Dear USM Faculty and Staff,

When we presented the University System of Maryland’s fiscal year 2005 budget request to the Maryland General Assembly recently, we were honored to represent you. Your dedication and commitment to quality have helped the system earn its reputation for excellence. We, along with the USM institutional presidents and others, are fighting hard to maintain that excellence as we make the case for higher education in Annapolis.

With the budget cutbacks of the last two years, all of you have been working even harder as colleagues have been laid off and positions eliminated. We understand that this is a difficult period, and we deeply appreciate your continued commitment to helping your institutions and the system keep the promise of quality to the many people we serve.

During the current session of the Maryland General Assembly, we are highlighting the university system’s tremendous value to the state. We are emphasizing its vital role in preparing a highly educated citizenry and producing the research and knowledge transfer the state needs to sustain a strong economy and a high quality of life for all Marylanders.

In addition, we are calling for a stronger partnership between the university system and the state’s elected officials to provide sufficient and predictable state support so that we can ensure affordable access to high quality institutions.

We also would like to express our appreciation to the USM councils of faculty, staff, and students. They are offering valuable support for our current efforts in Annapolis.

Already, we have achieved an important milestone on our road to financial recovery. As he promised, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich did not cut state funding for the USM in the operating budget he submitted for fiscal year 2005. Moreover, the governor’s budget proposal includes a merit pool of 2.5 percent and a COLA of 1.6 percent. Protecting these funds in the budget process is our highest priority because we know that our talented faculty and staff have not had a compensation increase in more than three years. We also are encouraged by the fact that Governor Ehrlich’s capital budget for the system is the largest in our history.

As Maryland’s economic outlook improves, it is our expectation that the state will renew its strong investment in the University System of Maryland. This is the goal we are striving to achieve.

Again, thank you for all you do to advance the University System of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Clifford M. Kendall, Chair
Board of Regents
University System of Maryland

William E. Kirwan, Chancellor
University System of Maryland

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**Mills to Present ‘Reconstruction of South Africa’ Lecture**

Music professor Dr. Susan W. Mills will present a lecture titled “The Reconstruction of South Africa,” a program in the FSU African American Studies Series, on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lane University Center’s Alice R. Manicur Assembly Hall. The event will also feature music from Unified Voices Under God’s Dominion, FSU’s gospel choir. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture will focus on the reconstruction of South Africa, since the crumbling of Apartheid. Now, 10 years after the Apartheid Government ended, South Africans are in their “new struggle” to take responsibility for their republic and to include all citizens in the new infrastructure of their nation. The music and the discussion will focus on this new struggle and its relationship to individual lives in South Africa.

Feb. 12 was chosen because it is Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and many Americans associate Abraham Lincoln with the emancipation of slaves in the U.S. With the emancipation came years of further struggle for African Americans because the years of slavery did not necessarily prepare them for citizenship in a democracy.

Unified Voices Under God’s Dominion will perform sacred and traditional choral music from South Africa during the program. The choir is a student-run organization, a highly sought-out group of singers who perform for the enjoyment of the campus community, churches and other organizations upon request. The music selected is from Mills’ repertoire, learned from South African musicians during her teaching fellowship there in 2001.

For more information, contact Mills at x4119.
Poet-in-Residence to Give Poetry Reading

Distinguished poet-in-residence Gerry LaFemina, who is teaching this semester in the English Department, will give a poetry reading Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., in the Lane University Center Atkinson Room (x411). Gerry LaFemina’s books include 23 Below, Shattered Hours, Poems 1988-94, and the recently released Graffiti: Heart, which received the 2001 Anthony Piccione Poetry Prize. A new book, The Window Facing Winter, will be released later this year, another collection, The Parakeets of Brooklyn, won the 2003 Bordighere Prize in Poetry and will be published in a bilingual edition—English and Italian—in 2005. His poetry, short fiction and essays have been published in numerous journals and have been frequently anthologized, including in American Poetry: The Next Generation.

The public is invited; call the English Dept. at x4411 for more information.

Appalachian Laboratory

AL'S Philip Townsend will present “Long-Term Ecosystem Change on the Roanoke River Floodplain, North Carolina,” at the next in the Appalachian Lab's spring seminar series. Townsend will speak on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 3:30 p.m. in AL room 109. Refreshments will follow.

Art

Billy Colbert Exhibit

FSU's Stephanie Ann Roper Gallery is showing artist Billy Colbert's exhibition "Remembering Things That Never Happened," through Sunday, Feb. 29. The exhibition is co-sponsored by FSU Black Student Alliance and Iota Phi Theta. A 1993 FSU graduate, Colbert has exhibited his work across the country. He is Art Focus Coordinator for the Jefferson-Houston School for the Arts and Academics in Alexandria, Va., and a faculty member at the Corcoran College of Art & Design, in Washington, D.C.

For more information, please call x4797. The gallery is open Sundays through Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Music

Blues Singer K.J. James to Perform at the Loft

Blues singer K.J. James will perform at FSU for its "LIVE at the Loft!" series at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Lane University Center Loft.

Since launching his recording career with the "Salt City Blues" project on Blue Wave Recordings, James has become one of the nation’s most requested blues performers. Unlike others on the contemporary blues scene, he has stayed true to the music. Best-known for the song "Doc’s Band," James has recorded over 500 tunes. He tours throughout the U.S.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Lane University Center Information Desk at x4411.

Take Note

Scheduling and Religious Observances

FSU President Catherine R. Gira requests sensitive and responsible compliance by all students, faculty and staff to the following FSU and Board of Regents policy:

"It is the policy of FSU that the academic programs and services of the University shall be available to all qualified students who have been admitted to its programs, regardless of their religious beliefs. Students shall not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays and shall be given an opportunity to make up, within a reasonable time period, any academic assignment that is missed due to the individual participation in religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her instructor of conflicts between religious observances and scheduled course activities."

Courtesy suggests that students should notify their instructors of conflicts and make arrangements for making up missed work PRIOR to an absence due to religious observance.

All faculty and staff have been sent a calendar of Religious and Ethnic Holidays for reference. If you have questions, contact Mary Gartner, assistant provost, x4411.

Alumni Assoc. Offers Personal Address Labels

FSU Alumni Association, in a partnership with alumnilabels.com, a division of Marketing Communication Resource Inc., is now offering personalized return address labels with FSU’s logo. The site is up and running at www.AlumniLabels.com. MCR handles the credit card payments, prints and ships the labels the day they are ordered. Visit www.alumnilabels.com /session.php?sel_univ=00035Frostburg+State+University

Brady Health Center Change in Policy

Effective immediately, Brady Health Center will no longer treat employees for on-the-job injuries. Anyone needing medical attention should go to the Frostburg Medical Clinic or to the doctor or facility of their choice. The University Police will continue to transport employees to the Frostburg Medical Clinic if in their “conservative good judgment” it can be done safely.

Legislative Update

StateLines will bring you updates on the USM-related happenings in Annapolis during the legislative session.

Last week's update contained an error: The planning, construction and equipment funds for Tawes Hall were not currently included in the governor's capital budget. The funds had been in the USM Board of Regents' plan, but did not make it into Gov. Ehrlich's plan.

Commencement Announcement

Any student planning to complete studies during the current semester (May 2004) must first officially file for graduation. Undergraduate students should contact the Registrar’s Office (x4349, 144 Pullen Hall), while graduate students should submit all necessary paperwork to Graduate Services (x7053, 141 Pullen Hall). Mailings and notices regarding Commencement are sent only to those students who have completed all filing requirements. The initial mailing will be sent the second week of March.

Caps and gowns are provided at no charge to all students cleared to participate in the Commencement Ceremony; however, each student is responsible for placing an order in advance. Orders should be submitted to the University Bookstore by March 15. All graduating students are also encouraged to attend the Grad Fair on Friday, March 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Alice R. Manicur Assembly Hall in the Lane Center. More information on this event will be distributed at a later date.

Advance information about Commencement and related activities is always available at www.frostburg.edu/events/commenc.htm. For more information, contact Beth Deitelhauser in Special Academic Services x3130, 127 Performing Arts Center or bdeitelhauser@frostburg.edu.

Points of Pride

Bethany Bastinelli, director of Greek Life and Leadership Programs, received certification from CAMPUSPEAK Inc., a national training and development firm in Denver, Colo. Bastinelli will devote part of her time to campus organizations nationwide to assist in the development of community-building efforts.

Becoming one of the many applicants to be chosen as a facilitator for the SALAD (“Seeking Alliances through Leadership and Diversity”) program, Bastinelli became certified on Dec. 30, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas. As a SALAD facilitator, Bastinelli will travel to various college campuses to help foster strong communication bonds between diverse student organizations as well as Greek letter organizations.
Job Fair

Cumberland Valley Consortium Job Fair

The Cumberland Valley Consortium Job Fair will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Frederick, Md.'s Holiday Inn Holidome. Employers will be available to discuss internships and jobs with students and alumni. Bring your resumes, dress for success and travel down for the largest job fair we offer. A bus will be available to transport students from Frostburg. A mandatory orientation is required of all students & alumni planning to attend the fair. Visit the Office of Career Services, 124 Sand Spring Hall. You will receive a registration card necessary to enter the fair, employer booklet and instructions on fair etiquette. You will also have the opportunity to sign up to ride the bus. Professional dress is required (no jeans, sweats, recreational attire, etc.). Further details will be provided when receiving your fair materials.

Preview who is registering for the Cumberland Valley Consortium 2004 Job Fair by visiting www.collegecentral.com/cvc/ Click on Student Search.

Volunteers

Help for Gandalf's Community

Donations are being accepted to assist those who were left homeless or whose businesses were destroyed in the Main Street fire on Feb. 1. Donations can be sent to “Foundation for Frostburg,” Frostburg’s Fire Fund, P.O. Box 765, Frostburg, MD 21532. Checks should be made payable to Foundation for Frostburg. Please note whether you would like the donation to benefit the tenants or the businesses.

A large amount of donations of clothing, food and furniture have already been made. Help is requested from those with pickup trucks to pick up those donations. This service will be an ongoing need until all of the victims are relocated.

Another way to donate useful items is to donate a gift card from stores such as Wal-Mart, Penney’s or Sears. Contact Emily White at ewhite2@frostburg.edu or x4210 for more information.

Join American Red Cross Grateful Life Tour

Do you remember when Simon and Garfunkel had a top 10 hit single? Did you watch the Partridge Family? The American Red Cross is bringing back the ’70s, so jump on the bandwagon and join the Grateful Life Tour. The Grateful Life Tour is a grassroots effort to raise awareness of the need for blood and to get community members excited about giving the gift of life. The Tour will be cruisin’ in to selected blood drives and blood centers in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Each presenting donor will receive a psychedelic Grateful Life Tour tie-dyed t-shirt, and the Red Cross has planned an array of activities at blood drives featured as part of the Tour.

The Tour will visit FSU on Monday, Feb. 9, from noon to 6 p.m. in the Lane University Center. All presenting donors can enter a drawing to win a mountain bike. This blood drive is being sponsored by the National Broadcasting Society and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Volunteer opportunities for volunteers, businesses and organizations will be “rolling up their sleeves” to help us reach our goal to collect more than 125,000 units of blood,” said Tania Ohlshcn, Senior Director, Donor Recruitment and Communications, for the Greater Alleghenies Region of American Red Cross Blood Services.

A full list of blood drive and blood centers that the Grateful Life Tour will be visiting is available on www.redcrosslife.org.

To be eligible to donate, a person must be at least 17 years of age; weigh at least 105 pounds; and be in generally good health.

Service Challenge: Are You up for It?

How many of you think you could easily volunteer 25 hours a semester? The VOICE Clearinghouse is challenging each member of the FSU Community to serve at least 25 hours in the upcoming semester. Not only does the Community Service Database of Allegany County make finding volunteer opportunities easier, but the VOICE Clearinghouse coordinator is here to help you find a volunteer experience that will work best for you.

If you are a member of the FSU community and already volunteer, whether it be in the PTA or at your church, please call x4210 and let us know. We would like to be able to let everyone know just how much our community is giving back!

So the question is, are you up for the challenge? If so, please e-mail voice@frostburg.edu, call x4210, or visit http://involvement.frostburg.edu. Click first on “Center for Volunteerism and National Service” and then on “VOICE Clearinghouse” to register.

Students Offer Free Tax Preparation Help

Free help preparing 2003 tax returns is available through the IRS-sponsored VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program at FSU. Help with basic federal and Maryland income tax returns will be offered from early February through early April by FSU’s College of Business students who have been trained and approved by the IRS. Faculty members will oversee these student preparers. The VITA program offers this assistance to taxpayers paying Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, or a basic Form 1040 federal tax return. Volunteers will alert taxpayers to special credits and deductions for which they may be eligible.

Appointments must be made in advance by calling J oyce Middleton, VITA site co-coordinator, at x4154. Students will work Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Framptom Hall (except for March 20 and 27). A drop-off service will also be available throughout the week.

Taxpayers arriving for an appointment should bring any tax packages mailed by the IRS and the state, Form W-2 from all employers, interest and dividend statements (Form 1099), a copy of last year’s returns, if available, and any other relevant information about income and expenses. Taxpayer and dependent social security numbers and birth dates are also needed.

Get Involved

How Do You Know When It’s Love?

Dr. Mikal Crawford, Educational Professions, will lead “Romance and Reality: How Do You Know You’re in Love” at the United Campus Ministry meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Ort Library room 237.

Catholic Campus Ministry

CCM will provide “Valentines for Seniors” at St. Vincent dePaul Nursing Home on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Meet at the Osborne Newman Center.

Women’s Self Defense

A Women’s Self-Defense class will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. in the basement of Cumberland Hall. The class, which starts Feb. 10, will be taught by Lubomyr Murashchyk. For more information, contact Phil Stamper, Residence Life, at x4084.

FSU Karate Club

The FSU Karate Club is practicing every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Dance Studio, Cordts PE Center. You will learn the basics of punching, blocking, kicking, karate moves and, most importantly, good work-outs. Martial arts experience, while helpful, is not required to attend.

On Channel 3

FSU TV 3 Schedule for Feb. 9-13

Monday:
3 & 6 p.m. Live at the Loft: Reggie Wayne Morris Blues
4:25 & 7:25 p.m. Destination Tomorrow
4:55 & 7:55 P.M. Dr. Suzi Mills Lecture & Recital

Tuesday:
3 & 6 p.m. Penn State Behrend vs FSU Women’s Basketball Game
Scholarships

Cooke Foundation Offers Graduate Scholarship

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which runs one of the country’s most competitive private scholarship programs, has opened its Graduate Scholarship Program to graduating seniors and recent alumni from any accredited college or university in the U.S. Previously, the competition was open only to students from or attending school in Virginia, Maryland and D.C. With the change, college seniors at more than 2,000 accredited institutions in the U.S. and alumni who have graduated from those institutions since May 1999, may compete for the scholarships, which can total as much as $50,000 per year for up to six years.

The Foundation plans to award as many as 35 scholarships in July of 2004 for use during the 2004-2005 academic year and will renew award in subsequent years based on performance. Recipients may use the award at any accredited university. A panel of national experts will assist the Foundation in selecting scholars. Candidates for the scholarship must be nominated by the faculty representative at their undergraduate institution. Application materials are available on the Foundation’s website, www.jackkentcookefoundation.org, or by calling 1-800-498-6478. The faculty representative for FSU is Dr. Ann Bristow, at x4446 or abristow@frostburg.edu. FSU graduate Roger Skipper was one of the Foundation’s first scholars.

The Foundation is a private, independent foundation established in 2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke to help 29, a 6 p.m. class will be added each week of March 22.

The classes will be in Cordts Physical Education Center Room 165. The classes are Monday, 20-20-20 (a combination class); Tuesday, Kickboxing/Abs; Wednesday and Thursday, 20-20-20.

For a single $35 fee, participants are able to take part in any or all of the classes for the entire semester. Instructors are Jo Mason and Julie Light.

International

Northumbria University Visit and Info Meeting

Dr. David Walker from the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, England, will visit FSU on Thursday, Feb. 12, to speak to students interested in the Northumbria program. The information meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the CIE. Walker will answer questions about courses, costs and living in Newcastle. Application deadline for fall is mid-March. For information, call x4714 or visit the CIE Web site.

Summer Study Abroad - Apply Now!

The CIE is taking applications from students interested in studying abroad during the summer. Program information, application forms and financial aid information is available at the CIE Office. Students have dozens of destinations to choose from, including Ecuador, Australia, Nepal, Tanzania, Finland, Malta, China, France, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Korea, and much more. Deadlines for summer programs are late February/early March.

Ireland 2004-2005 - Apply Now!

Students who are interested in studying at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland, for either the fall 2004 or spring 2005 semester (or the full year) should pick up an application from the CIE office. Information meetings will be held during February and April. For more information, call x4714 or visit the CIE website.

Meet our International Students Every Friday

Any students or staff who are interested in meeting our international students should plan to drop by the CIE any Friday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The CIE provides coffee and doughnuts for internationals and any who would like to meet international students. Currently FSU is home to fall of students from over 26 countries. For more information, call the CIE at x4714.

Study Abroad Programs

The Center for International Education offers a variety of ways for FSU students to see the world. In many cases, students register at FSU during a semester abroad and can take all financial aid with them and transfer credit back to FSU. For information on any of the programs or
scholarships that may be available, contact Dr. Amy Simes at the CIE in the Fuller House on Braddock Road, x4714, asimes@frostburg.edu or www.frostburg.edu/admin/cie/cie.htm or the newsletter at www.frostburg.edu/admin/cie/newsletter.htm.

Semester Overseas for Same Price as FSU

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) allows FSU students to register at FSU, pay FSU tuition and housing, and then study overseas for a semester, year or summer at one of more than 140 locations. Students may take financial aid with them and apply for scholarships from the CIE and from ISEP. For the price of an airline ticket, this is a great way to earn credit toward your FSU degree while enjoying life in a foreign culture. Apply now for fall 2004.

Study in Non-Traditional Locations

FSU is affiliated with the School for International Training. This enables FSU students to study through SIT in over 50 locations while remaining registered at FSU. All financial aid will transfer. SIT offers programs in Africa, Asia, South America, Europe and Australasia. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who would like to spend a semester, year or summer off the beaten track.

Choose from Over 20 Locations to Study

FSU affiliates with the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), which offers study abroad programs in a variety of locations at universities around the world, including Richmond College in London. Programs are open to all majors. Study in Prague, South Africa or Japan. You may register at FSU and use your financial aid for all programs. AIFS offers scholarships to qualified students.

Financial Aid for Studying Overseas

FSU students are able to transfer all federal financial aid overseas to help pay for study abroad programs, along with most state and institutional aid for most FSU sponsored programs. The OE also awards study abroad scholarships of $500 and $1000 to qualifying students. Many other state and national scholarships are also available to help cover overseas costs.

Gain Work/Volunteer Experience Overseas

Students interested in working abroad should come by the OE for information about internships, volunteer organizations and paid work overseas. Many organizations help students obtain jobs and work permits, and some help to arrange housing as well. Students can choose from short experiences (one to two months) to longer experiences (four to 12 months), or even look into a more serious commitment (one to three years). Destinations are available throughout the world.

Learn More about Study Abroad

Students who would like to learn more about study abroad and how it fits into a degree program may come to the OE for an advising session. The staff will provide an overview of programs and requirements. Applications, videos and scholarship/financial aid information will be available. Students may use the OE library and computer to search for programs.

Music from Around the World

Tune in to the university radio station, WFWM (91.9 FM), every Wednesday between 7 and 8 p.m. for “Planet Frostburg.” Listen to both traditional and contemporary world music and get the latest about study abroad.

Safety Message

Prevent Slip-Ups

Do not put yourself in a position to slip and fall on the snow and ice covered surfaces. The Safety Office would like to thank each of you for working safely during the last snow storm. We are reminding you to continue using your work place safety practices and procedures when driving, walking and working during these extreme weather conditions.

Review a Life Saver: Fire Evacuation Procedures

All occupants of a building are instructed to evacuate that facility when the fire alarm system is activated. A copy of the Evacuation Procedures for Staff and Faculty may be obtained by dialing x4897. Evacuating a building will save your life during any type of emergency.

FSU Events Calendar

Look for the FSU weekly events calendar on the Web at www.frostburg.edu/weekcal.htm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

National Broadcasting Society Blood Drive .......... Noon-7:00 p.m. .......... Lane ARMH

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

* Sloop Leadership Institute: Experienced Leaders Series, “Exploring the Leader in You” ......................................................... 7:00 p.m. .......... Lane ARMH
* NAACP Movie, “Sankofa” ........................................ 7:00 p.m. .......... Lane Atkinson Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

* Greek Council Meeting ........................................ 5:00 p.m. .......... Lane 202
* Women’s Basketball: Pitt-Greensburg .................... 6:00 p.m. .......... Away
* University Programming Council Open Forum ........ 7:00 p.m. .......... Lane Atkinson Room
* UCM Meeting, Dr. Mikal Crawford, “Romance and Reality: How Do You Know You’re in Love?” ........................................ 7:30 p.m. .......... Library 237
* Men’s Basketball: Pitt-Greensburg ....................... 8:00 p.m. .......... Away

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

* African American Studies Program, Dr. Susan Mills, “Music of South Africa” ........................................ 7:00 p.m. .......... Lane ARMH
* SGA Senate Meeting ........................................ 7:30 p.m. .......... Lane Atkinson Room

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

* Center Stage WISP Ski Trip ................................ 5:00 p.m.-close .......... Wisp, McHenry, MD
* UPC Feature Film Series, “Love Actually” ................. 7:00 p.m. & Midnight .......... Atkinson Room

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine’s Day!

* Men’s/Women’s Indoor Track: George Mason University Invitational, Fairfax, VA Away
* Women’s Basketball: Pitt-Bradford, PA .................. 2:00 p.m. .......... Away
* Men’s Basketball: Pitt-Bradford, PA ..................... 4:00 p.m. .......... Away
* UPC Feature Film Series, “Love Actually” ................. 8:00 p.m. .......... Lane Atkinson Room

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

* CCM Mass ..................................................... Noon & 8:00 p.m. .......... Cook Chapel
* Planetarium: “Saturn, the Mayas & Black Holes” .... 4 & 7 p.m. .......... Tawes Hall
* UPC Feature Film Series, “Love Actually” ................. 5:00 p.m. .......... Lane Atkinson Room

* Open to the public. Questions? – Call 301-687-4411. All information subject to change.

FSU is committed to making all of its programs, services, and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. You may request accommodations through the ADA Compliance Office, 302 Hitchins, 301-687-4102, TDD 301-877-7955.

Remove, Report or Isolate Hazards; Make Sure Corrective Action is Taken