Creates Scholarship to Support FSU’s New PA Program



BY TY DEMARTINO '90

Dr. Rommel B. Gonzaga’s life has been an exciting road of arts, music and medicine. His adventures have led him to international fame as an award-winning recording artist, as a college instructor and back to his hometown of Cumberland, Md., where he is now helping others find their paths in life.

“I’ve always wanted to give back to the community,” says Gonzaga, CEO of Gonzaga Family Health, a center that provides primary medical care for all ages, interventional pain management services and comprehensive rehabilitation. “The three things I am passionate about are arts, music and education.”

These passions have led Gonzaga to establish the first endowed scholarship for physician assistants at Frostburg State. Recipients must be enrolled in

FSU’s new Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies program and reside in Allegany, Garrett, Washington or Frederick county.

“I always get approached by students who need help with their education. I want to help them out, but I want to do it in the right way,” he adds.

Gonzaga always wanted to create a scholarship of this nature and reached out to his longtime friend and FSU’s Director of Annual Giving **Kathleen Breighner** to make his dream a reality.

“Rommel and his family have been very generous members of our local community, supporting many initiatives such as FSU’s concerts and events,” says Breighner. “His generosity reflects his diverse background as both a health professional and an artist.”

A gifted singer, Gonzaga was accepted into the Master of Vocal

Performance program at New York University. He left NYU when his uncle from the Philippines played his demo for executives at Polygram Records in Manila. The recording brass liked what they heard.

Gonzaga moved to the Philippines and started a whirlwind career in the music industry when he was handpicked to sing the original song “Kahit Konting Pagmamahal” (“Even Just a Little Love”). He took the song to Polygram’s International Song Festival in 1997, where he won the grand prize. Gonzaga was also awarded a prestigious Awit (the Philippines equivalent of a Grammy Award) for Best New Artist.

After several years in the music industry, Gonzaga, whose parents are physicians, decided he needed a change and pursued his medical degree. He earned a doctorate of medicine from Far Eastern University

in Manila and returned to the States, where he lived in D.C. and Pittsburgh and taught at Chatham University and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

When you get those texts or thank-you letters saying, ‘Hey, I got in!’ — that’s the greatest.

He returned to Cumberland in 2014 to assist with the family’s medical practice. Since that time, Gonzaga Family Health has grown into a multi-specialty center and has expanded from a handful of employees to 64 professionals with

satellite offices opening in Oakland and Frederick.

“There is a huge position shortage of primary care professionals here,” he says. “The outlying areas — especially Garrett County — are hurting.”

Gonzaga is grateful that he can play a role through this scholarship in helping young people seek out careers in health professions.

“I think part of my role as a leader is to mentor others,” he confides, saying that he encourages his staff to seek further education and even apply to medical school. When he hears about individuals following their dreams, it’s music to Gonzaga’s ears.

“When you get those texts or thank-you letters saying, ‘Hey, I got in!’ — that’s the greatest.”

For more information on establishing a scholarship through the FSU Foundation, call 301-687-4068 or visit frostburg.edu/foundation. ■



All the world's a stage, but performing arts involves the players and so much more!

Frostburg State has produced many very talented performers, as well as those who write the words or music that others perform, who ensure that the productions happen and who share their artistic gifts with the next generation.

Following is a sampling of Bobcats who have made some aspect of the lively arts their passion and their vocation.



From Frostburg to OZARK

*Bobcat Jessica Frances Dukes
Joins One of Netflix's Hottest Shows*

BY TY DEMARTINO '90

Even though she was in lockdown in her New Jersey apartment, Frostburg State University Theatre alum **Jessica Frances Dukes** was feeling pretty thankful. After all, she had a small part in giving millions of trapped TV watchers a distraction from their mandated isolation.

Dukes co-stars in the third season of the binge-worthy Netflix show *Ozark*, starring alongside Jason Bateman and Laura Linney. Most lockdowns began at the same time season three dropped on March 27, where Dukes made her debut as the pregnant FBI Agent Maya Miller.

"It's been wonderful to be part of something that has brought people joy and a distraction from this pandemic," she admits.

It's a break-out role for the actor who has been active in theatre and TV work since graduating from FSU. A native of Prince George's County, the acting bug bit Dukes at a young age.

"I've wanted to be an actor since I could speak," she says.

She performed in plays in elementary school and a teen performing arts troupe through middle and high school. When she attended an open house at FSU, Dukes recalls being welcomed by a theatre professor, decked out in his pink feather boa. At that instant, she was home.

Over the next few years, Dukes immersed herself learning everything she could on campus — grabbing roles in stage productions from *Meet Me in St. Louis* to *Man of La Mancha* to a week-long intensive workshop of **Kia Corthron's** *Breath, Boom*, directed by Professor **Mairzy Yost-Rushton**, with the Cumberland-native playwright in residence.

"That was boot camp for us," she recalls.

Looking back, Dukes admits her entire FSU experience was "life-changing."

"I had never been in a straight play. ... I had no true acting training."

She credits Yost-Rushton for changing her life. She pushed her to learn the acting craft, as well as the "business" side of show business, which she found invaluable. "People don't have training in the business end."

Scenes from the set of the Netflix hit *Ozark*, on which **Jessica Frances Dukes** plays FBI Agent Maya Miller.



When it came time to graduate, Dukes had her sights set on New York City and a career in theatre. Yost-Rushton encouraged Dukes to continue her studies at graduate school. She obtained her M.F.A. in Acting from Catholic University and became immersed in the Washington, D.C., theatre scene, performing everything from August Wilson to works by established New York-based playwrights.

She was an original cast member in Robert O'Hara's critically acclaimed satire *Bootycandy* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, D.C. However, when the show transferred to Off-Broadway and a new cast was auditioned, she didn't get the part — at first. She was a relative unknown in the New York theatre community. When the actor in that role dropped out, Dukes moved to New York and reprised her original part to rave reviews, earning an Obie Award along the way.

While performing in *Bootycandy*, a casting director from CBS's *The Good Wife* was in the audience one night and reached out to Dukes to audition

for a guest starring role. She got the part, which brought about more TV gigs on such shows as *NCIS: New Orleans* and *New Amsterdam*, as well as the recurring role of Grace in the Marvel/Netflix series *Jessica Jones*. These came in between numerous, broad-ranging theatre roles around the country and Off-Broadway.

One of those Off-Broadway roles, a lead in *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* at Signature Theatre, earned her an AUDELCO award, which recognizes excellence in the Black theatre community, along with multiple other nominations. It was in this show that the *Ozark* casting director saw her and called her for an audition two weeks later.

Making the transition from stage to screen took some adjustment. In between bookings, Dukes brushed up on her craft. "I thought, 'Let me take a couple of on-camera classes.' ... It's a completely different machine."

When she landed her most recent role in *Ozark*, Dukes, a long-time fan of the show, admits to being star-struck her first day on set in Atlanta meeting Bateman, who also produces

and directs the series, and Linney, one of her all-time favorite actors.

"It took me a minute to breathe. ... I've been watching them forever," she says, with a laugh. Working with them is a "master class," she says. Dukes would even show up to set on days she wasn't working — just to observe and learn.

Even though there's an air of mystery to her character (no spoilers), Dukes relates to Agent Miller. "She's diligent, a hard worker. She's all about her business. I'm the same way."

Dukes hasn't taken a break in quarantine, using her time to communicate with her new fans on social media, write her own projects and workshop new material via Zoom. "The work doesn't stop," she says, as she waits with the rest of the entertainment industry for Hollywood to open back up.

And while Dukes doesn't know the future of her character on *Ozark*, she is enjoying the ride and fondly looking back on the strong foundation she received at Frostburg.

"It was truly a magical place," she adds about her alma mater. "I'm thankful to be a Bobcat." ■

Sean Cercone: The Music Man

BY TY DEMARTINO '90

Sean Cercone '99 is racing to the airport. He has a date with Mrs. Doubtfire. Cercone is CEO/president of Broadway Licensing, a company that develops, produces and distributes new and established theatrical properties worldwide. On this day, Cercone is dashing to Seattle to catch the out-of-town stage adaptation of everyone's favorite cross-dressing nanny, made famous by Robin Williams in the 1993 movie.

"Someone has to fly around the world and see musicals," Cercone says, with a laugh, from the backseat of an Uber. "I guess it's me. Dammit!"

The jet-setting is nothing new for Cercone, who has been at the helm of Broadway Licensing, acquiring, developing and distributing such musicals as *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, *High Fidelity*, *A Bronx Tale* and *Escape to Margaritaville*, co-written by FSU alum **Greg Garcia '92**. "When I met with him I said, 'Frostburg?' And he said, 'Frostburg?'" Cercone recalls. "It's great to rep another Frostburg writer."

It's not uncommon that Cercone runs into another FSU alum while going about his daily work. When he was recently named a trustee of the national board of the Educational Theatre Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to honoring and enriching students' theatrical education experiences, he recognized a name of another Bobcat on the list —

Cercone and his wife, Hallie, are Tony Awards-ready.



Coty Warn Forno '06, founder and director of Mountain City Center for the Arts in Frostburg (*see page 16*).

"We texted each other right away and said, 'Let's talk about how we can help each other.'"

Having spent his career as an actor, director, producer and writer, Cercone attributes a great deal of his success to the strong foundation he received as a theatre major at Frostburg. "There's a lot of people who fall out of this business, but there are several of us who are still in it," he adds. "It's an incredible testament."

A native of Cornwell, N.Y., Cercone first caught the acting bug in a production of *South Pacific* when he was in the fourth grade. After many musicals in high school, he auditioned for Julliard and NYU, which both passed on a young Cercone. He decided he wanted a "secluded" place to work on his craft. "I needed to go somewhere and focus. I had so much catching up to do."

Cercone immersed himself in FSU's Department of Theatre, absorbing as much as he could about acting and the business. He later studied musical theatre at West Virginia University, earning his MFA and founding the West Virginia Shakespeare Festival. He toured with several theatrical companies before landing at the famed Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron, Ohio.

Challenging experiences on the road with unfocused producers and directors shifted Cercone's personal

focus. "I wanted to create an environment for artists — just as passionate as I was — to create," he recalls. "The 'who' is so much more important than the 'what.'"

At Carousel, Cercone climbed the ranks to artistic director and forged relationships with national theatre organizations and boards. He also worked with an actress/dancer named Hallie who would later become a Radio City Rockette and Cercone's wife. It was a time of professional and personal growth for Cercone.

"My job as a producer is to create an environment where artists can exceed their own expectations of their work," he says. "And at the end of the day, [you ask yourself] are you creating good work?"

Cercone's good work eventually took him to Chicago and then New York City and a position as chief business officer of Theatrical Rights Worldwide. Branching out on his own, he created Broadway Licensing in 2017 and has penned the books to several musicals, including *Saturday Night Fever* and *Elvis* — *The Musical*, which is in development.

Networking, relationship-building and working with quality artists are the main priorities of this Broadway professional, as he makes his way to the airport, yet again, to catch a new musical.

"Again, it's about the 'who,' not the 'what.'"

Mrs. Doubtfire would approve, dearie. ■

Coty Forno: Say ‘Yes’ to Success

BY TY DEMARTINO '90

Coty Warn Forno '06 tries to live her life by a simple philosophy: It's all about timing, trusting the universe and saying “yes.”

“I know that sounds cliché,” she says, with a slight shrug and smile.

Cliché or not, it's a philosophy that is working like a charm for Forno, founder and director of Mountain City Center for the Arts, an award-winning, quality professional instruction studio for young performing artists located in Frostburg. The center is gaining national attention, and Forno has been asked to serve on the board of the prestigious Educational Theatre Foundation — all because of her saying “yes” to the universe.

Forno has been drawn to the world of show business for as long as she can remember. She grew up outside of Frostburg and lived above the Hen House, her family's popular seafood restaurant. She recalls a story when her parents could not locate a young Coty and found her singing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” to restaurant patrons.

A star was born.

From there, she performed in her first show in middle school and auditioned for the Cumberland Theatre, even fudging her age to make the cut-offs for a production of *West Side Story*. She decided to attend Frostburg State because of its growing Theatre Department. On campus, Forno starred in countless



productions, including *Damn Yankees* in the iconic role of Lola.

Her senior year, Forno was faced with the question facing all graduates: What's next? She credits FSU Theatre professor **Linda McCulloch** for setting her down and saying, “Miss Coty, I think you should direct.” After FSU, Forno worked at a theatre in Annapolis and spent a year in New York City in an endless cycle of auditions with no real results. After one cattle call, she held the elevator door for a harried stranger. The grateful woman recognized Forno and exclaimed, “I forgot to call you back in.” Forno got the job, signed with the agency and performed at regional theme parks. “All because I was kind and held the elevator,” she says.

New York led to Pittsburgh and more regional theatre — even donning a yarn Raggedy Ann wig for children's events at local malls. During this time, Forno agreed to teach theatre in schools and at summer camps through Pittsburgh Musical Theatre.

“I love teaching and the excitement of kids. I find them inspiring.”

Forno also secured her first agent in Pittsburgh and landed major roles in industrial films and *A Lesson of Love*, a movie written and directed by former FSU professor **Micheal McAlexander** and filmed in Western Maryland. These experiences gave Forno the confidence to make the move to Los Angeles, where she took classes, performed in musicals and booked a TV pilot. She also did a great deal of soul-searching in L.A. She came to the

conclusion she was most fulfilled when teaching children.

“I guess I wish I had someone like me growing up,” she says. “But I could be the thing I wish I had.”

Forno moved back east and opened MCCA in 2013. Her goal was to create a space for young artists to express themselves and their love of performing in a safe, positive environment. At the same time she was launching her new venture, she became reacquainted with an old friend, **Pete Forno '98**. The two started dating, married in 2014 and welcomed a son, Dominic, in 2017. A computer tech expert, Pete's focus and analytical mind make him the perfect business partner as well.

In fact, it was Pete who, while networking at the Junior Theatre Festival, made the initial connection with the Educational Theatre Foundation.

Through saying “yes” (and a lot of hard work), MCCA became the first rural center selected by ETA to be a JumpStart Theatre, a program that introduces theatre to under-served middle schools. The Fornos and the MCCA team now train teachers to create and sustain theatre programs at Northern and Southern Middle schools in Garrett County and in nearby Addison, Pa. This relationship led to Coty's appointment to the ETA national board. And they have since launched three more school programs.

Pete also nominated his wife for a Freddie “G.” Gershon Fellowship, named for the co-chair of the global theatrical licensor, Music Theatre International. She was one of eight outstanding theatre educators chosen to participate in a weeklong workshop with Broadway professionals last summer.

“He continues to be the driving force. He makes me feel brave. He's the backbone,” she says of her husband and partner.

While the accolades for Forno and MCCA keep coming, she has not lost sight of her mission — to empower young artists to express themselves in positive ways.

“We're helping to build strong, kind, compassionate humans,” she says emphatically.

And to that, we say, “yes.” ■



Students Visit Baltimore's Center Stage

The Bobcat power was strong for the Nov. 9 performance of *Thoughts of a Colored Man*, a play by **Keenan Scott II '09**, at Baltimore's Center Stage. Two busloads of students and numerous alumni gathered to see the play that had its roots when Scott was a student at FSU, with earlier versions staged on campus in 2009 and 2011. Before the performance, Scott met with Theatre and Dance students, sharing his journey and his advice. At a Bobcat reception following the performance, **Robin Vowels Wynder '80/M'87** presented him with a proclamation from the University, and Scott discussed how important his time at FSU and the relationships he developed there have been to his success. ■



Dedicated Alumni Give Back

Alumni who are all actively employed in the world of theatre and dance came back to campus in January to teach at the second Mountain Maryland Theatre Festival, a weekend event for young people in grades 8 through 12. In the front row, from left, are **Bill Dennison '10**, **Jennifer Bonner '04**, keynote speaker **Justin Seward '02** and **Kimberli Rowley**. In the back row, from left, are **Joshua Duguid '14**, **Austin James (Hueg) '17**, **Xander Mulder '19**, FSU Production Manager **Gordon Duguid '05** and **Danny Durr '09**. ■



Pete '98 and Coty Warn Forno '06 with their son, Dominic

Alumni Couple Serve the Country as U.S. Navy Musicians

BY ROSE GAUSE '20

They joined the military and took an oath to protect, defend and play music.

Brent Mitchell '13 and **Jacki Skeweris '11** have been serving the country through music as U.S. Navy musician sailors. Skeweris, playing the oboe, and Mitchell, a vocalist, both travel with the Navy to perform at elaborate events. Since Skeweris is in small woodwind chamber ensembles and Mitchell, is in the popular-music group, they often travel separately to share their music with different audiences.

Frostburg was Mitchell's first experience with performing music; he did not even take music lessons until his undergraduate career. Frostburg's program and instructors opened his eyes to what it is like to be a professional musician and helped him become a vocalist and front man in the military, he said.

"**Dr. Tim Powell** was a great teacher. He pushed me really hard, even sometimes when I didn't want to be pushed hard. He really did a good job in motivating me to perform at the level I needed to be," said Mitchell.



His primary focus at Frostburg was playing the saxophone. He was in the jazz band and did musical theatre productions, which motivated him and showed him how to "put on a show." This is what he mostly does now in the rock band, except on the rare occasion he is needed on saxophone.

"It's really neat that I get to do both of the things that I did at Frostburg. I studied saxophone, and on the side, I did musical theatre and choir as much as I could, but that wasn't my primary focus. Now it is flip-flopped," he said.

Skeweris graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and music performance. Under **Dr. Mark Gallagher** and **Dr. Philip Kickman's** tutelage, she was able to foster and grow her musicianship in chamber and large ensemble settings. She enjoyed learning from the instructors who coached her in different ensembles and performing with the other students.

"I learned a lot and I really grew as a musician and as a professional there. I just loved my teacher (**Dr. Emily Madsen**). She was such an inspiration," said Skeweris. "... For me to come into a music program and to start at one place and end up in a completely different place with their guidance is just awesome."

After graduation, Skeweris took a semester off, then went to graduate school at the Crane School of Music in New York to study oboe, earning a master's in oboe performance.

Mitchell did not use his music degree right away. He moved back home and worked as an administrative assistant for the County Department of Social Services for a year.

When Skeweris was finishing up her master's degree, she spoke with Madsen, whom she knew was the principal oboist for the Naval Academy Band. Madsen told her about an opening for an oboist. She auditioned and won, then went through boot camp and the Naval School of Music in Virginia Beach.

By this time Mitchell and Skeweris were dating. While Skeweris was at the Naval School of Music, Mitchell visited and became inspired to audition to be a vocalist. He had always thought about serving, and combining it with his musical background seemed a perfect opportunity. Especially since Skeweris was already there.

"It can be very difficult for a musician coming out of school to get a job in the first place, whether it be a symphony gig, even just trying to throw something together to play on the weekends, so this was the perfect opportunity to play music and have a stable job," said Mitchell.

The two got married in May 2015. Skeweris was already stationed in Hawaii, so after Mitchell went through boot camp and the Naval School of Music, he was able to join his wife in Hawaii.

Outreach

Part of their mission as musicians in the Navy is outreach, which is Skeweris' favorite aspect of the job. In March 2019, she traveled to the Republic of the Marshall Islands to participate in Pacific Partnership, the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific.

"To bring my instrument to people who have never seen a western classical instrument before was really



As U.S. Navy musician sailors, **Brent Mitchell '13** and **Jacki Skeweris '11** have played around the world. Opposite: Mitchell in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, as part of the group, Pipeline. This page, clockwise from top left: Skeweris, fourth from left, in Pearl Harbor, with the Tradewinds on the Arizona Memorial; also in Pearl Harbor, Skeweris' last gig wearing the historic WAVES cover (cap); the couple in Kaneohe, Hawaii, after their last performance with the Pacific Fleet Band; Mitchell in Bengkulu, Indonesia, in a Pacific Partnership performance.



special to me," she said. "I couldn't communicate verbally with them at all because they didn't speak English, but I could communicate to them through music, which was just amazing. I will never forget that."

Mitchell was part of a humanitarian mission in Southeast Asia and performed music for people who had never seen a military uniform. While his band was bringing them music and performance, there were other people in the military building schools and providing free dental and medical clinics.

"Just being there and letting them see you — and to play music for them — was an awesome experience," he said.

Staying in Tune

Besides travel and performance, a typical day can consist of multiple rehearsals, administrative tasks, other

duties and exercise. They are required to maintain a high level of physical readiness for the Navy. Skeweris advises music majors to make time for exercise. She was very active during her undergrad years, whether it was skiing, running or horseback riding.

"A lot of the music students don't really prioritize exercise. When you make time to take care of yourself and exercise in any form, you will feel better, your playing is going to get better, and you will be energized to have more focused practice sessions," she said.

Skeweris spends about two hours a day having a focused practice and 10 hours a week making reeds for her oboe.

"In school, I was practicing four to six hours every single day to get where I am. I don't necessarily have to put in that amount of time now, because I have learned how to

intensify my attention and energy towards focused practice. ... Having focused practice sessions and not leaving until I get what I need done is what's most important for me during my practice," said Skeweris.

Mitchell's routine is a little different. "Since I'm a singer, I'm always practicing, whether it's in the car, shower or walking down the road. If I'm at work, I'm always humming. I always have something to memorize whether it be tunes or lyrics to a song. I'm constantly in my head going through things that I need to memorize," he said.

For musicians in school, Mitchell advises, "Whether you're a vocalist, instrumentalist or you do theatre, I would try to dabble in as much of that as possible and just keep your options open for the future because you will never know what opportunities come up." ■

Still Shining BRIGHT

*FSU's ECHOSTARS Program
Celebrates Two Decades of
Living, Serving and Changing Lives*

BY TY DEMARTINO '90

It's a long way from the Compton area of Los Angeles to Western Maryland. But California resident **Darius Brown** feels right at home on the Frostburg campus.

The sophomore law and society major is a team leader for ECHOSTARS, a living, learning and serving experience. Standing for Empowering Communities — Helping Others — Service Through Action, Resources & Sustainability, the program just celebrated two decades at Frostburg.

"When people come together and serve, it's good for my soul," Brown said, flashing a broad smile. "I love serving."

Brown is one of 45 ECHOSTARS who lived together in Gray Hall until the COVID-19 pandemic sent residential students home. On this Sunday afternoon, however, students are playing video games in the lounge, carrying baskets of clothes to the laundry room and inquiring what time a group photo will be taken on the front stoop.

All students in the program receive an on-campus living stipend when they perform 300 hours of service (an average of 10 hours per week) for the academic year. Funded in part by the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the program is open to all first-year students. As AmeriCorps members, students who complete their hours also receive an Education Award from the National Service Trust Fund.

ECHOSTARS can stay on after their first year as RisingSTARS or Team Leaders.

Several days a week, the ECHOSTARS climb into their white vans and head into the community to serve the people of Western Maryland. Over the years, the sites

changed with the shifting needs of the area. Current sites include the Read to Succeed mentoring program for kindergarteners through eighth-graders to develop their academic skills, and after-school programs at middle schools, the Salvation Army and the Cumberland YMCA, as well as special projects such as community clean-ups and festivals. They also serve in alternative Spring Break trips. ECHOSTARS also have the option of a learning community and can take sociology, composition, leadership and introduction to higher education classes together.

Over the last two decades, the program evolved from Allen HallSTARS! to HallSTARS! to ECHOSTARS to reflect a new environmental focus. Names, living locations and punctuation marks have changed, but the mission and spirit remain the same. And the impact is immeasurable.

A 'Troubled Kid' Finds His Home

For Team Leader Brown, the ECHOSTARS program was a natural fit. Brown chose Frostburg because he wanted to try something new. He was also attracted to the wilderness and the snow — even though he still wears his signature "slides" (sandals) year-round. He appreciates a place where he can make service part of his everyday life.

While terms like "giving back" and "paying it forward" can be common buzzwords in the service world, Brown means it. A self-described "troubled kid," Brown said police officers were the volunteers in his L.A. neighborhood (even though he did meet the late rapper and activist Nipsey Hussle through a mentoring experience). He attended an after-school program, and eventually appreciated the volunteers and turned his attitude and life around. The experience was life-changing.

"Primarily, I want to make sure my community is okay," he said. The oldest of seven, Brown is the first in his family to go to college and is an example for his siblings. "You can be a good role model by being the best that you can be."

On a brisk afternoon, ECHOSTARS, wearing their gray AmeriCorps T-shirts and hoodies, meet a group of elementary students at South Penn Elementary School to

lead them to the Salvation Army two blocks away. As the youngsters converge on the open space, they shift into high gear — flinging backpacks and jackets, racing to save their favorite seats and immediately asking, "What's today's snack?" The ECHOSTARS keep up — helping the little ones with homework, doing crafts, reading books, playing games and dispensing the ever-important cups of ranch dressing and ketchup to accompany today's snack — chicken nuggets.

Brown's approach to serving at an after-school program is simple, yet effective: "I smile. I make conversation. Everyone needs a friend."

Across the county at Westmar Middle School in Lonaconing, ECHOSTARS Team Leader **Jasmine Bonomolo** hands out an after-school snack before taking the students to an organized art activity. This is the second year in the program for Bonomolo, a psychology and sociology major from Baltimore. Conversations among the ECHOSTARS and the students range from how they would prefer chicken Alfredo as their snack to the coolness factor of Bill Nye the Science Guy. Again, just being a friend.

For Bonomolo, the biggest challenge is managing her volunteer time, coursework and other campus commitments. "Time management is key."

Bonomolo said ECHOSTARS is the perfect program for outgoing students who have a service mentality. While the financial award is important to those putting themselves through college, the relationships are the most rewarding.

"A lot of them remind me of me when I was in middle school — you know, socially awkward," said Bonomolo, who wants to go on to study neuropsychology. "They'll talk about anything."

Many of the community children come from homes with issues of divorce, poverty and addiction. When a student discloses a serious subject matter, Bonomolo and the other ECHOSTARS know to report it to school staff and the ECHOSTARS coordinator. The students come to depend on their older friends, and the ECHOSTARS do not take that responsibility lightly.

Bonomolo stands over the shoulder of a middle school student as he draws a tree with large limbs sprouting in all directions and casting long-reaching shadows. "That's good. That's really good," she said in encouragement.

"You get to be a constant in someone's life. It's great being that person for a kid."

'Part of Their Families'

On the front stoop of Gray Hall, **Ashley Daniels '11**, associate director of Civic Engagement, attempts to herd ECHOSTARS for a group photo. "Make sure you're wearing your gray shirts." Two students run off for a quick change.

Daniels oversees the day-to-day operations of the ECHOSTARS. It's second nature for her, who was part of the HallSTARS! program when she was an undergrad.

"I fell in love with service at an early age," she said. Daniels has volunteered at an equestrian therapeutic riding center since she was 8 years old.

Daniels instructs the students how to juggle school and service. But she also explains how service can be a respite. It's a chance to get away from tests and papers and help someone else with their homework, play bingo with seniors or cuddle homeless kittens.

"A lot of times, college students silo themselves," she said. "This is a way they can get out and learn about the area."

In 2011, Daniels graduated with her business degree with plans to work in human resources. She later pursued her master's degree in student affairs in education. "Honestly, without HallSTARS!, I don't know if I would be in the career I am in now."

She spends office hours in Gray Hall, acting as "mom" and answering students' questions about everything from academic issues to relationships.



Jasmine Bonomolo



Darius Brown

STAR Reflections

As the EHOSTARS program celebrates two decades at FSU, Profile asked alumni to share memories of their days in this unique living-learning-serving program.



"EHOSTARS helped me make friends, settle into an unfamiliar place and have a sense of community. I was introduced to leadership experiences such as the Sloop Institute (for Excellence in Leadership), RisingSTARS and Residence Life. My mentors in this program were more than mentors. I had a support system! I was pushed to become the best me and even got a study abroad experience out of it. ... I often think of my leaders and children I mentored at my service site, the Salvation Army in Cumberland, and I know I will carry those life lessons and relationships with me forever."

Ebony Brawner '16

"The program attracts a huge number of first-generation and lower-income students," Daniels said, acknowledging that these individuals often need more guidance. She also takes time each semester to educate the EHOSTARS about the challenges facing Western Maryland before she sends them out into the field. She finds the current students' personal experiences and exposure to social media make them more aware.

"They are more able to see the issues at the sites and recognize when kids are struggling," she said.

The connection between the EHOSTARS and the community is undeniable. Daniels watched close bonds form. EHOSTARS have been stopped at the mall and given hugs. Students have been invited to sporting events. They have received countless letters of thanks.

"They are making an impact on the people in our community," Daniels said. "Some of our students become a part of their families."

In the Beginning ... There Was Snow

William Mandicott, assistant vice president of Student and Community Involvement, digs through a jammed file cabinet. "Everyone makes fun of me for keeping this stuff," he said, pulling out a 1994 invitation to the White House to honor AmeriCorps programs. Mandicott was one of the authors of the original AmeriCorps grant that gave birth to EHOSTARS.

Back then, student service was a priority of the new Clinton administration. Mandicott received a call from the Maryland Governor's Office encouraging FSU to apply for the grant.

"We had a reputation for being involved in service, and we were asked to be part of this new opportunity," Mandicott recalls, noting that only a handful of universities were asked to submit. "I knew right away that this is what a university should be — especially in a rural community."

Mandicott recalls having to submit 11 copies of the grant — typed on a typewriter. And, of course, the deadline landed right in the middle of a classic Frostburg snowstorm. Mandicott and then-assistant **Lisa Clark**, current director of A STAR! in Western Maryland, met at Mandicott's home to finish and mail out the application. A little thing like a blizzard wouldn't stop them.

"This was Frostburg's opportunity to be part of something huge," he said. "It was our chance to make FSU a campus of engagement."

Once the AmeriCorps grant was awarded and the service opportunities started to grow, Mandicott and his team started to dream of ways of expanding.

"We asked, 'How do we make service more applicable to our students?' And we came up with the HallSTARS!"

The idea was to offer a scholarship to students in exchange for service hours. They would also live together in Allen Hall and support one another. "As far as we knew, we were the first to launch this type of living-learning community," Mandicott said.

The administration quickly recognized the living-learning program was a recruiting tool and determined that retention among students enrolled in the program was higher than other first-year students. Also, students who participate in service are more likely to take on other leadership roles on campus. It was win-win-win for the University, the students and the community.

"We're creating citizen-leaders."

Community outreach programs at FSU, including the EHOSTARS model, were recognized by the Maryland Association for Higher Education in 2005.

"It's really due to the commitment of the staff who make this work. They are the ones committed to doing whatever it takes to make the students successful."

Reflecting back, Mandicott called to mind the many personal essays written by EHOSTARS who participate in a composition class as part of the learning community. These pieces, reflective and emotional, have examined loneliness, overcoming racism, spirituality, inclusion and finding one's true purpose in life. When students publicly present their papers, he said, it is apparent that FSU became that university of engagement that he and his colleagues dreamed of creating. And lives had been changed forever.

"Every student who has completed the program, it has touched their outlook on life," Mandicott said. ■



"[You are] setting an example to younger students from the Appalachian region of the importance of education, mentorship, compassion and commitment. You understand that you are representing more than yourself when you meet people who may only get exposure to diverse environments through you. You are representing Frostburg State University, college students, minorities, women and the HallSTARS! program. You learn that you may not realize the impact you have on other people, so always commit your 100 percent when engaging in activities."

Rim Radwan '12



"The HallSTARS! program was something that I found exceptionally rewarding because it challenged me in responsibility, discovering new aspects of myself and impacting others through my service. I also found the community living dorm very rewarding because it helped me develop friends and acquaintances quickly through the process of peer collaboration on community projects. My experience in the HallSTARS! program influenced my life by introducing me to a profession that I never thought I would be in. My service site was at an elementary school assisting the second- and third-grade teachers. ... I was a science major and never thought I would be in education for a career. Yet here I am — 10 years as an educator."

Michele Kitchens '08



"Instead of just going to classes, EHOSTARS allowed me to integrate myself into the community as a whole. I met amazing people who were serving the community, as well as students around the campus that I wouldn't have otherwise met. EHOSTARS opened up opportunities for me to serve in New Orleans and New Jersey on Alternative Breaks. ... The communication skills and leadership opportunities have proved to be invaluable to me with my jobs. Communication and leadership are essential in all jobs, and without EHOSTARS, I truly don't believe that I would be as confident in those skills. My first real job after Frostburg was ... with a company that served consumers with developmental disabilities, and without my service with Special Olympics, I don't feel like I would have been able to handle the consumers that I encountered on a daily basis."

Elizabeth Hickman '14



"I came to school my first year, a shy girl. But I quickly made lots of friends. These friends were in learning communities with me, they were living with me and they volunteered with me. It helped me make FSU my home. Ending my first year, I loved volunteering. I loved working with the kids. I decided to come back as a team leader. ... I am now married to my college sweetheart that I met through HallSTARS! Since then, I have learned to find my voice, show my personality and serve our community in many ways. ... This is something Brian (Lang '04) and I do together, and we love working with the children. We are showing our son that volunteering in the community is such an important role for everyone."

Clarissa Sowers Lang '06

Helping Others Gives Long Snapper a Sweet Bowl Experience

BY CHRIS HILDRETH '20

Former Bobcat long snapper **Ryan Landis '19** lived every college football player's dream in January by going to the AllState Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. What was different, however, was he had that opportunity because of his impact off the field rather than on it.

Landis was one of 22 college football players in the country to be selected for the AllState Good Works Team by the American Football Coaches Association. He is a volunteer firefighter and EMT in his nearby hometown of Berlin, Pa., in addition to being part of several other charitable efforts in and around Frostburg.

The will to help others runs deep in the Landises' veins and can be traced throughout his family tree. His grandmother, father and brother all have worked as firefighters and EMTs. This had a huge impact on his worldview at a young age.

"Growing up, I was always told the importance of helping others," he said. "It's just in me and my family's nature to give up the shirt on our back if it can help someone else."

Landis' selfless, team-oriented attitude is reflected on the football field as well.

"Ryan is as good a teammate as you could ever want," said his coach **DeLane Fitzgerald**, who nominated Landis for the Good Works Team. "He is a team-first guy, always doing his job, and understanding that he's a part of a much bigger overall picture."

Landis' chosen position — long snapper — is one of the most

important positions on any football team, and probably the least glamorous. Long snappers don't score touchdowns or make plays you'll see on SportsCenter's top 10 list, but that never diminished his love for the position.

"I played offense and defense at points in my life, but long snapping is where I chose to play. I remember my dad taking me and my brother to long-snapping camps when I was younger. It's something my family has always had a passion for," he said.

Fitzgerald credits Landis' ability to focus simultaneously on volunteer work, academics and athletics for his Good Works selection.

"It's very hard to go to college, play college football and be a firefighter/EMT all at the same time," Fitzgerald said.

While in New Orleans, Landis used his platform to continue helping others.

"In New Orleans we went to a local school and put mirrors up in the weight room, painted the gym, put new nets up on the tennis courts and put shrubbery around the school," he said. "It was an honor to do charity work with (retired quarterback and current minor league baseball player) Tim Tebow, and I got to meet (singer) Usher out there, so that was cool, too."

When he wasn't lending a helping hand, he got the celebrity treatment in New Orleans.

"The coolest part about the game was the fact we got our own float in the parade. We threw beads out into the crowd and got a real Mardi Gras

experience." He watched the game from a private suite and was honored on the field during halftime.

"It was different. I really don't like being in front of thousands of people getting recognized, but it was a nice and surreal experience," Landis said.



"Ryan handled winning the award in stride and with humility, as he does everything in his life," Fitzgerald said. "He made sure to include his family in everything."

Don't expect Landis to slow his community work after his Sugar

Bowl honor. He is driven by the impact he has on people.

"I know as an EMT and firefighter I'm interacting with people who are probably having their worst day, and if I can do anything to make it a better day, I'll always be willing to do so." ■

Above left, **Ryan Landis '19** and his brother, **Kyle '14**, met former quarterback Tim Tebow. Above: Landis was honored before the start of the FSU Homecoming Game in October. Below: Landis, center, poses on the field of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome with other members of the AllState Good Works Team.



BOBCAT SPORTS



Pictured, from left, are **President Nowaczyk**, Men's Soccer Coach **Keith Byrnes**, Penny Younkens, **Russ Younkens '68** and Vice President for University Advancement **John Short**.

Men's Soccer Locker Room Dedication

Russ Younkens '68 and his wife, Penny, are avid supporters of the Department of Athletics and the Men's Soccer Program. The University chose to recognize their generosity by naming the Men's Soccer Locker Room in their honor — which Russ chose to do in memory of his coach, **Ken Babcock**.

“This is really not about us. It's about Coach Babcock,” Russ said.

At the dedication, Russ shared how, after finding himself adrift when he first arrived, Babcock took him under his wing. Russ found a new home and family on the soccer team, and his desire to continue to play soccer inspired him to work harder as a student.



- 1 Numerous alumni and current student-athletes marked the **25th Anniversary of the Women's Soccer** program's start at FSU during the Bobcat Hall of Fame ceremony.
- 2 The men's basketball team was able to meet and greet with the team's alumni and teach them a few new tricks on the court during the **Men's Basketball Alumni Game**.
- 3 Baseball alumni, current student-athletes, parents, families and friends of the program gathered for the **Baseball Golf Invitational** at Rocky Gap Casino & Golf Resort on the Friday of Homecoming to support FSU baseball and reminisce about time on the field.
- 4 The **2019 Induction Class for the Bobcat Hall of Fame**, from left, **Brian Leiter '09** (Track & Field and Cross Country), **Julie Jaeger '94** (Women's Lacrosse), **Billye Hollister '07** (Baseball), **Sumer Rohrs '09** (Track & Field) and **Raymond Toppins '18** (Track & Field).
- 5 The year 2019 marked the **20th Anniversary** of the historic season of the **1999 Volleyball Team**. Several members of the team who attended the Bobcat Hall of Fame ceremony were recognized. From left are **Sara Schwartz Bolen '01**, **Christy Mann Kluh '01**, **Dr. Jessica Yahnert Masser '01**, **Dr. Shannon Rexrode '00/M'01** and **Amber Waltz '01/M'12**.
- 6 2019 also marked the **25th Anniversary of the Volleyball** program's beginning at Frostburg State. The individuals recognized at the Bobcat Hall of Fame ceremony were, from left, **Tischa Blank Carter '97**, **Sara Schwartz Bolen '01**, **Coach Nancy Crawley**, **Christy Mann Kluh '01**, **Dr. Jessica Yahnert Masser '01**, **Dr. Shannon Rexrode '00/M'01** and **Amber Waltz '01/M'12**.
- 7 The **Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Brunch**, held during each Homecoming, celebrates the accomplishments of current student-athletes, baseball alumni and friends of the program. Pictured, from left, are **Barry Davis M'89**, **Jim Riggelman '74**, **Dave Devey '77**, **Coach Bob Wells** and **Dave Summey '76**.

While the in-person 2020 Hall of Fame Ceremony has been postponed, FSU honors the 2020 Induction Class, and recognizes the 50-year anniversaries of the field hockey and cross country programs. We will celebrate these athletes at Homecoming Weekend 2021.

2020 Bobcat Hall of Fame Class Recognized

The Department of Athletics and the Office of Alumni Relations has recognized six former student-athletes for induction into the Bobcat Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2020. The 2020 class, the second all-female class and the seventh class of six or more, represents five sports and three decades of competition.



Amy Foote '03 was a two-sport student-athlete, having competed in the women's lacrosse and soccer programs. At the time of her nomination, Foote was second in the history of the soccer program in goals (48) and points (118) and was a four-time All-Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference selection in soccer. Being named the AMCC Player of the Year capped her career, as she helped the Bobcats to the AMCC Tournament Championship and the NCAA Tournament, the first appearance in school history.



Dr. Kelly Hyde '84 was a two-sport student-athlete, having competed in the field hockey and women's lacrosse programs. Hyde participated in the USA Field Hockey Olympic Development Program before her senior season and earned the program's first All-American honor, where she was named an NCAA Division III Honorable Mention All-American. She was a three-time All-Maryland honoree, and she helped the Bobcats to four Maryland State Championship trophies.



Page Macey '05 was a four-time Brine/Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association South Atlantic Region selection, including three times on the first team. Macey is the program's all-time leader in goals (192) and second in assists (94) and points (286). A three-time team captain, Macey garnered ECAC Division III South Region awards twice and scored more than 50 goals in two of her four seasons.



Tammie Mims '87 was a four-year letter winner and remains the only indoor and outdoor All-American in the triple jump in the women's track & field program. Mims garnered her first All-American honor during the indoor season in 1985, and she followed that with another during the outdoor campaign the same year. Mims, who also qualified for the NCAA Championships in 1986, is a three-time All-Mason-Dixon Conference selection in the triple jump and held the indoor and outdoor triple jump school record at the time of her graduation.



Lauren Petrick '05 is one of the top student-athletes both on and off the court in Frostburg State athletics. She was the first volleyball player in program history to garner College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-American honors, and she was the third student-athlete in Frostburg history to earn Academic All-American honors. On the court, Petrick was a three-time AMCC Player of the Year and four-time All-AMCC honoree. She helped lead the Bobcats to three straight AMCC Tournament Championships and three consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament.



Brooke Winterling '10 capped her brilliant Frostburg playing career with a selection as the program's first-ever American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American as a senior in 2009. The program's all-time leader in kills (2,204), Winterling is a three-time AMCC Player of the Year and a four-time All-AMCC selection, and she helped the Bobcats to AMCC Tournament Championships and NCAA Tournament appearances in each of her final three seasons. A two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District selection, Winterling ranks in the top 10 in kills in a single season on three occasions, and she holds six of the top-10 marks in kills in a single match. ■

Field Hockey, Cross Country Mark 50 Years of Competition

Field Hockey Notes

- Nearly 400 wins in program history
- Six appearances in NCAA Tournament
- Four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, 1984-87
- Three ECAC Tournament appearances
- Nine All-Americans in program history
- 25 Regional (now All-Region) All-Americans
- School record 15 wins in a season (1982, 1984, 1986)

Cross Country Notes

- Six male All-Americans
- Four female All-Americans, including both programs' most recent All-American, Bonnie Axman, in 2005
- Chanda Merrill and Karen Carpenter gained All-American honors in 1996 after finishing third and fourth, respectively, in the country at the NCAA Championships
- Men have made 13 appearances as a whole team at the NCAA Championships
- Men's best finish at the NCAA Championships came with eighth-place finishes in 1982 and 1983
- Women's team has sent six runners to the National Championships, never a complete team

Darrius Smith Tapped as Fort Lewis Head Football Coach

Darrius G. Smith '95 has joined Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., as the head football coach for the Skyhawks.



Smith brings more than 20 years of collegiate coaching experience to Fort Lewis, which includes success at the NCAA Division I level. He was most recently the offensive coordinator/wide receivers coach for Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I. He has also helped transform offenses at University of Massachusetts and Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

"I couldn't be more excited, honored and proud to be the head football coach at Fort Lewis," Smith said at the press conference announcing his hiring.

Smith's coaching career began at his alma mater as a student assistant following a collegiate career as a defensive back. He was a three-year starter for the Bobcats and earned his degree in health and physical education. Smith also received an NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship with the Pittsburgh Steelers in the summer of 2005.

Longabardi Hired by Washington Wizards



The Washington Wizards have hired **Michael Longabardi '96** as an assistant coach under Head Coach Scott Brooks. Longabardi has worked in the NBA since 2003, most recently for the Cleveland Cavaliers as part of the coaching staff for the 2016 team that claimed that franchise's first NBA championship.

Before his time with the Cavaliers, he held assistant coaching roles with the Phoenix Suns, Houston Rockets and the Boston Celtics, winning his first championship in 2008 with the Celtics. His specialty is defense.

Longabardi began his coaching career in the college ranks, taking Adelphi University to two consecutive NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship appearances in 1998 and 1999. He was an assistant coach at Lafayette College, helping guide the team to an NCAA Tournament appearance, and was an assistant coach at Towson University before moving to the NBA.

Longabardi was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. He played basketball at Newberry College for two years, where he earned the nickname "Mr. Defense," before transferring to Frostburg State. He earned his bachelor's degree in health and physical education.



Williams Named Head Men's Basketball Coach for Salisbury

Maurice "Mo" Williams '11 is in his first season as a head coach for men's basketball at Salisbury University after being part of successful coaching staffs at his alma mater Frostburg State, Longwood University, Johns Hopkins University, Stevenson and Salisbury, which included two NCAA Division III Tournament appearances.

Before joining Salisbury after the season ended last year, Williams was on the coaching staff at Longwood University when the team earned the most Division I wins in school history and a postseason appearance. At Division III Johns Hopkins, the team finished the season ranked No. 12 in the nation and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Williams had a storied playing career for the Bobcats, earning All-Capital Athletic Conference first-team honors after leading the conference in points per game, offensive rebounds and free-throw percentage. He was selected for the CAC All-Academic Team and team captain in 2010-11 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education.

Williams is married to **Davia Procida '10**, who played women's lacrosse at FSU. ■



HOMECOMING

2019 Scrapbook



A bobcat statue funded by the efforts of the Student Government Association was dedicated in front of Compton Science Center. Performing the unveiling, from left, are Dr. Ben Norris '04, Chief Cindy Smith, President Nowaczyk, Jason VanSickle '98, Reid Bluebaugh '92, Mayor Bob Flanigan '92 and SGA President Jenna Puffinburger.



The Homecoming Court raised \$1,993 for charity. From left are President Nowaczyk, Homecoming Queen Kendra Cooper, King Gabriel Harper and Princess Lyric Mitchell.



Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tom Bowling, right, who retired from FSU in 2019, hugs Dr. Jeff Graham D'15 after being given the Outstanding Mentor award at the Career Expo.



Members of classes spanning multiple decades mingled and shared their Frostburg State memories at the first All-Alumni Reunion. This group of women represents Alpha Xi Delta.



Football alumni and friends gathered for tailgating before the Bobcats took on Urbana University.



Kenny Lease, Ian Reikie and Cliff Walls attend the Retired Employee Luncheon.



Cheering on the Bobcats at the Homecoming Football Game.



Watching the football game from the Hospitality Suite.



Future Bobcats enjoy a pre-game hotdog during tailgating.



For many more Homecoming photos, follow us on Flickr. Search Frostburg State University Alumni Association.

Homecoming 2020 To Go Virtual!

Despite the cancellation of in-person events, this fall's Homecoming is not canceled, just moving virtual! The Office of Alumni Relations and Office of Student and Community Involvement are planning a series of engaging virtual events for that weekend, **Oct. 15-18**. Stay tuned on social media and the FSU website for more!



Dale Schroyer, Pat Zumpano, Steve Zumpano '90 and Jason Paredes '20 attended the Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Brunch to support the FSU Baseball program.



Ashley Daniels '11, Mary Biscoe-Hall '12 and Suzi West '96 represent the Alumni Association Board of Directors at the All Alumni Reunion.



Dr. Mary Anne Lutz and Dr. Joy Kroeger-Mappes reconnect at the annual Retired Employee Luncheon.



Colonel Barry Holder '84, Carlos Acker '86 and Dwain Thomas '84 met up at the Alumni Welcome Center to discuss their weekend plans.

ClassNotes listed are those received as of June 15, 2020.

1968

Bonnie M. Troxell has received recognition for her volunteer hours at the C&O Canal Visitor Center and Museum at Canal Place in Cumberland. In addition, she has been inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, which honors senior citizens who have made exemplary contributions to society.

1970



Barry M. Hecker has been selected as a speaker for the USA Basketball Las Vegas Coach Academy that is presented by Nike.

1973

Edward H. Lough has been selected to serve on the board of trustees for the Community Foundation of Washington County MD Inc. He is also a financial advisor at Northwestern Mutual.

1975

Alfred E. Martin received the American Library Association's 2019 Trustee of the Year Award for his volunteer work with Maryland libraries. Al is the chair of the Maryland State Library Board and sits on the board for the Citizens for Maryland Libraries.

1978



Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald was selected as the 2019 National Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals.

1979

Richard “Rock” J. Cioni, Jr. M’79 has been selected for the Joseph K. Northcraft Memorial Award as the 2019 Unsung Hero by the Dapper Dan Club of Allegany County.

John R. Isaac has been recognized as a Top National Financial Representative by Northwestern Mutual. He has been inducted into the company’s elite membership, the 2019 Forum Group. He was chosen based on his commitment and drive to help families and businesses plan for and achieve financial security.

1980



Dr. Patrick M. Murphy was appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Patrick will donate all stipends from this appointment to the many charities he supports.

1982



Anthony P. Zook has been appointed by BioSig Technologies, Inc., to the Board of Directors of its majority-owned subsidiary, ViralClear Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

1983

Mark D. Crable was selected as a Top Executive of the Year in Green Energy by the International Association of Top Professionals. He is a senior process control engineer for Twin Rivers Paper Co. and president of Crable Engineering, LLC.

1985

Nicolas L. Relacion retired in July 2019 from the U.S. Army Reserve after 28 years with the rank of sergeant major (E-9) and last unit of 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, 304th CA BDE, 353rd CACOM.

1986

Debra L. Crow has been named Montana History Teacher of the Year, the first rural teacher in Montana to receive this award. She teaches grades

4-6 at the Garrison School, a two-room school house in Garrison, Mont. Before moving to Montana, she was a middle-school science teacher in Maryland from 1986-2012.

Heidi B. Laupert M’93 has been named principal at Allegany High School in Cumberland. She has served students for 33 years, all at Allegany, as an English teacher, assistant principal and now principal.

1987



Scott R. Paddack has received the 2019 Pop Stoner Award from the Tuscarora District of the Mason-Dixon Council. Scott is a district director for the Boy Scouts of America.

Donald R. Wilkinson, Jr. M’87 has accepted the position of general manager of WestRock’s Covington Mill in Virginia.

1989

Christopher Morton has been hired by Renaissance Life & Health Insurance Co. of America as a senior group sales executive. In this new role, Christopher will serve brokers in Maryland and Delaware.

1990

Mark Morral M’90 has been appointed the supervisor of Transportation for Allegany County Public Schools.

1991

Dr. Lisa S. Stevenson M’01/D’18 has been appointed principal at Cash Valley Elementary School in Cumberland. “I received a great education at FSU, which has advanced my career over the past 27 years,” she said.

1992

Craig A. Rotruck has been named head softball coach at Potomac State College in Keyser, W.Va. He is a former head baseball coach at PSC where he compiled a record of 113-26 and won a

national championship. He is a member of the FSU Bobcat Hall of Fame and is also an education specialist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

1993

Stacey L. Russell Bradley M’98 has been named the 2020-2021 Allegany County Teacher of the Year. She is a reading specialist at South Penn Elementary School in Cumberland.

Patrick M. Pokorny has been promoted to president of Control States for Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits.

Eric Woodson will be the new head football coach at Atholton High School in Columbia, Md., starting this fall for the 2020-2021 season. He leaves Glen Burnie High School after coaching the Gophers for the last seven years.

1994

Royal V. Hines has joined Stanley Black & Decker as finance manager SG&A COE.



Dr. Jeffrey A. Hyde has been appointed the director of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



Dr. Sarah K. Ivy has joined Saxton & Stump in Lancaster, Pa., as shareholder and chair of the firm’s newly formed Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Group. Sarah has more than 20 years of experience advising employers and other employee benefits plan sponsors.

Christopher J. Lambert has joined Bethany College in Bethany, W.Va., as the vice president for Advancement and Alumni Relations. He earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore

and was previously the senior executive director of philanthropy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



Tracy Teagarden Lambert was selected as Teacher of the Year at Tomoka Elementary School in Ormond Beach, Fla. She teaches third grade.

1995



Jonathan T. Alloy has been promoted to vice president — digital manager at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco. In addition, he just celebrated two years of volunteer service as deputy marriage commissioner for the city and county of San Francisco and has been admitted to Harvard University to pursue a master’s in international relations.



Kristi J. Nicholson Smith M’98 has been hired by Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa., as the Information Technology Department chair. She comes to the college after 17 years at Allegany College of Maryland.

1997

Chistopher D. Cassell M’07 has been appointed interim assistant principal at Fort Hill High School in Cumberland. He was formerly the assistant principal at Washington Middle School in Cumberland.

Jason A. Grahe is the chair of the School to Career Department at Kenwood High School in Essex, Md. In addition, he and his wife, Emily Yeatman, are co-owners of Les Petites Bisous in Havre de Grace, Md.

1998

The Hon. Erich M. Bean was selected by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan as judge for the Allegany County District Court. He has served the last nine years with the Allegany County Office of State’s Attorney as a prosecutor.

Kara L. Goldsworthy Breedlove M’02 has accepted the Keyser High School head volleyball coach position in Keyser, W.Va. She also teaches math at Braddock Middle School in Cumberland.



Christy M. Chambers Pratt has been appointed director of Admissions at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind. She has a master’s degree from Hood College in Frederick, Md., and has held roles in college admissions offices at Hood College, Frederick Community College, East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

1999

Courtney Thomas-Winterberg has been named to the Daily Record’s 2020 listing of Maryland’s Top 100 Women. Courtney is the director of the Allegany County Department of Social Services.



Emily A. White participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in Mongolia, where she studied the ecology of steppe ecosystems, with a focus on the Pallas’ cat, Przewalski’s horse and participatory conservation media.

2000

S. Matthew Evans II M’00 has been promoted to supervisor of Student Support Services for Queen Anne’s County (Md.) Public Schools.



Joshua J. Grove M’05 has been recognized by the Akron Beacon Journal as an “Unsung Hero” for his volunteer work with the Cub Scouts. He is a web development specialist for the University of Akron.



Dr. David J. Gurzick has joined the board of directors of the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics (FAST). His son, Chandler, has been diagnosed with Angelman. He is pictured with his wife, Martha Gurzick, and actor Colin Farrell at the FAST Gala.



Master Richard D. Rando II has been presented a 2019 President’s Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition Community Leadership Award. This award recognizes individuals who improve the lives of others within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activity, fitness or nutrition-related programs. Rick is the owner of Kick Masters Karate in Frostburg and www.RandoSpeaks.com.

2001

Tracey A. Thomas Leonard M’14 has been appointed the assistant supervisor of Athletics, Health & Physical Education, and Mental Health for Allegany County Public Schools.

2002

Laura J. Bennett has been named the Community Development director for the city of Frostburg. She has worked for the city for nearly eight years.



Andrew H. Harvey is the new director of Financial Aid at Garrett College in McHenry, Md. He has been helping students with financial aid since 2010.



Jonathan R. Horowitz has been hired by Washington County, Md., as a business leader in its Department of Business Development. He credits his education and experiences at FSU in helping him secure this position.



Christine M. Amyot Hurley M’04 has been named the Washington County 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year. She is the library media specialist and technology coordinator at Springfield Middle School in Williamsport, Md. She is married to **Benjamin J. Hurley ’01/M’03**, a teacher at Pangborn Elementary School in Hagerstown.

Charles R. Moran M’06 was appointed the assistant principal of Allegany High School. Since 2002, he has worked as a fifth-grade teacher, Title I teacher and elementary math specialist.

Ryan T. Wolf has been named principal of Southern Garrett High School in Oakland, Md., starting in the 2020-2021 school year. He is the county supervisor of mathematics and science and has been employed with Garrett County Public Schools since 2004.

2003



Marcus N. Doe recently did a TEDx talk in Denver about forgiveness and the effects of trauma on the brains of children who go through war. He is a pastor at Providence Bible Church in Denver.



Erin R. Guiffre has been recognized for legal excellence and client service by the 2020 legal ranking guide, The Best Lawyers in America. Erin is a principal with the law firm Kramon & Graham in Baltimore.

Jennifer L. Baker Ramsey M’07 is the new assistant principal at George’s Creek Elementary in Lonaconing, Md. Her teaching career has included pre-K, kindergarten and first and third grades.

Garrett A. Sherman M’05 is the new head women’s basketball coach at New Mexico Highlands University. He was previously the athletic director at Potomac State College and the University of Maine at Fort Kent.



Dr. Jon S. Wickert M’06 was awarded the Gold Leadership Award from Junior Achievement of Delaware. In addition, Jon has also joined the Delaware Department of Education as an education associate, Postsecondary Programs for Career and Technical Education.

2004

Timothy N. Novotny is the new athletic director for South Carroll High School in Sykesville, Md. Prior to teaching, he worked at Four Seasons Sports Complex in Hampstead and Carroll Indoor Sports Center in Westminster.

2005



Marc S. Broady, Esq., has joined Weller Development Co. as vice president of Community Affairs, where he will be responsible for leading the Port Covington Community Affairs Team, spearheading initiatives such as workforce development programming, local hiring and apprenticeships and support for women- and minority-owned businesses.

2006

Karl J. Kidd, Jr., has been selected for the 2019 Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award by the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. He is a fifth-grade teacher at Urbana Elementary School in Frederick, Md. He has developed a schoolwide ag program and is the co-author of *Amazing! Maryland Agriculture*, a nonfiction classroom book highlighting agriculture in Maryland.



Elizabeth E. Barry Stahlman M’13 has been selected as one of *The Daily Record’s* 2019 Leading Women awards. She is the city administrator for the city of Frostburg.

2007



Nicole R. Wigfield D’Atri M’08 has been named chair of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is the director of Finance for Connx, Inc., in Cumberland.



Joseph J. Rogers has joined the Western Maryland Regional Office of the Maryland Department of Planning as lead planner. He was previously a community development planner with the city of Frostburg for 13 years.

2008



Ashley E. Wisner Vascik M’09 has been selected as one of only three teachers nationally to receive the 2020 American Civic Education Teachers Award, given to teachers who demonstrate exceptional expertise, dynamism and creativity in motivating students to learn about the Constitution and U.S. Government. Ashley teaches at Boonsboro High School in Boonsboro, Md.

2011



Blair A. Bedford recently joined *USA Today* as senior manager, Digital Distribution, at Gannett. She was previously with the National Geographic channels.



Ashley M. Daniels was presented an award for Advisor Excellence at the FSU Greek Life Awards Banquet for the 2018-2019 academic year. She was also selected as Pi Lambda Phi’s Outstanding Campus Advisor Award recipient. She is the associate director of Civic Engagement for FSU.

2012



Mary C. Biscoe-Hall, Esq., has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough as an associate attorney in the Baltimore Office’s Litigation Department.

Corey D. Greig, C.P.A., has joined CBIZ MHM, LLC, as a senior tax associate. He brings eight years of knowledge that includes tax preparation for individuals, businesses and trusts and general accounting services.

Kelsey A. Cook Jensen has received certification as a certified municipal clerk through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She is the town clerk for Berlin, Md.



Tommie R. Reams M’16 has been named the director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health at Allegany College of Maryland. He is also the head men’s basketball coach.

2013

Kristi N. Minnigh Otto is a member of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is an agency owner for Allstate Insurance in LaVale, Md.



Layton F. Wilson has been sworn in as commissioner of the Housing Authority in Prince George’s County in Maryland.

2014

Cody C. Brill and his wife, Macy, formed Foster Appalachia, a nonprofit in Garrett County, whose mission is to promote a feeling of dignity and permanence by providing charitable support and mentorship for children in foster and kinship care in Garrett County and the surrounding communities.

Michael P. Schoelen has landed his dream job as a solution engineer for Esri. He was formerly a lead geospatial systems administrator with the Library of Congress.

2016



Brandon K. Glotfelty has been promoted to senior audit associate for KPMG LLP in Washington, D.C.

Kenneth D. Johnson M’16 has joined Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., as a lecturer, assistant football coach and athletics assistant.



India D. Lacey M’17 is a fund accountant with Greenspring Associates in Owings Mills, Md. Previously, she was with a systematic hedge fund, Campbell & Company in Pikesville.

2018



James R. Kirk has been accepted at the University of Notre Dame in Notre

Dame, Ind., to pursue a doctorate in political science. He will be a Notebaert Premier Fellow. He leaves FSU after two years as a development officer.

2019

Rebecca L. Bensavage has been recognized by *Allegany Magazine* as a 35 Under 35 for 2020.

Paul J. Miltenberger has been selected by *Allegany Magazine* as a 35 Under 35 for 2020.

Former Student

John Etgen has been promoted to chief executive officer of the Project WET Foundation. He has been with Project WET for 25 years.

Books by Alumni

come see about me, marvin brian g. gilmore ’87

This four-section poetry collection follows a fantastical dialogue between gilmore and the late Motown legend Marvin Gaye, two black men born in the nation’s capital who moved to the Midwest for professional ambitions. In trying to acclimate himself to a new place that seemed so different from the home he had always known, gilmore often looked to Gaye as an example for how to be. The poems were derived as a means of coping in a strange land.

Available through online booksellers and from IndieBound.



Joey’s Wish Pat Allen Kaplon ’58

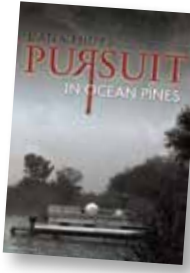
This charming children’s storybook features a little boy’s desire to become taller as soon as possible. Beautifully illustrated by Eva Camunas, the book follows Joey as he tries everything he knows to make himself grow. Kaplon also wrote *Betsy’s Choice*, another children’s storybook following Betsy on her desire to become a tooth fairy.

Available on Amazon and Kindle.



Pursuit in Ocean Pines Dana Moffat Phipps ’65

Picking up the story where Phipps’ first novel, *Murder in Ocean Pines*, ended, the sequel follows Amie as she begins life with her new husband, private detective



Patrick McCombe. Amie’s new life is threatened by her ex-boyfriend, Paul Simmons, who is determined to get her back, no matter the consequences. All of this intrigue is set in a small, byside community near Assawoman Bay on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Available through Ingram, Amazon and in bookstores.



I Am Z(arah) Kate W. Shea (Shea Marshall Wishard ’06)

After surviving a mass shooting, 24-year-old Zarah copes with PTSD by imagining she has a superhero alter ego. But when she meets quirky heart patient Greg, she faces a choice: confront her past or remain divided as two selves. A mass-shooting survivor herself, Shea combines elements of women’s fiction, romance and speculative fiction into her debut novel. Shea recently earned Honorable Mention in the L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest.

Available through online booksellers.

The Knight’s Reward Davis Stant ’06

A chance encounter between a healer and a great warrior serves as the catalyst for an epic tale of love, faith and loss. When the parameters of a broken society try to keep these two star-crossed lovers apart, they will show just how far they’re willing to go to stay together. This is a love story at its core that doubles as an epic poem.

Available through online booksellers.



MARRIAGES

- 1 **Antonio L. Hayes '00** married Jenny Dias on July 13, 2019.
- 2 **Brianne L. Reason '10/M'11** married John Lombardo, Jr., on Aug. 3, 2019, in Belize.
- 3 **Trevor W. DeVore '13** married Jessie Murray on July 6, 2019.
- 4 **Kayla L. Bradley '15/M'17** married Dillon Mathew on Aug. 10, 2019.
- 5 **Rae M. Heavner '16/M'19** married Caleb Robinette on Sept. 28, 2019.
- 6 **Lauren Fulton '12** and **Michael Belak '12** were married on Jan. 4, 2020.
- 7 **Kaitlyn E. Fike '14** married Christian Glotfelty on May 11, 2019.
- 8 **Nicholas J. Rosati '15/M'17** and **Sydney K. McFarland '16/M'18** got married on July 27, 2019, in Finzel, Md.
- 9 **Alanna Hirshman '16** married **Zachary T. Keeler '16** on Nov. 2, 2019.
- 10 **Samuel W. Lohff '17** and **Stephanie Claar '18** got married on Oct. 19, 2019, at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena, Md., surrounded by family and friends (many of whom were FSU alumni).
- 11 **Bartel Williams '17** married **Alexandra C. Snyder '18** on Nov. 9, 2019.
- 12 **Chandler Sagal '17** and **Sarah Dignan '19** were married on Oct. 19, 2019, in Cumberland, Md.



FAMILIES

- 1 **Kenneth A. Oldham, Jr. '98** and his wife, Melissa Bennett, welcomed their son, Bennett Breeze, on Jan. 15, 2020. He joins big brother, Landon.
- 2 **Jason E. VanSickle '98** and his wife, Kym Newmann, adopted their daughter, Madi, on July 19, 2019. She joins big brother, Cash.
- 3 **Terry C. DeHaven '00/M'08** and his wife, Kristy, welcomed their son, Cohen Clad, on June 12, 2019. He joins big sisters, Savannah, Cassidy and Sophia.
- 4 **Dr. Ryan C. Kentrus '04/M'07** and **Dr. Melody M. Hanna Kentrus '05** welcomed their daughter, Pepper Joy, on Feb. 26, 2020. She joins big sister, Kallie, and big brother, Sullivan.
- 5 **Rachel C. Hast Polesnak '05** welcomed her second daughter, Molly Hazel, on May 14, 2019.
- 6 **Christopher J. Celis '06** and his wife, Becky, welcomed their daughter, Gabriella, on July 2, 2019.
- 7 **LaChelle R. Squire Davis '06** welcomed a new daughter, Jade Elizabeth Heath, on July 26, 2019. She joins big sister, Josie, and is loved by her godmothers, **Shavonne Shorter '07** and **Keshia Squire '13**.
- 8 **Kristina A. Lambert Burgess '09** and her husband, Lee, welcomed their daughter, Diana Meredith, on Aug. 5, 2019.
- 9 **Sumer L. Rohrs Grace '09** and her husband, Jason, welcomed their second child, Isaac William, on June 19, 2019. He joins big sister, Elli.
- 10 **Mallory N. Smith Sechler '09/M'10** and her husband, Josh, announce the arrival of their daughter, Audia Lucille-Paige, on June 24, 2019.
- 11 **John F. Jensen, Jr. '11** and **Kelsey A. Cook Jensen '12** welcomed their second son, Cooper James, on Dec. 19, 2019. He joins big brother, Cole.
- 12 **Cody C. Brill '14** and his wife, Macy, adopted their son, Bryson, 19, and daughter, Morgan, 15, in 2019.
- 13 **Aaron J. Rosenthal '14** and his wife, Dallas, welcomed their first child, Cooper, on March 5, 2020.
- 14 **Mikayla E. Young Dodge '15** and her husband, **Zachary Dodge '15**, are the proud parents of Aria Elan, who made her appearance on July 20, 2019.
- 15 **Jeb A. Cliber '17** and his wife, Hallie, have welcomed their son, Rowan James, on Sept. 2, 2019.
- 16 **Kimberly A. Northcraft Nester '17/M'18** and her husband, Tommy, welcomed their daughter, Gabriella Jade, on Sept. 24, 2019.
- 17 **AReTta V. Shambaugh Combs '19** and her husband, Andrew, welcomed their son, Jude Maron, on June 4, 2019.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

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

Randall Bandura, professor, Department of Accounting, joined FSU in 1983.
Wray Blair, associate vice president, Enrollment Management, joined FSU in 1985.
Dr. Sunshine Brosi, associate professor, Department of Biology, joined FSU in 2007.
Linda Brumage, executive administrative assistant I, College of Education, joined FSU in 1968.
Phyllis Casey, associate registrar, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1985.
Karen Clark, administrative assistant I, University Police, joined FSU in 1990.
Dr. Robbie Cordle, director, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2000.
Carol Cosner, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.
Diane Darr, housekeeper lead, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 2002.
Dustin Davis, professor, Visual Arts, joined FSU in 1972.
Lisa Fey, administrative assistant II, Admissions, joined FSU in 1995.
Donna Geary, housekeeper, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 2005.
Patricia Gregory ’86, director, Admissions, joined FSU in 1989.
Dr. Robert Kauffman, professor, Department of Kinesiology & Recreation, joined FSU in 1992.
Amy Kiddy, nurse, Brady Health Center, joined FSU in 1991.
Kathleen Leck, program administrative specialist, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 2006.
Sandra Livengood, housekeeper chief, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 1976.
Dr. Vickie Mazer D’15, director, Graduate Services, joined FSU in 2007.
Julie Schibblehut Rando ’04/M’09, associate director, Admissions, joined FSU in 2004.
Dr. Francis Precht, professor, Department of Geography, joined FSU in 1990.
Dr. Lance Revennaugh, professor, Department of Mathematics, joined FSU in 1983.
Dr. Patricia Robison, director, Counseling and Psychological Services, joined FSU in 2002.
Sandra Rohrbaugh, executive administrative assistant III, Office of the President, joined FSU in 1972.
Dr. Maria-Luisa Sanchez, professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages and Literature, joined FSU in 1997.
Dr. Beth Scarloss, associate professor, Department of Educational Professions, joined FSU in 2010.
Kimberly Shirer, executive administrative assistant I, joined FSU in 2002.
Donna Sivic, administrative assistant II, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2006.
Dr. Bill Southerly, professor, Department of Psychology, joined FSU in 1989.
Elizabeth Thomas, associate director, Human Resources, joined FSU in 1998.
Ann Townsell ’87, director, Publications, joined FSU in 1996.
David Wiland, housekeeper, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 1997.
Susie Yates ’71, program management specialist, Residence Life, joined FSU in 1995.

Retirements from August 2019 to July 2020

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!

YOUR alumni association wants to recognize your personal and professional successes and make sure the voices of all alumni are heard and represented. We encourage you to contact us at ALUMNI@FROSTBURG.EDU with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

UPDATE YOUR INFO ONLINE: www.frostburg.edu/alumni-update

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! Look for Frostburg State University Alumni Association on:



Dr. Robert S. “Bob”

Donnelly, who died April 23, 2020, was a professor emeritus and former chair of FSU’s MBA department (1984-1988), a program he helped evolve and improve between 1978 and 1986. Recognizing potential in his students, he encouraged at least three of FSU’s distinguished faculty to pursue higher education as a career, **Dr. Carol Gaumer ’89/M’91**, **Dr. Cathy Ashley-Coteleur M’93** and the late **Ron Ross M’81**. “He was an excellent teacher. He brought great, lively examples to the classroom,” Gaumer said. “He challenged us to think and analyze.” His time at FSU followed a diverse career in the corporate world, and he pursued a variety of personal interests.



ALUMNI

- 1943 **Betty J. Lee Layman M’75** Feb. 7, 2020
- 1947 **Barbara Martin Sweitzer** Jan. 1, 2020
- 1948 **Betty P. Zajicek** Oct. 9, 2017
- 1949 **Marion L. Shaw Peterman** Sept. 12, 2019
Virginia K. Shireman Plummer Feb. 19, 2020
- 1951 **Luther R. Stemple** Jan. 1, 2020
- 1953 **Jo Ann Fisher Robinson** July 7, 2019
- 1955 **Earl J. Dennison** Aug. 29, 2019
Cecil H. Fazenbaker July 23, 2019
Margaret E. Burkey Hast April 27, 2020
Ruth E. Collier Fitzpatrick Williams Sept. 29, 2019
- 1956 **Charles J. Hout** Feb. 15, 2020
- 1957 **Rev. Andrew C. Agnew, Sr.** Aug. 16, 2019
William G. McKenzie Feb. 4, 2020
Louise F. Ewald Miller March 19, 2020
- 1958 **Donald F. Garlitz M’65** Oct. 30, 2019
- 1959 **James L. Minick M’65** Sept. 8, 2019
- 1960 **Hila Hines** Jan. 25, 2020
Susan J. Bampton Kidwell April 3, 2020
Dr. John E. Winters March 6, 2020
- 1961 **William R. Brown** Nov. 9, 2019
Ronald J. Young Oct. 29, 2019
- 1963 **Mason W. Callis, Jr.** Feb. 9, 2020
Janet E. Nelson Harden April 8, 2020
William J. Seibert M’67 Nov. 7, 2019
- 1965 **Jon P. Galley** June 30, 2019
Robert Howard Plummer M’70 Oct. 11, 2019
Charles W. Ridgeway Feb. 27, 2020
Laura E. Mays Verge Feb. 23, 2020
- 1966 **William J. Hetrick** Nov. 20, 2019
Helen P. Mongan Feb. 2, 2019
David N. Moquin May 1, 2020
Lonnie E. Nixon Dec. 24, 2019
- 1968 **Robert M. McGregor** June 28, 2019
- 1969 **Elrose Tibbetts Smith M’69** Dec. 26, 2019
Kenneth A. Snoots, Sr. Nov. 12, 2019

GARY AUSTIN ’02, who died on Nov. 16, 2019, taught in FSU’s sociology program at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. Austin started teaching for FSU in 2004 and taught full time between 2008 and 2015 and part time until spring 2019. He also coordinated the FSU at USMH programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and launched *The Activist*, an undergraduate research journal for FSU students that focused on social issues. He was also an artist.



MARY ANN GUTHRIE GERWIG CHAPMAN, who died on Jan. 12, 2020, was a long-time English faculty member who also taught in the Department of Philosophy. She was an artist and banker before becoming an educator. She taught every grade from kindergarten to graduate-level courses, including classes at Frostburg in mythology and Dante — these were her favorites — and many other topics. She was preceded in death by her husband, the **Rev. Edward “Bo” Chapman**, parish priest of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, who also taught at Frostburg.



DR. JUDITH THELAN, who died on May 3, 2020, was a professor of educational professions who taught literacy from 1970 to 1997 and established FSU’s graduate reading program. She was active in her field, especially through the International Reading Association, of which she became president in 1991. She achieved national and international recognition for her work in reading and was a consultant to school districts and the Department of Defense. Locally, she organized the Western Maryland Reading Council and served two terms on the Allegany County Board of Education, including two years as president.



- 1970 **H. Scott Lawson** Jan. 30, 2020
Dr. Gordon A. Stevenson July 23, 2019
- 1971 **Susan Steiding Baker M’77** Oct. 3, 2019
Stephen K. Buchly Jan. 16, 2020
Mary Ann Hayes Greene July 8, 2019
George F. Taylor July 20, 2019
Gregory A. Wilkes May 21, 2019
- 1972 **David R. Bearry** Feb. 23, 2020
H. Paul Clovis II M’72 April 16, 2020
Thomas H. Sansom Dec. 20, 2019
- 1973 **Larry M. Edmiston** Oct. 7, 2019
Ronald J. Gibson July 28, 2019
- 1974 **Mark D. Moler** March 5, 2020
Judy-Ann Rosa June 26, 2019
- 1975 **Diana L. Allee Beverlin M’75** Nov. 12, 2019
Kathryn A. McMahon Black M’80 July 16, 2019
David H. Decker Jan. 15, 2020
Lois A. Holdridge Welsh Aug. 8, 2019
- 1976 **Helen L. Sigler Buser** June 11, 2019
George L. Hast March 10, 2019
Colleen R. Moore Hicks March 9, 2020
Paul E. Tompros July 22, 2019
- 1977 **Randy L. Rush** Jan. 9, 2020
Ruth M. Hinebaugh Umbel M’98 Sept. 24, 2019
Mabel P. Stutler Wilson July 5, 2019
- 1978 **David P. Dilegge** May 2, 2020
- 1979 **Richard L. Melby M’79** Aug. 4, 2019
Lee Ann Lehman Miller Dec. 26, 2019
Thomas E. Twigg Feb. 24, 2020
- 1980 **Gail W. Palmer M’80** March 24, 2020
Richard J. Wagner M’80 Dec. 18, 2019
- 1981 **James J. Ortiz M’81** May 1, 2020
Richard Carlett Ross Dec. 7, 2019
- 1982 **Sheryl Arthurs Dougherty** Jan. 2, 2020
Karma Northway Kenny March 2, 2020
- 1983 **Charles J. Pennington** Oct. 25, 2019

- 1984 **William F. Henaghan** Oct. 3, 2019
- 1986 **Patrick W. Casey** July 21, 2019
- 1988 **Donna Majikas M’88** April 13, 2020
- 1991 **Lana Bowers Cobb M’91** Dec. 2, 2019
Julie McCutcheon Duncan Jan. 18, 2020
Wanda J. Sisk Stevanus M’97 Sept. 23, 2019
- 1992 **Clyde S. Fike, Jr. M’96** Aug. 14, 2019
Sherri L. Haberlein April 20, 2020
- 1993 **Scott R. Chaney** Dec. 17, 2019
Vernette J. Molloy M’93 Nov. 30, 2019
- 1994 **Olivia Roybal Tubergen** April 22, 2020
- 1998 **Brent J. Chillemi** Jan. 27, 2020
Michael G. Nedrow* April 1, 2020
Bonnie J. Tucker Sept. 27, 2019
- 1999 **Valerie L. Sines Naylor M’03** Aug. 26, 2019
- 2000 **James M. Shelly M’00** Oct. 8, 2017
- 2001 **David B. Beaulieu** Jan. 30, 2020
- 2003 **Nancy Grove Foltz M’03** Dec. 4, 2019
- 2004 **Jason S. Camelotto** May 24, 2019
- 2005 **Ashley Cook Marietta** July 20, 2019
Erich E. Matz M’05* Aug. 28, 2019
- 2009 **Michael K. Dawson, Sr. M’09** Aug. 11, 2019
Shaun M. Evans Nov. 15, 2019
- 2013 **David J. Knotts** Jan. 4, 2020
Shayna E. Kramer Nov. 14, 2019
Adam M. Ladny Feb. 24, 2020
- 2020 **Donesha F. Chew** Feb. 9, 2020

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jack E. Arch Nov. 23, 2019
Carolyn L. Feiser Arnone* Aug. 30, 2019
Carol Gillan Bell April 5, 2020
Elsie I. Burrell Brady Jan. 26, 2020
Robert H. Broadwater* July 4, 2019
John K. Butler* Aug. 16, 2019
Christa A. Lambert Cheshire* Aug. 11, 2019

Robert G. Culin, Jr. July 10, 2018
Harry C. Donaldson Sept. 1, 2019
Joy Wilson Douglas Oct. 25, 2019
Louis P. Femi* Sept. 19, 2019
Harry J. Foreback March 31, 2020
Robert C. Frankenberg* July 21, 2019
Thomas R. Gira June 20, 2020
Brian K. Green, Jr., June 16, 2020
Charles H. Gover, Sr. Feb. 11, 2020
Jack P. Halley II Sept. 4, 2019
Iris P. Eustace Halmos May 9, 2020
Drew Johnathan Lee Halsey, June 19, 2020
Harvey Lee Hogamier July 21, 2019
Nancy L. Howell June 27, 2019
Thomas F. Kilduff July 21, 2019
Regina Ann Derham Lancaster* June 30, 2019
John Leptic, Jr. Feb. 11, 2020
Shirley M. Lewis Loar* April 11, 2020
Frank H. Menaker, Jr. Feb. 18, 2020
John O. Metz* March 25, 2020
Dorothy L. Shafer Norris March 20, 2020
Ryan E. Poyer Feb. 16, 2020
Douglas A. Rudisill July 7, 2019
Seymour S. Sallerson* May 1, 2020
Mary E. Seaton Sanford March 6, 2020
Rose M. Sevinsky* March 27, 2020
James W. Shelar June 29, 2019
Michael B. Shutz Oct. 14, 2019
Edith P. Sloop April 9, 2018
Robert Spencer, Jr. May 1, 2020
Derick A. Vinson Feb. 10, 2020
Esther S. Acre Wampler* Oct. 19, 2019
Hali M. Anger Weaver March 2, 2020
B. Betty Williams* Aug. 24, 2019

* Former faculty or staff member

Thanks to Our Caring Bobcats!

In these unprecedented times, many Bobcats have stepped up to meet the needs of their communities.

Earlier this spring, FSU began to recognize those members of the University community who went above and beyond to solve problems and provide services to our students, employees and the greater community. Read those stories at www.frostburg.edu/caringbobcats.

We found members of the alumni community doing the same. Some are making sure their neighbors have food and other essentials, like **Ed Herold '83**, who teamed up with celebrity chef José Andrés' World Central Kitchen to serve meals in Baltimore.

Others are working in the medical field, on the front lines in direct care roles or volunteering to extract RNA and perform RT-PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reactions) to process COVID-19 tests like **Annette De Capite '12**.

Others used their own creative and technical skills — and equipment — to stitch cloth masks or produce face shields on 3-D printers like **James Burkhardt '06/M'08** did, first for his wife, Sarah, a nurse anesthetist, then her colleagues, and soon for hundreds of others.

We recognize and salute these Caring Bobcats!

Pictured on the front cover is a small selection of Bobcats who have been showing their caring side to help others through tough times.

- Row 1: **Aunya Brown**, Residence Life hall director, with some of her RAs; and **Annette De Capite '12**.
- Row 2: **Ashley Daniels '11**, associate director of Civic Engagement; and **Gabe Fernandes**, Residence Life hall director.
- Row 3: **Jennifer Brown**, student success coach; **Ed Herold '83** (with Chef José Andrés); **Michael Tartt '19**, PAWS Pantry AmeriCorps volunteer; **James Burkhardt '06/M'08**; and **Caitlin Rund**, senior.
- Row 4: **Dr. Shoshana Brassfield**, associate professor, Philosophy; **Sarina Gant '18**, admissions counselor; **Harry Fike**, technical support manager; **Shawn Jones**, student development specialist; **Missy Martz '95**, graphic artist/social media coordinator; and **Katie Weir '14**, Residence Life assistant director.
- Row 5: Burkhardt's wife, Sarah; **Kevin Fearon**, research machinist; **Katie McKeever**, senior; recipients of Burkhardt's masks; and **Lee Ann Nightingale '04/M'12**, manager, Benefits & Wellness.
- Row 6: **Faith Tacey**, sophomore (as herself and the Easter Bunny); **Dr. Rita Thomas '05/M'07/D'17**, manager, Instructional Design and Technology; and **Patrick O'Brien '07**, director of Civic Engagement.
- Row 7: Volunteers with Herold at World Central Kitchen; **Jessica Rothe**, graduate student; **Arik Hartz**, graduate student, Student Veterans of America; **Yolanda Moses**, senior; and De Capite, out of her PPE.



Together or Apart.
We Bobcats
Will Persevere
We Bobcats
Will Remain Strong
We Bobcats
Will Be ...
Bobcats
Through It All

Custom Bobcat statue mask created by FSU's Chapter of Student Veterans of America. This group has also made and given away more than 1,400 masks for people.



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Thanks! But the Need Continues!

Our alumni have led the way in stepping up to help so many of our students during the COVID pandemic. We truly thank you for supporting our Student Affairs Crisis Emergency fund and our Emergency Scholarship fund. As a result, hundreds of students have been able to continue their education. You make us Bobcat Proud!

But there's so much more to do. And we're asking all of you to do it again — to give again!

If you've made a gift, please consider another. It's money well spent. Your gift ensures an interested high school grad becomes a Bobcat student and a Bobcat student becomes a Bobcat graduate and Bobcat graduate becomes a Bobcat success story — all because of the support from the Frostburg State University community.

**Support the
Emergency Scholarship Fund**

frostburg.edu/GiveESF