
StateLines - March 24, 2025

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For and about FSU people

A publication of Marketing and Communications

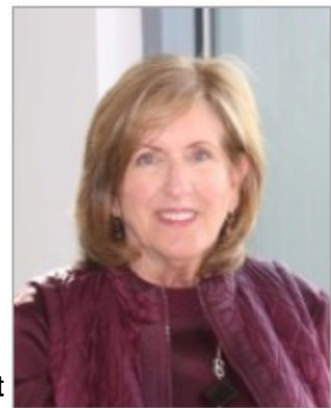
Volume 55, Number 17, March 24, 2025

Copy deadline for next issue: noon Wed., April 2 sent to StateLines@frostburg.edu

Welcome Dr. Smith!

On Friday, March 14, University System of Maryland Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman visited Frostburg State University to help the campus community officially welcome new interim president Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD. Smith assumed her role March 10.

"I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve you," she said. "I want you to know that one of the most important reasons I decided to accept the interim presidency at FSU is my strong belief in public education and the value and work of regional comprehensive universities like Frostburg." [Read more >](#)



The Spring 2025 Edition of *Profile* is Online

The Spring 2025 edition of *Profile*, FSU's alumni magazine, is available online.

This latest edition contains :

- A tribute to FSU President Dr. Ron Nowaczyk who sadly passed away in January.
- Stories on recent graduates who landed their dream jobs fresh out of Frostburg.
- How FSU students partnered with local firefighters to advance their lifesaving tracking technology.
- An update on *Forging Futures: The Campaign for Frostburg State University*.
- The winners of our FSU Family Legacy Contest.
- An introduction of Dr. Darlene Smith who has been appointed as interim president of FSU.
- And other Bobcat news.



[Read Profile online >](#)

FSU Parks and Rec Department to Host Wellner Scholar Speaker

Frostburg State University's Department of Recreation and Parks Management will host guest speaker and Wellner Scholar, Dr. Rasul Mowatt, on Monday, April 7 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. in the Education and Health Sciences Center Room 208A on Frostburg's main campus. [Read more >](#)

Coming Soon: 42nd Annual Spring Festival of Children's Learning

We are officially nearing one of the best weekends of the year - the 42nd Annual Spring Festival of Children's Literature! There is an incredible lineup of authors/illustrators, including Dr. Laura Gehl, Caron Levis, Oge Mora and John Schu, and we are thrilled to welcome a familiar face this April, Caron Levis, whose book, *Ida, Always* was the 2018 CLC Book Award Winner.

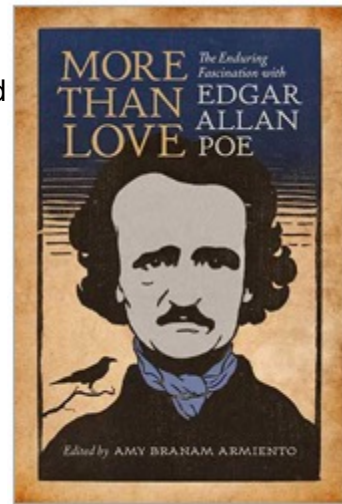
In addition to these phenomenal authors/illustrators, the CLC also has eight PDW speakers who are all past or current educators sharing the hottest topics.

Click [HERE](#) to see the digital flyer for the weekend.

Click [HERE](#) to register by March 28 to get the lowest price and lock in your spot for the festival. Please contact the CLC at clc@frostburg.edu or 301-687-3133 with any questions regarding the festival, registration or group rates.

Armiento's Book Nominated for Award

More Than Love: The Enduring Fascination with Edgar Allan Poe, edited by Dr. Amy Branam Armiento, professor of English, has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award in the General-Anthologies category. Published by Mercer University Press, this collection features 20 chapters written by individuals whose careers and avocations have been influenced directly by Poe's life and/or works. Jamison Odone, associate professor of visual arts, and Andy Duncan, professor of English, have chapters in the book as does alumna Emily (Michael) Hendershot. Alumna Victoria Koerner provided Armiento's photograph for the back cover. If you purchase a copy of the book, Armiento will be happy to sign it. Click [HERE](#) for a full list of finalists in all categories.



U.S. Air Force 'Airmen of Note' to Perform as Part of FSU's Ninth Annual Jazz Festival

As part of FSU Department of Music's Ninth Annual Jazz Festival, the U.S. Air Force 'Airmen of Note' will perform on Saturday, April 12, at 4 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Seating is general admission and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are available at the



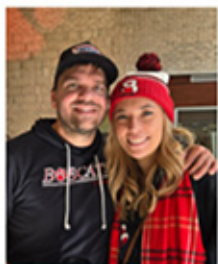
University Box Office, Lane University Center 203 (Hours: Monday-Friday 10 AM - 4 PM), phone 301-687-3137, or online: tickets.frostburg.edu. Tickets will also be available at the door the evening of the concert. [Read more >](#)

32 Inductees Installed into FSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi

The Frostburg State University chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducted 32 new members during a ceremony held on March 8th in the Gira Center for Communication and Information Technology. [Read more >](#)



Save the Date for Homecoming & Family Weekend!



SAVE THE DATE



Homecoming & Family Weekend
OCTOBER 2-5, 2025

Discussion about Free Speech to be Facilitated by FSU's Communication Leadership Lab

Campus and community members are invited to attend a discussion about "Practicing Free Speech on Campus: A Discussion about Rights, Responsibilities, and Strategies" on Thursday, April 3 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Atkinson Room in Lane University Center (LUC). The FSU Communication Leadership Lab and LEAD 101 Introduction to Leadership Studies class will design and facilitate the discussion with support from event partners Allegany College of Maryland and Choose Civility: Allegany County. Refreshments and additional partner support will be provided courtesy of FSU's Office of Civic Engagement and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The discussion is part of the *Times Talks* discussion series and #BobcatsAgainstBias week at FSU.



**COMMUNICATION
LEADERSHIP LAB**
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The discussion's focus will be on educating participants about free speech rights citing examples, successes and challenges and considering responsibilities, limits and strategies. The discussion will offer an opportunity to practice free speech while raising awareness of how policies and practices support effective free speech, conflict management and a campus culture that promotes civil discourse and civic engagement.

For more information, contact Dr. Elesha L. Ruminski, professor of Strategic Communication and coordinator of Leadership Studies and the Communication Leadership Lab, or Patrick O'Brien, director of the Office of Civic Engagement.

CES presents Cahoots NI in "The Vanishing Elephant"

The Cultural Events Series at Frostburg State University will present Northern Ireland-based theatre company Cahoots NI in "The Vanishing Elephant" on

Sunday, March 30, at 4 p.m. in FSU's Pealer Performing Arts Center Drama Theatre.

Performance tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 for FSU employees and military; \$15 for youth under 18; and free for FSU students. For more information, visit ces.frostburg.edu or call 301-687-3137.



To celebrate the company's visit, CES will present a community dinner, "Flavors of India," on Wednesday, March 26, 4:30-8 p.m., at FSU Chesapeake Dining Hall. Attendees will enjoy an all-you-care-to-eat buffet that will feature dishes inspired by the aromatic, regional cuisines of India. The cost per person is \$14.75 and payment will be taken at the door. Advance registration is requested. [Read more>](#)

#BobcatGivingDay Kickoff Event

FSU's [#BobcatGivingDay](#) returns on **April 1** to support the program, department, or fund of your choice during 24 hours of giving starting at 12 noon EST. Join us to celebrate on April 1 - we will host a kick-off event on the second floor of the Lane University Center from 11:30 a.m.

to 1:30 p.m. Enjoy snacks, cupcakes, games, prizes, and more! We can't wait to see you there.



Click [HERE](#) to make your gift early, set up a match/challenge, or sign up as an advocate!

On-Campus Career and Internship Fair

Whether you are looking for a job or searching for an internship, be sure to attend the On-Campus Career & Internship Fair on **Wednesday, April 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the Lane Center! The Career & Internship Fair is open to students of *all majors* and *all class levels*. This is one of the most exciting opportunities of the semester at FSU, with over 60 employers on campus to connect with FSU students. Students can [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) in Handshake and see what employers will be attending the fair. Hosted by the FSU Career & Professional Development Center.

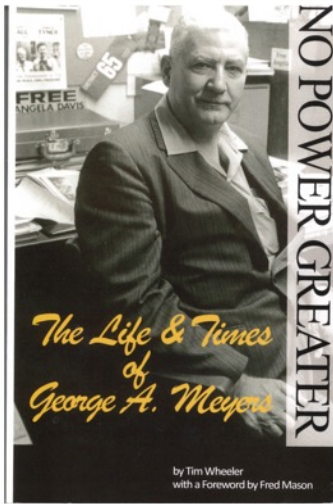
Lewis J. Ort Library celebrates Irish American Heritage Month

This year, second-year history major, Sydney Smolenski, has curated an exhibit whose themes include Irish immigration and local Irish populations.

Stop by to check out Sydney's work on the 4th floor of the library. The exhibit will be on display for the remainder of the academic year.

Tim Wheeler Reads from New Book *No Power Greater: The Life & Times of George Meyers*

Frostburg State University will host author Tim Wheeler on April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Lewis J Ort Library. Wheeler will read from his newly published biography *No Power Greater: The Life and Times of George A. Meyers*, which chronicles the accomplishments and tribulations of Lonaconing native and local labor leader George Meyers.



Wheeler's book documents Meyers' life as a leader in the labor movement, the fight for civil and human rights, his leadership in the Communist Party USA and his imprisonment for nearly two years on false Smith Act charges of "conspiracy to advocate to overthrow the government by force and violence." The Supreme Court later ruled the law unconstitutional, and once freed, Meyers spent the remainder of his life rebuilding the labor movement.

Wheeler's book reading is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available, and copies of his book will be available for sale at the event.

[Read more >](#)

CES Presents Jamaane Smith "Sweet Baby"

The Cultural Events Series at Frostburg State University will present charismatic jazz trumpeter, vocalist and composer Jumaane Smith on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Frostburg's historic Palace Theatre, 31 E. Main Street.

Experience the rollicking excitement of blues, funk, jazz, shuffles and New Orleans-style street beats with Smith's original compositions and spirited renditions of nostalgic standards like "When You're Smiling," "St. James Infirmary" and "You're Nobody Until Somebody Loves You." Immediately following the performance, WFWM station director Chuck Dicken will join the musicians for a conversation with the audience.

As a full scholarship student at the Juilliard School of Music's Jazz Studies program, Jumaane Smith studied under and was mentored by the legendary Wynton Marsalis. Since that time, he has performed on five Grammy Award-winning records, in two Emmy Award-nominated TV performances, at the Grammy Awards with Stevie Wonder, in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" and at The White House. For the past 18 years, he has toured and recorded with Michael Bublé as lead trumpeter, vocalist and featured soloist. He was a member of Harry Connick Jr.'s house band for the syndicated daytime TV show "Harry," and was the featured guest soloist for Jackie Evancho's "Songs of the

Silver Screen” world tour. With his own band, he has appeared at such world-class venues as Jazz At Lincoln Center, Vail Jazz Festival, Birdland Jazz Club and Joe's Pub. Throughout his career, he has worked with musical legends such as Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Aretha Franklin, Christian McBride, Barbra Streisand, Alicia Keys and Jon Batiste.

Performance tickets are \$20 for adults; \$18 FSU employees, military and youth; and free for FSU students. For more information, visit ces.frostburg.edu or call 301-687-3137.

This engagement of Jumaane Smith is made possible through the Jazz Touring Network program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. CES is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and receives financial support from the Allegany Arts Council and the City of Frostburg.

Computer Science Club Takes Three Museum Trips

On Feb. 22, the Computer Science Club took a trip to Hunt Valley, Md., visiting the System Source Computer Museum, National Electronics Museum, and Bloop Museum. Members explored computing history, learning about pioneers like Mary Allen Wilkes and innovations from minicomputers to military electronics and gaming technology. The exhibits demonstrated Moore's Law in action, showing how computing power has exponentially evolved. For some, including exchange student Dhruvil, it was their first trip outside Frostburg.



'Walking through the exhibits felt like walking through time itself,' he shared. Thanks to SGA's support, students gained valuable insights into the past and future of technology.

2025 Faculty Travel Programs: Morocco & Spain, Italy & Greece, Tanzania & Zanzibar

Faculty is invited to participate in the 2025 Faculty Seminars and Cultural Immersion Programs, designed to enhance research and teaching through firsthand exploration of historically rich locations. These immersive experiences provide unique opportunities for academic growth, networking, and curriculum enrichment.

Upcoming Programs:

1. **Morocco & Spain (June 17–30)** Explore the cultural and architectural parallels between Morocco and Moorish Andalusia. Visits include Casablanca, Fes, Tangier, Granada, Cordoba, and Seville. Click [HERE](#) for more info.
2. **Italy & Greece (July 1–14)** Discover the profound historical influences of Italy and Greece on Western civilization. Highlights include Rome, Florence, Venice, Athens, and Delphi. Click [HERE](#) for more info.
3. **Tanzania & Zanzibar (July 16–29)** Immerse yourself in the rich artistic and architectural heritage of East Africa. Visit Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Stone Town, with cultural explorations and safaris. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

What's Included?

- Round-trip flights from JFK
 - 4-star accommodations
 - Daily breakfast and select dinners
 - Guided tours & cultural excursions
 - Seminars & academic discussions
- Funding Options: Many universities sponsor faculty professional development trips, or participants may opt for self-payment.

Funding and Participation: We encourage you to explore funding options through your institution, as many universities offer full or partial sponsorship for faculty professional development.

This trip is a unique opportunity for professional growth and to bring fresh perspectives into your research and teaching. Please reach out with any questions or to confirm your participation. We look forward to welcoming you on this academic exploration.

Commencement Checklist

1. Complete your application for graduation through the Registrar's Office and make sure all of your PAWS info. (address, etc.) is accurate.
2. Once you've been approved to graduate, check your FSU email for an email inviting you to set up a login with FSU's Tassel site. After setting up your login, you can access your Tassel page any time. This is where you can access your tickets and more. **This is REQUIRED to attend the ceremony.**
3. **Order your cap and gown** through the link provided on the Tassel registration page. You can choose to ship to the University Store, Hagerstown campus, or to your home (for a fee). Full details will be on the cap and gown ordering page.
4. **Continue to check your FSU email** for important updates and further details.
5. Bring your cap & gown to commencement with you on **Thursday, May 22 to line up in the practice gym in PE Center no later than one hour before your ceremony.** Your name card (and gold honors tassel, if applicable) will be given to you upon arrival at the practice gym. You must have this name card to hand to the name reader as you cross the stage.



Questions?

Email commencement@frostburg.edu

Serfass Participates in 16th International Otter Congress

Tom Serfass was an invited participant at the 16th International Otter Congress, Lima, Peru, in February. While there, he and his former colleagues gave the following

presentations about their work with spotted-necked otters in Tanzania:

- Tom Serfass, Bridget Amulike, Jan-Reed Smith, and Sadie Stevens - Latrine Use by Spotted-necked Otters: Applications for Improving Survey Efficiency and Enhancing Viewing Opportunities at Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania
- Tom Serfass, Sadie Stevens, Jan-Reed Smith, and Bridget Amulike - Spotted-necked Otters and Rubondo Island National Park, Tanzania: The Process of Developing an Ecotourism Flagship



Serfass also served on the conference's Scientific Committee and co-moderated the session on "In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation Planning and Action" [for otters internationally]. Serfass and colleagues participated in a post-conference tour to view giant otters at Tambopata National Reserve in the Amazon River Drainage. During the tour Serfass photographed a jaguar during an evening boat trip along the Tambopata River.

FSU Parks and Rec Department to Host Wellner Scholar Speaker

Frostburg State University's Department of Recreation and Parks Management will host guest speaker and Wellner Scholar, Dr. Rasul Mowatt, on Monday, April 7 from 5:30 p.m.–6:45 p.m. in the Education and Health Sciences Center Room 208A on Frostburg's main campus. The title of Mowatt's presentation is "The Historical Legacy of Redlining on Parks." It is free and open to the public.

[Read more >](#)



Remote Working 101 Webinar

Summit Station at Innovation Park will host a Remote Working 101 Webinar: A Beginner's Guide to Thriving in the Virtual Workspace on March 25 at 10:00 a.m. The workshop will include an introduction and description of remote work; the benefits and challenges of remote work; and best practices.

For more information, contact Stacy Wassell, swassell@frostburg.edu, or Cecilia Bonar, clbonar@frostburg.edu. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Gambling Prevention Q&A Event

Struggling with gambling? You're not alone!

Join us for a supportive and eye-opening discussion on recognizing problem gambling, hearing from peers in recovery, and discovering campus resources that can help.

Thursday, March 27

6-8 p.m.

Alice R. Manicur Assembly Hall



This interactive session will provide real strategies to regain control and build a healthier future – because support is always within reach.

Free pizza following the event in the Osborne Newman Center Parking Lot behind the Fine Arts Building and Annapolis Hall.

Call now for free 24/7 Support: 1-800-GAMBLER

For more information, contact
FSU S.A.F.E. Office
Pullen Hall, Room 109
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
301-687-4761
safeoffice@frostburg.edu

Federal Resume Builder Workshop

Thursday, April 3

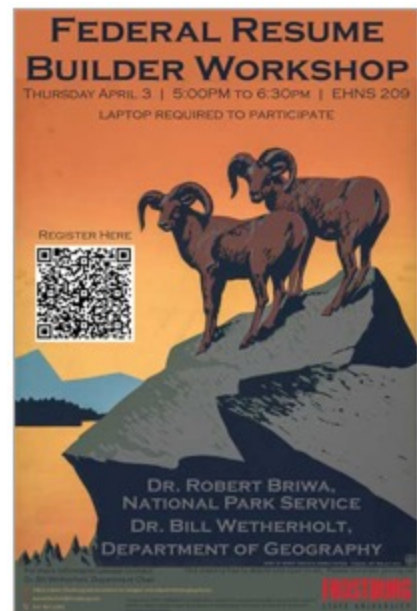
5 – 6:30 p.m.

EHNS 209

Dr. Robert Briwa
National Park Service
Dr. Bill Wetherholt
FSU Department of Geology

A laptop is required to participate.

[Register >](#)



Save the Dates: #BobcatsAgainstBias Week

The fourth annual “#BobcatsAgainstBias: Fighting Bias” will be held March 31 - April 5. Each day will have a different theme, and information will be disseminated in the Lane Center lobby throughout the week.

- **March 31: Round 1: Knockout Bias** - Lane Center Upper Lobby, 1:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.. Students will have the opportunity to learn ways to combat bias and discuss their own personal experiences.
- **Tuesday, April 1: Round 2: Battling Bias We Don't See** - Adams/ Wyche Multicultural Center, 4 - 6 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to learn about their own bias and ways to change and reframe their thinking to stray away from bias.
- **Wednesday, April 2: Round 3: Healing the Bias** - Lane Center Upper Lobby, 1:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. In this tabling event, students will write what they wish someone would say to them to heal the inner spirit.
- **Thursday, April 3: Round 3: Bobcat Recovery** - Lane Center, Atkinson Room, 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. In this event students will be able to participate in various activities aimed to help them relax and unwind!
 - After they have had a chance to relax, students can join a facilitated discussion about “*Practicing Free Speech on Campus: A Discussion about Rights, Responsibilities, and Strategies*” at 2 p.m. in the Atkinson Room, Lane University Center (LUC). This Choose Civility: Allegany County sponsored event will be facilitated by the Communication Leadership Lab and students from the CMST 310 Civic Communication class.
- **Friday, April 4** is observed as MLK Day at FSU because classes are not in session in January. April 4 is the anniversary of the day that he was assassinated. Stop by the information table to learn more about Dr. King.
- On **Saturday, April 5**, FSU will host the first “Bobcats and Beyond” student conference - an empowering event designed to foster meaningful connections among Frostburg alumni, current students, faculty, and staff. This event provides a valuable opportunity to engage, learn, and grow alongside fellow Bobcats to explore personal and professional development.

Throughout the week there will be information tables in the upper lobby between 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Student organizations, faculty and staff are also invited to submit any program, classroom assignments/discussion or events which they are holding that supports the #BobcatsAgainstBias mission.

The #BobcatsAgainstBias hashtag and logo were created by faculty and students in the Department of Communication and later adopted for this week celebrating the diversity on campus and committing to doing the work to reduce biases and microaggressions that negatively impact the campus climate. For more information, contact Gianni Jones at 301-687-3158 or odei@frostburg.edu.

Office of Sponsored Programs Successes and News

The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs is to support the research and program development efforts of faculty, staff and students by providing the resources, information and technical assistance required. See some of their recent successes [Read more >](#)

StateLines

Do you have an information you'd like to include in StateLines? Please email StateLines@frostburg.edu. Please submit your information by Wednesday at noon.



Persons with disabilities may request accommodations through the
ADA Compliance Office:
301-687-3035 (VRO 1-800-735-2258).
Frostburg State University is a smoke-free campus.

Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532