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 contributions for our Emergency Scholarship Fund so that we may help many current and prospective students who are unable to pay for the education they deserve.

Visit www.frostburg.edu/GiveESF to give.

DON’T LET OUR PRESENT PREVENT THEIR FUTURE.

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your Contribution Will Help Change Lives.

As a result of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, many current and prospective students are unable to pay for the education they deserve. Your monetary gift will provide vital assistance with tuition, room and board, and other educational expenses.

Visit www.frostburg.edu/GiveESF to give.

Profile Magazine
FALL 2020
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FSU is a smoke-free campus.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

At No Other Time ...

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/GiveFSF 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!

Thank you,
Ronald Nowaczyk, Ph.D.
President
Frostburg State University

From the New FSU Foundation President

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/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 grad students 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 FAQs 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.

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 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/GiveFSF. Now more than ever, this support is essential.

Sincerely,
Sandra Adams ’86
President
Frostburg State University

With students and employees mostly continuing the semester at home, the campus took on an unusual stillness. Work continued through the spring to complete the new residence hall, which will welcome students with the fall semester.
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.

As this issue goes to print, planning for fall 2020 by visiting staff and community members continue. Stay updated about the efforts for the fall 2020 semester. Moving Forward is being offered to students with virus, all on-campus residence halls will be single rooms only. Assistance will remain at the 2019 rates for the graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will be single room rates. Assistance will be single rooms only. Assistance will remain at the 2019 rates for the graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will be single room rates. Assistance will remain at the 2019 rates for the graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will be single room rates. Assistance will remain at the 2019 rates for the graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will be single room rates. Assistance will remain at the 2019 rates for the graduate tuition, fees and meal plans will be single room rates.

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“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 serving 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.

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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. “Billy” Addison, who retired after more than 23 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.

2020 Alumni Awards

Honorary Alumni Award
Richard E. Pesta
Jason Switzer

Service to Alma Mater Award
Eric Manns, Jr ’10
Rachel Sooy ’04

Young Alumni Achievement Award
Antoine C. Boyd ’13
Brandon S. Butler ’05
Dr. Justin W. van Fleet ’02
Mark J. Freeman Price ’11
Aaron “AJ” Rosenthal ’14
Keenan Scott II ’09

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
Rosemary Fagler ’83
Greg Garcia ’92
Dr. Johnston R. Hedges ’73/M ’81
William J. Murray, Jr. ’79
The Politics of Collecting

Feldstein Presidential Campaign

Button Collection Finds Home at FSU

BY TY DE MARTINO ’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 website. “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 house in LaVale, where Angela was down 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.

Many of the beneficial 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.

“They may be 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. Keplingr Clark M’14

Clark is from Fort Ashby, W.Va., and is the CIO, 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, McCallen, 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 Younkers ’68 and Anthony Zook ’82.
Shirley Giarritta Donates Artwork with Frostburg State Roots to FSU

BY LIZ DOUGLAS MCALF 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 home, 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.”

For 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 “Kabuhay Pangmanahal” (“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 Philippine 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.

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“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 alumn 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 Maizy 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.”

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.”
When it came time to graduate, Dukes had her sights set on New York City and a career in theatre. Yost-Rushon 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, D.C. theatre scene, Acting from Catholic University Dukes had her sights set on New York City and a career in theatre. When the actor moved to New York and reprised her role in "Bootycandy," she was an original cast member in "Ozark," which brought about more TV work. "I thought, 'Let me see what else I can do,'" she says. "Dukes moved to New York and reprised her role in "Bootycandy," a casting director from CBS's "Ozark," which was recently named a trustee of the Theatre Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to honoring the education experiences, he recognized a need for a "boxed" place to work on his craft. "I needed to go somewhere and focus. "Again, it's about the 'who,' not the 'what.' Cercone says, with a laugh, from the backseat of an Uber. "I'm the same way." Cercone immersed himself in FSU's Department of Theatre, absorbing as much as he could about acting and the business. He later attended Juilliard and NYU, which both passed on a young Cercone. He decided he wanted a "boxed" place to work on his craft. "I needed to go somewhere and focus. "It's not uncommon that Cercone 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 starstruck 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 hadn'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."/
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 McCalloch 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 Michael 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 Frederick 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 busses loads 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 Vowell 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 Durz ’09.
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 traveled with the Navy to perform at elaborate events. Since Skeweris is in small woodwind chamber ensembles and Mitchell, 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 influence is significant. Mitchell did not even take music lessons until he was introduced to music by his 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, who knew 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 couple 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.

“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…” says 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.”
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, carrying baskets of clothes to the laundry room and inquiring what time a great 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 National Service Trust Fund. 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 RuiningSTARS 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 Lostcomming, 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 steps 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.
“The program attracts a huge number of first-generation and lower-income students,” Mandicott said, acknowledging that these individuals often need more guidance. She also takes time each semester to educate the ECHOSTARS 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 ECHOSTARS and the community is undeniable. Daniels watched close bonds form. ECHOSTARS 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, dug through a jammed file cabinet. “Everyone loves 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 AmeriCorps. 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 students.

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Michele Kitchens ’08

“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.”

Ebony Brawner ’16

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

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Rim Radwan ’12

“The ECHOSTARS helped me make friends, settle into an unfamiliar place and have a sense of community. I was introduced to leadership experiences such as the Stoop Institute (for Excellence in Leadership), RisingSTARS and Resilience 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.”

“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

“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.”

Regina Daniels ’91

“Regina Daniels’ office became a second

home to finish and mail out the application. A little thing

landed right in the middle of a classic Frostburg snowstorm.

— typed on a typewriter. And, of course, the deadline

were asked to submit. “I knew right away that this is what a

Mandicott recalls, noting that only a handful of universities

have received countless letters of thanks. 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.”

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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 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.
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.

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.

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.

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).

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 Khel ’01, Dr. Jessica Yahnoert Masser ’01, Dr. Shannon Navride ’00/M’01 and Amber Waltz ’01/M’12.

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, Tisch Blank Carter ’97, Sara Schwartz Bolen ’01, Coach Nancy Crawley, Christy Mann Khel ’01, Dr. Jessica Yahnoert Masser ’01, Dr. Shannon Navride ’00/M’01 and Amber Waltz ’01/M’12.

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 ’09, Jim Higgeman ’74, Dave Doney ’77, Coach Bob Wells and Dave Summey ’76.

Men’s Soccer Locker Room Dedication

Russ Younkers ’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.

Russ Younkers ’68 and Vice President for University Advancement John Short.

ROBERT DANIELS | Bobcat Hall of Fame Inductions

Pictured, from left, are President Nowaczyk, Men’s Soccer Coach Keith Byrnes, Penny Younkers, Russ Younkers ’68 and Vice President for University Advancement John Short.
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 Women’s Lacrosse and Field Hockey Olympic Development Programs 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-year 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

Cross Country Notes
- Six male All-Americans
- Four female All-Americans, including both programs’ most recent All-Ameri-
  can, Bonnie Aman, 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 33 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 II 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. He’s currently on defense.

Longabardi began his coaching career in the college ranks, taking Alfred 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 four 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, Lafayette College, and both editions of the Washington Wizards, 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 its first Division II win in the NCAA Tournament 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-CAC 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

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.

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 Bluerbaugh '92, Maytr Bob Flanslag '92 and SGA President Jenna Puffinberger.

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.

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!

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

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For many more Homecoming photos, follow us on Flickr. Search Frostburg State University Alumni Association.
Unsung Hero by the Dapper Dan Club of Maryland has been selected for the Joseph K. Richard “Rock” J. Cioni, Jr. M’79 1979 and has been named principal of Allegany High School in Cumberland. She previously served as a principal for 33 years, all at Allegany, as an English teacher, assistant principal, and now principal.

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

Donald R. Wilkinson, Jr. M’77 has accepted the position of general manager of Northwest Mutual in York County, Md. He is a financial advisor at Northwestern Mutual.

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

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 Free Press Paper Co. and president of Crable Engineering, LLC.

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

Dr. Jeffrey A. Hyde has been appointed director of Tuscarora High School District.

Dr. Sarah K. Hyde joined Xavier and Stamps in Lancaster, Pa., as a shareholder and chair of the firm’s newly formed Employee Benefits and Retirement Compensation Group. Sarah has more than 20 years of experience advising employers and other employee benefit plan sponsors.

Christopher J. Lambert has been named executive director of AgriLife Extension Service.

Jason A. Grahe is the chair of the School in Career Department at Allegany County Public Schools since 2010. He has been helping students with financial aid since 2010.

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.
Dr. Jon S. Wickert M’06 was awarded an Outstanding Community Service Award by The Mental Health Association (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.

Mary C. Bisson-Hall, Esq., has joined Newell Multisales & Shawcroft as an associate attorney in the Baltimore Office’s Litigation Department.

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

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

Timothy N. Vosey is the new athletic director for South Carroll High School in Sykesville, Md. Prior to teaching, he worked at Fort Fairfield Sports Complex in Hamptonsburg and Carroll Indoor Sports Center in Westminster.

Nicole R. Wightfield D’06 M’08 has been named chair of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is the director of Finance for Conex, Inc., in Cumberland.

Marc S. Braudy, Esq., has joined Weller Development Co. as vice president of Community Affairs, spearheading initiatives such as workforce development programming, local hiring and apprenticeships and support for women- and minority-owned businesses.

Joseph E. Wisniewski M’09 has been selected as one of only three teachers nationally to receive the 2020 American Civil 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 E. Wisniewski taught at Broadmoor High School in Boonsboro.

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

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

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.

Kristo N. Wikiel-Ott is a member of the Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors. She is an agency owner for Allstate Insurance in Clarksville, Md.

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Brianne L. Reason ’10/M’11 married John Lombardo, Jr., on Aug. 3, 2019, in Belize.


Lauren Fulton ’12 and Michael Belak ’12 were married on Jan. 4, 2020.

Nicholas J. Rosati ’15/M’17 and Sydney K. McFarland ’16/M’18 got married on July 27, 2019, in Finzel, Md.


Samuel W. LeBee ’17 and Stephanie Claar ’18 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.

Kristina A. Lambert Burgess ’09 and her husband, Lee, welcomed their daughter, Diana Meredith, on Aug. 5, 2019.

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.

Kenneth A. Oldham, Jr. ’98 and his wife, Melissa Bennett, welcomed their son, Bennett Breeze, on Jan. 15, 2020. He joins big brother, Landon.

Jason E. VanSickle ’98 and his wife, Kym Newmann, adopted their daughter, Madi, on July 19, 2019. She joins big brother, Cash.

Terry C. DeVane ’90/W’98 and his wife, Kristy, welcomed their son, Cohen clad, on June 12, 2019. He joins big sisters, Savannah, Cassidy and Sophia.

Dr. Ryan C. Kuenzi ’04/W’06 and Dr. Melody M. Hanna Kuenzi ’05 welcomed their daughter, Pepper Jay, on Feb. 26, 2020. She joins big sister, Kallie, and big brother, Sullivan.

Rachel C. Nestor ’92 welcomed their second daughter, Maddy Hazen, on May 14, 2019.

Christopher J. Celsi ’06 and his wife, Becky, welcomed their daughter, Gabby, on July 2, 2019.

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.

Kristina A. Lambert Burgess ’09 and her husband, Lee, welcomed their daughter, Diana Meredith, on Aug. 5, 2019.

Sumer L. Rohrs Grace ’09 and her husband, Jason, welcomed their second child, Isaac William, on June 19, 2019. He joins big sister, Elli.

Mallory N. Smith Sechler ’09/W’10 and her husband, Lee, announced the arrival of their daughter, Anna Lucille, on June 24, 2019.

John F. Jensen, Jr. ’11 and his wife, Hallie, have welcomed their son, Rowan James, on Sept. 2, 2019. He joins big brother, Cale.

Cody C. Bith ’14 and his wife, Macy, welcomed their son, Bryson, on May 13, 2019.

Emett V. Shambaugh Combs ’19 and his wife, Andrew, welcomed their son, Jude Maron, on June 4, 2019.

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Dr. Robert C. “Bob” Dunham

Dr. Robert C. “Bob” Dunham, who died April 23, 2020, was a dean, professor emeritus and former chair of FSU’s MSA department (1964-1988), a program he helped evolve and improve between 1970 and 1980. Recognizing potential in his students, he encouraged at least three of FSU’s distinguished faculty to pursue higher education as a career.

Dr. Carol Guimer/RM’91, Dr. Cathy Ashley Collier RM’75 and Don Ross RM’81

He was an excellent teacher. He brought great, lively examples to the classroom,” Guimer said. “He challenged us to think and analyze.”

His time at FSU “was an incredible experience,” Ashley said. “He was an excellent mentor. He brought us great, lively examples to the classroom.”

Dr. Lance Revennaugh

He was an excellent teacher. He brought great, lively examples to the classroom,” Guimer said. “He challenged us to think and analyze.”

“The Activist, our undergraduate research journal for FSU students, was the venue for my first professional publication,” he noted. “I’m proud to have been a part of The Activist.”

Julie Schibblehut Rando ‘04/M’09

He was an excellent teacher. He brought great, lively examples to the classroom,” Guimer said. “He challenged us to think and analyze.”

Julie Schibblehut Rando ‘04/M’09, director, Graduate Services, joined FSU in 2007.

Donna Sivic

Donna Sivic, administrative assistant II, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2006.

Sandra Rohrbaugh

Sandra Rohrbaugh, director, Counseling and Psychological Services, joined FSU in 2002.

Dr. Bill Southerly

Dr. Bill Southerly, professor, Department of Psychology, joined FSU in 1989.

Randall Bandura

Randall Bandura, professor, Department of Accounting, joined FSU in 1983.

Kathleen Leck


Randall Bandura

Randall Bandura, professor, Department of Accounting, joined FSU in 1983.

Dr. Robert Kauffman

Dr. Robert Kauffman, professor, Department of Kinesiology & Recreation, joined FSU in 1992.

Margaret E. Burkey Hast

Margaret E. Burkey Hast, professor of educational psychology and special education, joined FSU in 1977.

Dr. Frankie Davis

Dr. Frankie Davis, professor of educational psychology and special education, joined FSU in 1978.

Joy Wilson Douglas


H. Paul Clovis II M’72

H. Paul Clovis II M’72, chairman, Tucker-Brooks School, joined FSU in 1983.

Linda Brumage

Linda Brumage, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Elizabeth M. Howard

Elizabeth M. Howard, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1997.

Mary Ann Hayes Greene

Mary Ann Hayes Greene, professor, Department of History, joined FSU in 1984.

Randall Bandura

Randall Bandura, professor, Department of Accounting, joined FSU in 1983.

Linda Brumage

Linda Brumage, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Dr. Robbie Cordle

Dr. Robbie Cordle, director, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2000.

Carol Cosner

Carol Cosner, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Brian K. Green, Jr.,

Brian K. Green, Jr., professor, Department of Finance, joined FSU in 2006.

Lora Jean Horn

Lora Jean Horn, professor, Department of Psychology, joined FSU in 1991.

Mary E. Johnston

Mary E. Johnston, professor, Department of Psychology, joined FSU in 1988.

Betty J. Lee Layman M’75

Betty J. Lee Layman M’75, professor of educational psychology and special education, joined FSU in 1977.

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Betty J. Lee Layman M’75, professor of educational psychology and special education, joined FSU in 1977.

Michael E. Dennis

Michael E. Dennis, Sr., director, Publications, joined FSU in 1978.

Lori B. Storm

Lori B. Storm, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

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Lori B. Storm, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Robert C. Frankenberry*

Robert C. Frankenberry*, professor, Department of Psychology, joined FSU in 1983.

Diane Darrow

Diane Darrow, housekeeper lead, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 2002.

Donna Majikas M’88

Donna Majikas M’88, professor, Department of Mathematics, joined FSU in 1983.

Patricia Gregory ‘86


Lisa Fey

Lisa Fey, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1997.

Dr. Lance Revennaugh

Dr. Lance Revennaugh, professor, Department of Mathematics, joined FSU in 1983.

Dr. David Wiland

Dr. David Wiland, director, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2000.

Kathryn A. McMahon Black M’80

Kathryn A. McMahon Black M’80, professor of educational psychology and special education, joined FSU in 1983.

Diane Darrow

Diane Darrow, housekeeper lead, Physical Plant, joined FSU in 2002.

Michael D. Stephenson

Michael D. Stephenson, professor, Department of Economics, joined FSU in 1988.

Linda D. Slifkin


Donna Sivic

Donna Sivic, administrative assistant II, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2006.

Alycia J. Dunbar

Alycia J. Dunbar, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Ellen Wolfe

Ellen Wolfe, business analyst-student records, Registrar’s Office, joined FSU in 1980.

Dr. David Wiland

Dr. David Wiland, director, Career and Professional Development Center, joined FSU in 2000.

Kathryn A. McMahon Black M’80

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Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin


Patricia Gregory ‘86


Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin


Linda D. Slifkin

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

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 Elke, 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.

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.
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