Building Writers, Building Bridges

Frostburg’s Creative Writing Community Cultivates Writers at All Levels
From the Interim President:

Editor’s note: Dr. Thomas L. Bowling was named interim president of FSU effective July 1. For more information, see page 2.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During my 39 years at Frostburg, many of you have known me in different roles. Perhaps I was your academic advisor, or your sociology or orientation instructor. You may have been in the Honors Program while I served as its founding director. We may have met on the ropes course during the leadership retreat or at a student conduct hearing (I hope that turned out OK). Perhaps you were in SGA while I served as its advisor. My work with students has been the richest part of my career in higher education. I have also greatly valued my faculty and staff colleagues—past and present; many of you have served as mentors and good friends, and I deeply appreciate all that I have learned from you.

I am also very mindful of the late Dr. Harold Delaney and his legacy as interim president during 1990-91. He taught me the difference between power and influence. While power is ephemeral, influence is enduring since it is acquired through the quality of one’s relationships, the trust established and the respect that you give to others. In my new role, I hope to always demonstrate the respect that I have for our University.

I invite you to enjoy this issue of Profile, which will provide you with some glimpses into the world of experiences that our students encounter today.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas L. Bowling
Interim President

will enable us to make an even greater contribution to the economic vitality of this area. Being a good steward of this region is part of our institutional DNA. Another part of our DNA is “the world of experiences” that is becoming integral to our identity. Our partnership with Gallup and its research will continue to inform our work in this arena. “Having a mentor” and “being engaged in a long-term project focused on real-world problems” are the two experiences they have identified as most predictive of professional success. I look forward to exploring with our campus community how we can encourage our students to play an active role in designing these experiences. Doing so will add to the meaning and authenticity of their student experience.

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The tree-lined streets of Washington, D.C., will have a better chance of staying that way thanks to work that graduate student Laura Smith '14 did to map out risks of pests and disease facing the city's urban forest.

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FSU awards first Doctorales

Three years after establishing the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, FSU awarded degrees to the first 13 graduates at May’s Commencement ceremony, making FSU officially a doctoral-granting institution.

“What has happened at Frostburg State University is more than just the creation of a new degree program at the doctoral level. What has happened here has transformed our University and presented options to employees throughout Allegany and Garrett counties and beyond never before available,” President Gilbelter told the doctoral candidates. “The program has raised the bar at Frostburg State University to a place where others never imagined we could ever go.”

More students from this inaugural group are expected to complete their dissertations in the coming months. Two other groups, including one based at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, are working their way through the program, while the fourth cohort will start at USMH in fall 2015.

Dr. Thomas Bowling

Student Jeff Heath, second from left, was among six cancer survivors who kicked off this year’s Relay event with the survivor’s lap around Robert Steadman.

Relay for Life raises nearly $33,000 in fight against cancer

Cold weather wasn’t going to bring down the nearly 600 participants unified to help conquer cancer at FSU’s Relay for Life.

“This year’s fundraising event for the American Cancer Society raised $32,916 by mid-July, featuring 41 teams and 560 participants. “Relay for Life is really a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, but it’s also about celebrating our survivors, remembering those that we lost and fighting back,” said Patrick O’Brien, ’07, director of Civic Engagement at FSU. “The fighting back is really where the fundraising comes in.”

Friends and classmates rallied behind 19-year-old Jeff Heath who survived a fight against synovial sarcoma. The cancer, which attacked connective tissue in his neck, caused the sophomore geography major to miss the entire senior year of high school after he was diagnosed in August of 2012. He finished treatment March 2013. “I never thought anybody else here came together to support one and everybody who’s going through the same struggle—it’s just awesome,” Heath said. “I’m pretty grateful to be here.”

Relay for Life 2015 - Candis Johnson

Two Organizations List FSU’s MBA Among Nation’s Top 50

Two online organizations focused on identifying best values in online MBA programs have ranked FSU’s program among the top 50 in the nation.

Affordable Colleges Online (ACO) has ranked FSU number 12 of the Best Online MBA Programs in the country. Rated by ACO for the second year in a row, FSU moved up from number 25. At the same time, Value Colleges, an online resource of accredited programs, rated FSU’s MBA number 41 among its Top 50 Best Value Online MBA Programs of 2015.

ACO emphasized the FSU program’s low cost, student-faculty ratio, percentage of full-time faculty with a doctorate, accreditation by AACSB International and its aims — imparting the well-rounded business knowledge students need to be successful in any organization.

In addition to low cost and AACSB accreditation, Value Colleges pointed out FSU’s global perspective in the world of business, in which online learners can take advantage of international learning experiences offered through the University. Value Colleges also noted that the online MBA program can be completed in as little as 12 months going full-time.

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown turns 10

This past winter, the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown began its celebration of a “Decade of Building Futures,” marking the 10th anniversary of the regional higher education center’s opening.

FSU’s involvement dates back to even before the founding of USMH, as the FSU Hagerstown Center established in 1998 to offer local baccalaureate and master’s education to Washington County students for the first time.

USMH is celebrating its “Decade of Building Futures” with a year-long series of events, including an Alumni Ambassador picnic, an Alumni Ambassador parade, open houses and tours, ending with a Festive at Friendship Scholarship fundraiser in December.

USMH opened its doors to students in January of 2005 and has been growing ever since. From three initial partner universities, including FSU, USMH now offers 27 academic programs through FSU’s University of Maryland University College, College Park, Towson, Salisbury and Coppin State University.

FSU’s newest offering is the Master of Education with a concentration in School Counseling, beginning this fall. USMH’s convenient location and flexible course scheduling have proven to have a strong appeal to those balancing studies with family or job responsibilities. “I was able to work part-time while being a full-time student,” said Danielle Donovan ’09. “Through Frostburg State, I was able to pay each semester using the payment plan option, which kept me from having to use student loan money. Most of my friends who attended a university campus and stayed in dorms earned a bachelor’s degree with substantial student loan debt, but I wasn’t in that category.”

Wayne Keefer ’09, an assistant vice president and branch manager for OIB Bank, credits his time at USMH for helping him understand how his business functions as a whole. “I have never been a traditional student,” said Keefer. “I’ve never been part of a fraternity, or lived in a dorm room. But I was able to be a college student—be an FSU Bobcat—close to home and close to work.”

Wayne Keefer ’09 - Ruth LaCourse ’14

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown 2015: One University. A World of Experiences.

Frostburg State University - One University. A World of Experiences.
Dr. Carol Gaumer

Gaumer Earns President’s Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Carol Gaumer ’89/M’91, a professor in the Department of Marketing and Finance, has been selected as the fourth recipient of the President’s Distinguished Faculty Award, an award that recognizes and encourages faculty members who advance the University’s mission and goals and its strategic planning initiatives.

“Carol Gaumer embodies the qualities of the Distinguished Faculty Award in so many ways. She is forward-thinking and imaginative in considering the University’s future, she has boundless energy and enthusiasm, and she is a talented and caring teacher and colleague,” President Gibralter said.

“Carol Gaumer is a unique blend of talent and commitment, dedication and purpose, integrity and energy, and a truly superior model of how an ideal faculty member, departmental colleague, administrative chair and authentic citizen-leader should be,” said Dr. Sudhir Singh, the associate dean in FSU’s College of Business.

2015 marks Gaumer’s 26th year at FSU.

Dr. Carol Gaumer, Department of English

For Teaching:

As an associate professor of communication studies, Kice has demonstrated outstanding teaching performance in his seven years at FSU. Colleagues appreciate his passion for teaching and his willingness to collaborate – all of which creates a positive atmosphere for student learning. Students appreciate his challenging and rewarding classroom activities that inspire them and his genuine interest in their learning. He is an enthusiastic teacher who continually strives to develop the critical thinking skills of his students in each and every class he teaches.

For Academic Achievement:

LaFemina, an associate professor of English, has produced an impressive array of works in his 11 years at FSU. Since 2004, he has published eight books of poetry, fiction and criticism and a chapbook of poetry, as well as edited or co-edited three anthologies. Recently, he has published a novel, Clowner; two full-length collections of poetry, Notes for the Novice Ventriloquist and Little Heretic; and a book of critical essays on poetry, Palpable Magic: Essays on Poets and Proustly. LaFemina is also very active in publishing his work in literary journals. He has appeared on the national and international scenes as a poet and scholar.

For University and Community Service:

Serfass, a professor of wildlife ecology, was among 10 individuals named as the latest lifetime fellow of The Wildlife Society. Serfass, who helps students overcome obstacles, grow as student-centered professionals, and inspires them to have their names read for women aspiring to student affairs and higher education, NASPA bestowed the honor, the award is reserved for those who had

Dr. Benjamin Norris

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This award is supported by gifts to the FSU Foundation, Inc.

Hurd Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Barbara Hurd, English professor emerita, was awarded a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship for her nonfiction writing.

“It’s an enormous thrill and great honor. I had applied in the past and had been turned down, so to receive one this time feels like the culmination of a lot of years of hard work,” she said.

She plans to spend her fellowship year researching and traveling as she begins sketching out her next book. Much of Hurd’s work is grounded in the natural world, both in the Frostburg area and other regions.

“Western Maryland is my long-ago adopted home. I love the landscape here, the expanses of forest and mountains,” she said. Despite her love of nature, that emotion doesn’t directly inspire Hurd’s writing. “Mostly I feel drawn to write about not what I love but what piques my curiosity. And there’s plenty of curious stuff here that interests me: boreal swamps and caves, etc. So my investigative mind is stimulated by where I live, and I’m driven to write about those investigations.”

Hurd has two books pending for release in 2016. In February, the University of Georgia Press will release Listening to the Savage River: Notes and Half-Heard Melodies, a series of essays set along Garrett County’s Savage River “that keeps spiraling around the exploration of acoustical imaginations, especially as they relate to environmental concerns.”

In the summer, the George F. Thompson Press will release Tidal Rhythms, a collaborative project with photographer Stephen Strom that explores the impact of climate change on tidal regions.

— Robert Spahr ’13

Among Serfass’s current research is a study in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem to assess the potential of using the river otter to promote aquatic conservation around Yellowstone National Park.

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LEARNING GREEN

FSU’s Wildlife Society team members pose with the toasted wildlife garnish that was part of their prix fixe.

Wildlife Society Students Excel in Regional Skills Competition

A team representing the FSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society placed third in the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition this spring among 20 regional colleges and universities and 400 students who competed in the intense competition of mental and physical feats showing mastery and knowledge of wildlife skills.

FSU’s top-three finish demonstrates the commitment of the students to excelling at the competition as well as show off the quality of FSU’s Department of Biology, said Dr. Frank Ammer, associate professor and faculty advisor for the student chapter.

“It makes our University look outstanding and our biology students strong,” Ammer said. Students had to identify plant and animal specimens; navigate an obstacle course and an orienteering course; demonstrate sharpening skills with rifle and bow; display precision of flying casting; show off artistic skills with field photography, free-form art and drawing; call game, and then square off in a Quiz Bowl — a “Wildlife Jeopardy” of sorts.

The study also examined how diverse D.C.’s street trees are and suggested action plans for replacing trees after one dies to help fend off pest and disease issues. For example, Smith saw that problem with an abundance of American Elm trees, which can be susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. To avoid an outbreak of tree-specific diseases, no more than 10 percent of a single species, 20 percent of a single genus or 50 percent of a single family should be planted in an area. In addition, the emerald ash borer, which attacks ash trees, is starting to move to its second-best host, a white fringe tree, Smith said.

Tires are clearly Smith’s passion. Smith’s time at Frostburg also allowed her to sit on the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, helping the campus be named a Tree Campus USA for three years in a row. Smith also interned with the City of Cumberland to study the social impact of trees to influence residents to plant trees in their own yard.

It’s going to become more important in the future to make sure there are functional, ecological systems instead of interior deserts,” Smith said.

The university has been honored as a Tree Campus USA for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

One University, Caring for One Planet.

FSU has been designated one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the country for the fourth time by the Princeton Review, based on data from the company’s survey of hundreds of four-year colleges about their commitments to the environment and sustainability.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Adventure Sports Management

FSU and Garrett College will offer a new collaborative Bachelor of Science in Adventure Sports Management. Students in the program will have the opportunity to gain expertise in recreation activities while developing the management skills and professional connections necessary to become successful leaders in the tourism industry. The program utilizes the unique natural resource base found in Western Maryland.

The program builds on FSU’s Adventure Sports concentration in the Recreation and Parks Management major and Garrett’s two-year program at the Adventureresports Institute. The new program aids leadership experiences and professional preparation while maintaining an emphasis on specific adventure sports skills. This model addresses students’ needs for the advanced knowledge offered by a bachelor’s degree, and the industry’s need for leaders and innovators in the outdoor recreation and tourism fields, a growing component of the economy in Western Maryland and beyond.

Hospitability Management

FSU students will have a unique immersive international opportunity in hospitality management thanks to a new partnership with Vanung University in Taiwan. Starting in spring 2016, students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality Management from FSU.

While students are taking courses at three universities, Frostburg offers them a seamless collaborative program. After completing general education credits, students will take management, small business, entrepreneur -ship, human resources management and management electives from FSU’s accredited College of Business. Students are also required to complete an internship, whether it’s through Rocky Gap Casino Resort or another area hotel or resort.

UMES will offer online hospitality management courses. During fall semesters, Frostburg students will travel to Vanung University in Taiwan with a faculty advisor, where they will enroll in four six-week courses, gaining experience in restaurant management, beverage control and airline customer service management, partake in a wine seminar and more.

Vanung has its own teaching hotel, a teaching travel agency, demonstration kitchens, meal service classrooms, bartending classrooms, an aviation reservation system room that is a replica of an airport terminal and a simulated flight cabin classroom.

“IT’s a valuable learning experience that breaks down barriers, including being exposed to different languages. With such a variety of experiences, students will know what constitutes superior customer service,” said Dr. Michael Monahan, chair of the Department of Management.

Health Science

FSU will offer a Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree, which is designed to prepare students to enter health-focused careers, including the areas of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physician assistant or optometry. The program is designed to prepare students for graduate-level studies in this broad spectrum of health-focused careers.

With the increased need for health care providers, particularly in rural communities, the health science programs will address the changing needs of health care in rural Appalachia and disparities and workforce shortages in rural Maryland.

FSU will be the only Maryland program to offer a bachelor’s degree specifically targeted to broadly prepare students for graduate or professional schools in the health-related fields.

Education

In keeping with the changing needs of teacher candidates and the schools they will serve, FSU has restructured some of its education programs.

FSU’s Elementary Education program, which previously included a specialization in one of several fields, now offers four concentrations in integrated arts, language and literacy, social science and civic, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). These new areas will enable graduates to develop specialty teaching competencies in a specific area for grades 1-6.

FSU also offers a bachelor’s degree in secondary teacher education, designed for students seeking certification to teach a particular subject in grades 7-12. The program was previously offered as a teaching certificate but is now available as a second major, complementing a primary major in a field such as biology, mathematics or social science.
Alumni Honored at Spring Ceremonies

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards

FSU presented one of its most prestigious honors, the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards, to Mary Clapsaddle ‘83, a community planner in the northwest area of the city, working to revitalize communities and build healthy, vibrant neighborhoods. She is president of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Clapsaddle addressed the graduates and addressed to consider the classes that had come before. “They left here with the same eagerness as you are now feeling and with the same strong foundation for success. And they have carried a little bit of Frostburg everywhere they have traveled in life, just like you will. And many of them embraced ‘Frostburgness,’ remembering the important place that Frostburg holds in making them who they are,” said Headlee.

Forester, the president of the FSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. In accepting his award, Forester credited his parent’s guidance in his success. “They taught me the importance of having a strong work ethic, the importance of valuing equal- ity and accountability in myself and others, to follow rules, policies and procedures and, in turn, ensure that they applied fairly and uniformly across the board to all people.”

College of Business Alumnus of the Year

Terry Headlee M’03, who recently retired as managing editor of The Frederick News-Post, was honored as the College of Business’ 2015 Alumnus of the Year. Headlee said that the principles he learned in the pursuit of his MBA have been invaluable as he took on the leadership of newsrooms in Hagerstown and Frederick, where he found that he needed a strong background in the foundations of business as well as journalism.

“I know you all know that I’m in a very turbulent industry right now. It’s undergoing change all the time, and to keep up with that you not only have to have strong journalistic standards and knowledge, but you also have to have a keen sense of the business world, everything from marketing to troubleshooting and problem solving as well as human resources. … You have to understand all facets of the business,” Headlee said.

Headlee is also chair of the Editorial Committee for the Maryland, Delaware and D.C. (MDDC) Press Association. While in the MBA program, he served on the newly formed Student Advisory Council and now serves on the College of Business Advisory Board.

Mike Gellar ’79 served as a WFNR general manager and remembers the work involved in expanding the station’s audience by broadcasting over cable TV, necessitating the change in the call letters from WSFC to WFNR.

“It was a big effort, and the biggest accomplishment was getting us off campus,” said the computer software implementation contractor and jazz guitarist. “It took a lot of perseverance because the administration was concerned about people living in town and what’s going to go out on cable as opposed to broadcasting on campus.”

John Lorch ’79, now assistant director for International Services at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, said back then there were no classes to learn how to run a radio station. It was the love of music that brought him to broadcasting.

“To make me more open to different styles of music,” he said, adding that it helped him start his record collection that once topped 2,000 LPs.

Lorch would go on to do campus radio for six years at Johns Hopkins University, and his path would cross with that of future NPR General Manager and current FSU faculty member Steve Bywater.

“‘All Songs Considered’ host Bob Boilen when they both worked at a warehouse for Wize Maxie’s Record Stores.

On campus, Gellar and others had to earn administrative’s trust by making the student-created/operated station more professional, hiring students as music, program and news directors. One of the station’s notable per- sonalities was Frank Mitchell, who became program and production director at WMFD talk radio and production director at WFRK in Frederick, Md.

The station was more of a predecessor than a precursor to WFWM, FSU’s current NPR affiliate station, as the stations and mission were on separate tracks. WFWM was an initiative by the administration at Frostburg State, begun in 1984 as WCTK.

Gellar, Oxford and Lorch all returned to campus in April for the open house of WFWM in the Catherine R. Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology. They marveled at the space with the latest technology — and a couple of turntables for good measure.

“The studios are so impressive,” Gellar said. “They’re more impressive than some commercial and college studios I’ve been in. It’s just unbelievable.”

The difference from then and now is night and day, said Oxford, now the CEO of ZERA Mission International and author of The Civil War on Hatten.

“When we were there, we didn’t have to pre-prepare our program. We did it all live,” he said. “Of course, we had to drum up our own audience. The amount of space, the professionalism, is totally different.”
**Foundation Key for Alumnus Building Relationships and Business**

Just like building a stable company, Brian Mattingly ’83 knows that success is constructed upon a strong foundation. Yet the president and owner of the excavation company Golden & Stafford also knows when a top-down approach is necessary.

Brian Mattingly ’83

His Mariotti Marquis D.C. Convention Center Hotel project was the first in Washington, D.C., using construction methods to build a high-rise from both the top and bottom simultaneously, digging 95 feet deep using caissons to stabilize the building in the swampy underbelly of the District. He traveled to Boston to study the construction method himself before his team executed the plan. The four-star, 14-story hotel opened in May 2014.

The president and founding partner in Mattingly’s D.C.-based excavation company and his active involvement with FSU.

“Always felt Frostburg was instrumental in giving me a solid foundation that I could use to go into business, and I felt the need to give back to the university and continue to see the University prosper,” the Cumberland native said.

Mattingly, now a Howard County, Md., resident, bought out the founding partners of Golden & Stafford to become the sole owner and president in 2007 after being a longtime employee. He said it was a good time to do so, especially when a top-down approach is necessary.

“Take the opportunities you’re given and, when you can, broaden your horizons so you can see those experiences to influence you later in life,” he said.

— Charles Schelle

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**Shaffer Honored for Helping His Fellow Man**

Tom Shaffer ’59/M’63 was honored in June with the William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for his work in the community, an award presented by Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot.

“You all should go out of here and find one thing you can do for your fellow man,” Shaffer said at the presentation. “My philosophy is, help other people. Do what you can for other people.”

Shaffer is a retired Allegany High School teacher of 26 years. He volunteers at the Interfaith Community Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, the Cancer Center at Western Maryland Health System and the Allegany Museum.

Shaffer and his fellow honorees across Maryland are among the “unbelievably talented folks who have contributed to their state and community,” Franchot said.

“We all became teachers.”

— Charles Schelle

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**Golden Anniversary**

The Golden Anniversary weekend in early June has become a time of honoring those costs.

Members of the class of ’58 gathered to celebrate 50 years of friendship and visit their alma mater to the roof line, from left, Stephanie Goodale McDonough, Jenny Monaco, Frank Krug, A. Thomas Fleming, Virginia Tindall Wolford, Benny Wolford, Jackie Joyce Crum, Judy Scenning Ammazy, Linda Zerfing, Elizabeth Ludbetter Pinheiro and Lynda Tindall Lockard. At the second row, from left, Gary Peterson ’86, the Rev. Charles Holder W ’69, Sharon Ebaugh Dobbs, Quincy Crawford, Pam Gardner Enger, Philip Haynes, Anne Brase Slater, Michael Solomon and Hal Harris ’75.

**Golden Moment**

During the Golden Anniversary Banquet Luncheon, Lynda Tindall Lockard ’85, right, had a golden moment when she reunited with her supervising teacher Amy Meek ’50 after 50 years.

Bobcat Love

It was an evening of love – for FSU and for each other – when Bobcat couples from many decades returned to campus for the Greatest Couples of All Time event, among them Sandy Berry Killen ’70 and Terry Killen ’71, top, and Valerie Stark Marsoppe ’91 and Ben Marsoppe ’91.

Members of the Class of ’62, the last to graduate from Frostburg State Teachers College, have created a scholarship to assist students with expenses during their crucial teaching internship. The class is shown here during its Golden Anniversary celebration in 2012.
Kurt Pfluger ’80 graduated into a stagnant job market, but an internship experience helped him land a job with the Department of the Army. In 1981, he became a CPA with a private accounting firm in Virginia. By the time Pfluger retired in 2001, he was CFO and treasurer of a firm he helped expand from 12 employees to 1,200. In “semi-retirement,” he provides CFO consulting for small businesses and volunteers for various nonprofits.

Yet Pfluger was not always industrious. “I had been a lazy student throughout grade school and high school. I always put play before schoolwork. I did OK in my first semester, but the second semester provided many opportunities to go skiing,” his first Econ test came on a Monday. “My plan was to come back from skiing on Sunday and hit the studying hard all night.” Exhausted from skiing, he fell asleep on his textbooks and awoke just in time to run to class.

“My parents struggled to put five kids through college and any assistance would have been helpful. Remembering this, hopefully we can make it easier for another FSU family.”

In 2010, he established the Pfluger Family Accounting Scholarship as a way of recognizing FSU’s role in his success.

Enid Kennedy sharply after graduating from nursing school.

The late Enid Musser Kennedy was only a teenager when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, but she pledged her service as soon as she graduated from high school, entering the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps to serve in the U.S. Navy. World War II ended before she graduated from Memorial Hospital Nursing School in 1947, however, so she became an operating room nurse at Miner’s Hospital in Frostburg instead.

“Was down at the University of Maryland, going to school on the GI Bill of Rights, and living at the veterans barracks,” recalls her husband, Ken Kennedy ’72. “We got married, and I applied for a spot in the veterans family barracks.” Enid expanded her skills to emergency room nursing, serving at Prince George’s General Hospital.

After Ken graduated, they returned to Allegany County, where Ken took an engineering job at Westvaco’s Lake Mill, and Enid set about raising their growing family. Enid’s family has decided to memorialize her and her dedication to the nursing profession with the Enid P. Kennedy Endowed Nursing Scholarship.
Nearly 200 people enjoyed pool games, laser tag and dodgeball and scaled the rock-climbing wall at the fourth annual I Swim for Bob Day – Discover Your Own Adventure this spring. The first such event came together a few months after Norr’s death, when students, including classmate Alex Coleman ’12, came to Blankenship with the idea to start a scholarship and event in his memory.

“For recreation and parks majors, we approach life in a very different way. We like to get together and have a good time,” said Dr. Diane Blankenship, associate professor of recreation and parks management, one of Norr’s instructors. “We just felt like, in the spirit of Bob, to have a pool party and all these crazy events… This is how he would want his life celebrated.”

This year’s event raised $7,000, and about $47,000 has been raised since 2012 for the Robert A. Norr Presidential Merit Scholarship, Blankenship said. It’s now an annual tradition taken on by students who never even knew Norr. They work tirelessly to plan the ongoing event year-round because they see how much it means to the community and campus. Four classes across two semesters help plan, produce and evaluate the event.

“You can look at Dr. B and you can tell how much he meant to her, and his parents are here, and you can tell how much they care about how we do this,” said Brian Bussard, a senior parks and recreation management major. “I think that our whole class groups are here, and you can tell how much they care how much he meant to her, and his parents.”

Kevin Neitzey ’14 returned to support the event, marveling at all the new faces as he watched a dodgeball game.

“I can count about 50 people I’ve never seen before in my life. I think it’s awesome that Dr. B really incorporates this not only in class, but how much it reflects their son. "We are fortunate enough to raise it in one year," said former committee president and current MBA student Mary Kehoe ’15. "It speaks a lot to our alumni and the support we got from our faculty."

The first College of Business Student Pride Scholarship was awarded for the upcoming academic year to senior India Lacey, who joined the committee to raise funds for the endowment. The eventual goal is a large enough endowment to support a full-scholarship.

Yet with the scholarship established, the Student Pride Committee looked for more ways to help the College of Business inspire students to become leaders. They returned their committee the Student Business Leadership Committee (SBLC) to reflect the new mission.

As they were discussing new directions, Kehoe, now the graduate advisor to the group, shared the journey that led her to FSU and the committee. That story formed the backbone of a pitch to convince faculty and students to support SBLC’s next venture.

Before Kehoe transferred to Frostburg, she had struggled to engage with her studies at two previous institutions. She passed her classes, but she was dispassionate.

“I was just kind of floating around. I was considering everything from the Peace Corps to the Air Force,” she said. Her parents convinced her to give college another chance first. She enrolled at two by the remains of Western Maryland, Kehoe transferred to Frostburg as a junior.

“And that was the best thing I’ve ever done.” From Kehoe’s first day on campus, her academic advisor, Carol Gaumer ’89/M’91, inspired her. “She just believed in me in a way that I did not believe in myself,” Kehoe said.

Newly engaged in her education, Kehoe made the Dean’s List three times. “That was something I had never imagined for myself. That completely changed here, and that’s because these professors saw the potential in me and really worked and spent the extra time and energy to pull that out of me.”

Gaumer and Ryan Krentz ’04/M’07, faculty co-advisor to SBLC, encouraged Kehoe to join the group, whose activities are based on three pillars: giving, leadership development and networking with alumni.

While considering their next major activity, SBLC members saw the potential to inspire average students to excel by emulating the activities of the Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership, an opportunity reserved for top students.

“I know there are hundreds of other students that are just kind of coasting along, getting Cs and wanting to get out and get on with their lives,” Kehoe said. Those students became SBLCs focus.

In September, SBLC will host its inaugural Leadership Retreat at Wisp Resort. It will feature activities that combine professional workplace environments and networking opportunities with team-building and leadership activities suited to the Mountain Maryland setting. Craig Bowman ’92, vice president of defense and security systems for Adidas Systems, will deliver the keynote speech.

“The point of the retreat is to see these students that have the potential to be something better and to tell them, ‘Knock it off, get yourself together and do great things, because you’re capable of it.’ It’s kind of a retreat for the underdogs.”

Kehoe sees it as an opportunity to help other students the way Gaumer, Krentz and the group’s other co-advisor Dr. JoAnna Shore ’96/M’08 helped her. She credits Shore with specific assistance on the retreat and general mentoring otherwise.

“Not only did she help us stay on track with the process of planning the retreat, but she was always there to help us with the stress of balancing our committee projects with school, work, other organizations and everything else,” Kehoe said. “We are all so grateful to have our FSU Mom there to guide us along!”

SBLC hopes to make the Leadership Retreat an annual event, but they will need to raise the money to make that happen. Fortunately, their experience with the Student Pride Scholarship has given the members the fundraising skills, confidence and network they will need.

To support the efforts of the Student Business Leadership Committee, call the FSU Foundation at 301.687.4161 or visit www.frostburg.edu/makeafast. To participate in the retreat, contact Kehoe at mkkehoe@frostburg.edu.
Building Writers, Building Bridges

Frostburg’s Creative Writing Community Cultivates Writers at All Levels

From the first scrap of an idea to the final word in print, the creative writing process can wrack nerves, deflate egos . . . and expand minds. Students coming to Frostburg find a community, on-campus and off, already welcoming of their efforts. But even more, members of this creative community work alongside accomplished writers, developing their ability to refine and express their thoughts in various genres and forms. Through an often-humbling process, writers kindle sparks of ideas into their thoughts in various genres and forms. Through an creative community work alongside accomplished of their efforts. But even more, members of this minds. Students coming to Frostburg find a word in print, the creative writing process . . .

“Pop-'Em Poetry” for a quarter, nothing is for sale.

The Frostburg Center for Creative Writing, newly renamed Frostburg Center for the Literary Arts (FCLA), exists to foster the creation of literature, in all its forms, for students and community members alike, and to build bridges between the campus and local Frostburg communities.

Poet, novelist, associate professor and director of FCLA LaFemina has studied, taught and performed accreditation reviews for creative writing programs around the country.

“Of the big criticisms of creative writing programs is that students are taken out of the ‘real world.’ Having a place like the Center for the Literary Arts that is funded by the University but housed in the community really breaks down that criticism. Our students have access to their peers, but also to a lot of community members that share the same interests and loves as the students do.”

Associate professor and author Andy Duncan, winner of three World Fantasy Awards, the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award and a Nebula Award, teaches fiction writing at Frostburg in addition to journalism and professional writing.

“Certainly, creative writing programs like ours with the quality of the faculty we have are not easy to find at the undergrad level. Any graduate program would be happy to bring in the visiting writers we bring. . . . [Students] really get to know their faculty.”

The 3 a.m. Society, FSU’s creative writing student organization, often meets in FCLA. The organization is an ideal place for new writers to become involved. When the group was founded in 2001, then-advisor Barkley, associate professor of English, lent them the name.

“It’s based on what a professor told me in college. When I would reach a hard or difficult part of a story or poem, she would say, ‘That’s one of those decisions you will have to make sitting at your desk at 3 a.m. It’s a metaphor for writing,’” he said.

“Murder Your Darlings”

Difficulty is an integral part of creative writing. One of the most famous pieces of writing advice is “murder your darlings.” In other words, writers must delete those beloved but self-indulgent phrases to make the piece better.

Creative writing is taught at FSU mainly through workshops. Students share their writing and then listen as the professor and fellow students analyze and critique their stories or poems aloud. For first-time workshopers, the process is often humbling. The urge to defend against criticisms or correct perceived misunderstandings is strong, yet the writer is forbidden to speak, and for good reason.

Criticism is a fact of life for all writers wishing to see their work published. Readers and publishers judge writing without the author’s explanations. The workshop model replicates that experience. As it is in life, if the work does not stand alone, it gets torn apart in a workshop. Until writers harden themselves against sustained, detailed criticism, they will find workshops a stressful place.

The 3 a.m. Society offers members critical feedback on their work without the stress of a professor’s presence or a grade on the line. No comments are barred, and the wide variety of viewpoints sparks frequent, vigorous debates about the merits and weaknesses of a piece. If writers haven’t “murdered their darlings,” their peers in 3 a.m. will call them out on it.

“I think the students enjoy having the low-stress workshop environment. [Their writing] doesn’t have to be perfect. I think everybody likes having this place to read what they’ve written and hear the hell out of it to make it better,” said Blake Moore ’15, past-president of 3 a.m.

Freshman Alex McAfee, the organization’s treasurer, is an English major in the creative writing concentration. He found out about the 3 a.m. Society through FSU’s website before arriving in Frostburg.

“It was one of the first things that stuck out, and it sounded good. Before I came here, I was always interested in writing, since I was 8 years old. Finding out there was a writing community on campus inspired me to write more,” he said.

In his first semester at FSU, McAfee had yet to take a creative writing class. The 3 a.m. Society served as his introduction to university-level creative writing, and the group’s informal workshops taught him about dialogue and structure. He leaves the meetings with lots of new ideas, he said.

Slam in the Spotlight

Also run through FCLA, Frostburg’s Poetry and Fiction Slam Series lets students test their work against their peers and other writers in the community. Competitors take the stage to read aloud for a panel of five
volunteer judges. The first two rounds are open to all, yet only the three highest finishers will progress to the final round. Rounds in the poetry slam last three minutes; fiction rounds last five. All finalists earn prize money, raised through a nominal cover charge. Under the heat of the spotlight, with peers sitting in judgment, slams can wrack competitors’ nerves. Voices crack. Hands shake. Some competitors bow out early, perhaps underestimating the pressure of the spotlight. But that pressure forges stronger writers. Reading pieces about highlights weaknesses in phras- ing. The audience’s reaction provides feedback on strengths and shortcomings. In victory or defeat, writers learn. Some students quickly acclimate to compe- tition under the heat of the spotlight. Corey Oglesby ’14 won several poetry slams during his years at FSU and has published poetry in past issues of FSU’s student literary magazine Bittersweet, as well as in Backbone Mountain Review (see sidebar) and Clack by Night, a collection of poetry inspired by The Clash’s Clash by Night. Bittersweet, Mountain, and local resident, who moved to Western Maryland out of love. Stephen Dunn, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and local resident, who moved to Western Maryland out of love. Stephen Dunn, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and local resident, who moved to Western Maryland out of love.
Symposiums Highlight Student Research Strides

By Charles Scholle
Research isn’t just for doctoral students. As early as freshman year, Frostburg students can collaborate with faculty on hands-on research not being completed anywhere else.

“Some of these projects, they could go out and patent some of this research,” said Dr. Karen Keller ’89/M82, assistant professor of biology and co-organizer of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium. This is the fourth year for the growing Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the first for the Graduate Research Symposium, which featured the advanced work of doctoral students in the educational leadership program.

“We wanted to start a new way of developing our graduate students at the master’s and doctoral level with their professional skills and honing their presentation skills,” said Dr. Doris Santamaria-Makag, assistant professor of Educational Professions and co-organizer of the Graduate Research Symposium. “At the same time they can value feedback from other faculty members about their presentations.” Each symposium features a few of students who bring a poster and other elements to demonstrate their research and its findings. Visitors can browse through the presentations and interact with the researchers. These presentations give students valuable experience in explaining their work to those who are not versed in their subject matter.

The FSU Foundation sponsored the graduate symposium through contributions made to the Annual Fund and the Woodward and Virginia Peeler Endowed Fund. The FSU Foundation also supported the undergraduate symposium. Here is a sampling from the 120-plus projects featured at the two events:

Touchscreen Tamarins

In a project that involved separate projects in two departments, animal behavior minors Kristofer Ervin, Sarah Pesi ’15 and Shane Sours wanted to find out how well tiny tamarin monkeys, members of a colony at FSU, would interact with a circle shown on the screen of a touchscreen tablet.

“We’re hoping this is an introduction to the touchscreen for them,” Pesi said. “We’re keeping it really simple. But once they know how to use it, other people can do more complex studies.”

The kithen-sized tamarins would be rewarded with a clicking sound followed by food when they touched the circle. Some of the tamarins at FSU have been proven to be food-motivated in other studies, and those animals showed a bias with the touch screen as well. Others were inherently shy and didn’t want to interact. Eight of the 12 tamarins interacted with the tablet, and three tamarins touched at least one circle.

Computer science majors Johnathan Tripp and Seyed Raoofi designed the touchscreen app that tracked the tamarin’s touches. Tripp’s program measured how long it would take the tamarins to touch the circle. Students continued to work with the tamarins over the summer and hope to train the monkeys to interact with the screen without the use of clicks and food and then test accuracy of the touch, Sours said.

Dr. Erica Hoy Kennedy, associate professor of psychology, and Steven Kennedy, instructor in the Department of Computer Science & Information Technology, served as faculty advisors.

Waiting to Exhale

In addition to the poster presentations, select students were chosen to make oral pre- sentations throughout the symposium, such as Janet Adestina ’15, a political science and law & society double major, who presented “Waiting to Exhale: Singlehood, Self-Efficacy and Depression in Black Women.” Adestina, who conducted the research as part of her participation in the McNair Scholars Program, looked at the implications of how a person’s perception of the permanence of singlehood could affect mental health outcomes in middle class black women. She also examined the importance of self-efficacy, the belief in one’s ability to be independent, in alleviating their anxiety.

The percentage of black “Single and Living Alone” households has reached a quarter of the demographic, with black women making up a significant number in that population, she said. She examined her information through the lenses of three theories: Intersectionality, Critical Race and Social Stratification. Adestina indicated that results were preliminary because of the small size of her survey sample, but among the interesting results is a strong belief among the women that their single status was temporary, regardless of their age; that they were unwilling to “settle” for a lesser partner or to date outside of their race, and that they were more likely to seek help from a social support group rather than a therapist to handle feelings of depression, although they were unlikely to call it that.

Commemorating Brownsville

Brownsville, the historic African-American neighborhood that once existed where FSU’s Upper Quad is today, could retain its mark on Frostburg’s campus thanks to Frostburg history students.


“ FSU’s undergraduate students, as Frostburg residents, it’s a key to our local history,” Felix said. “Without Brownsville, Frostburg State University’s campus may not be the way it is today. The Brownsville people who lived in the neighborhood helped a lot in the beginning stages of the campus and its community.”

Dr. Eleanor McConnell, assistant professor of history, served as faculty mentor.

Brownsville stretched from Center Street west to Beall Street (now University Drive) and from behind Old Main to where Compton Science Center stands today. Brownsville was home to about 240 residents in 1920, but the properties were sold off to the state of Maryland, often at deep discounts, to make way for a growing Frostburg State.

The History Club will kick off a project in the fall to seek approval for a monument and street signs on the Upper Quad to commemorate Brownsville. The proposed project is estimated to cost $13,000, funding a 4'1/2-foot-tall monument and bronze panels in the heart of Brownsville, which was between Allen and Simpson halls.

Deep-Space Telescope

Planetarium Director Dr. Robert Doyle proudly built the Frostburg Sky Cannon in the 1980s to give then-Frostburg State College a 17.5-inch reflector telescope to peer into deep space. The weight of time and the weight of the telescope itself forced the telescope to be relegated mainly to storage thanks to its 180-pound, 7-foot-tall wooden frame.

A modern telescope to benefit current and future students is now taking shape thanks to an Opportunity Grant administered through the FSU Foundation, Inc. These grants provide an applied learning experience involving technology outside the classroom while aiding student retention.

Physics majors Michael Miklewski and Zachary Wolodkin ’15 took up a project to build a better and more mobile telescope.

“The joke was you needed two large people, a pickup truck and a nice day to move the thing,” Miklewski said.

Wolodkin and Miklewski salvaged mirrors and the base from the telescope and redesigned and built a new lightweight aluminum telescope. It will be the same height but only weigh about 70 pounds. The concave mirror apparatus itself weighs 53 pounds.

“We’ll be able to take it apart and fit it in the car,” Wolodkin said.

That mobility will help planetarium faculty, staff and students to take the telescope to the observatory atop COT or to local schools for demonstrations and should be ready for the full semester.

Doyle served as faculty mentor for the project. The project also earned the Sam Student Science Research Award to help fund the telescope.
Satellites for NASA
Edward Dorsey ’15 and Nicholas Bowers ’15 had the chance to work with NASA engineers at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt to figure out how to power a small-scale satellite called a CubeSat.

These small satellites, as small as 10 centimeters square, can be used for anything, from communications to atmospheric research to photography. First launched into space in 2003, their small size helps reduce space debris.

Bowers and Dorsey are graduates of FSU’s electrical engineering concentration program at Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center in Hanover, Md. Dorsey researched solar panel arrays and Bowers focused on the microchip and motherboard and on sourcing the parts so the two could power a small satellite.

Few universities work on CubeSat research with NASA.

The two students also built a prototype using a microchip and $160 version of the CubeSat chip. The chip would convert the solar energy into power and be the brains of the satellite, Dorsey said.

Future classes and students could study the microchips further for use in the satellites. Fellow Arundel Mills students Michael Langlois ’15 and James Wise ’15 also contributed to the study and Dr. Marjorie Rawhouser, assistant professor of engineering, served as faculty mentor.

Influences on Online Education
Making an online course successful is affected by a myriad of influences on the faculty who want to teach them.

“Faculty believe that quality in online education can be achieved, but the critical component that’s central to them is the support of the administration in structure, policy and practice to achieve quality in online education,” said Vickie Mazer D’15, who obtained her doctorate in educational leadership from Frostburg through this case study of 387 FSU faculty members.

Some faculty resist teaching online courses because of a perception of their being inferior to the old-fashioned, face-to-face approach, among other perceived issues.

Access to equipment, training, professional development and resources like a 24/7 help desk were all motivators that would influence faculty to teach online courses.

“They believe quality and instruction is and can be achieved but not without those things provided by an institution that helps them achieve that,” Mazer said.

Frostburg’s online offerings have grown rapidly since the first online class was offered in 2003, and especially in recent years with the addition of online classes.

“Holding hands doesn’t have to have the sexuality behind it,” Dewitt said, explaining the debate behind relegating hand-holding to the emotional category.

Dewitt will continue her master’s program this fall and aims to expand on her research. Her goal is to work in addictions counseling to help people to have healthier relationships.

Dr. Michael Muntagh, associate professor of psychology, served as faculty advisor.

Grad Students’ Great Swamp Research Is for the Birds
By Charles Schelle

Studies by FSU applied ecology and conservation biology students are helping to ensure the survival of waterfowl and other birds in an enclave of nature just 25 miles west of Manhattan in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey.

Graduate students Sean Knox ’14 and Meta Griffin are starting two of the newest projects in the Great Swamp in New Jersey. Their work continues a partnership with the wildlife refuge that has seen numerous other Frostburg students complete fieldwork there.

Knox became interested in studying birds more closely after taking an ornithology class as an undergraduate student, then completed fieldwork with a graduate assistant as part of an independent project.

“A few years ago, there was no getting away from it,” Knox said. “I already figured out I wanted to work with waterfowl.”

Dr. Frank Ammer, an associate professor in the Department of Biology, is advising Knox and Griffin, who are in their first semesters as graduate students. Frostburg alumni Dorothy Fecske M’97, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is supervising the studies at Great Swamp.

“I know the quality of work that comes out of the University,” Fecske said. “Our refuge is pretty fortunate to have Frostburg State University as a partner in these different projects.”

MIGRATION STUDY
Knox is looking at migration chronology of waterfowl at the Great Swamp to see when certain species are coming to the refuge.

The Great Swamp is a popular spot for northern pintails, wood ducks, mallards and Canada geese to use as a stop during migration.

Meta Griffin

“This is research that can immediately have a purpose,” Knox said. “We’re getting a chance to not only do research – and quality research – but work with Fish and Wildlife personnel and on refuges.”

Most waterfowl will still migrate to the swamp, Knox said, but the timing of when they arrive can change, affecting the food system and water management practices.

The recorded migration changes will also help park rangers tell visitors when and where they might see certain wildlife, Knox added.

“The refuge manages waterfowl during strategic times to help encourage vegetation growth, which provides food for the wildlife,” Ammer explained.

“If the food resources don’t keep up with the waterfowl, the waterfowl might not have any food,” Ammer said.

For Knox, the weekly trips between Frostburg and New Jersey during peak migration season are necessary and worth the long miles.

“It’s research that can immediately have a purpose,” Knox said. “We’re getting a chance to not only do research – and quality research – but work with Fish and Wildlife personnel and on refuges.”

“Most of those projects are a cooperative effort with Frostburg State University to collect information we need to address our impoundment management,” Fecske said. “All of those projects are different pieces of the puzzle.”

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“Making an online course successful is affected by a myriad of influences on the faculty who want to teach them.”

Rachel Codispoti ’14, left, displays her cage’s motherboard while Edward Dorsey ’15 shows the framework’s small size.

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Behind-the-Scenes Students Vital to Onstage Performance

By Charles Schelle

When the lights come up, the show must go on.

The FSU theatre students who work behind the scenes are essential in making any stage production possible. As plays and musicals gear up, designers for lights, sound, seating and costumes all pitch in to stage shows through the FSU Theatre Technology Program. During a recent visit to the Costume Shop, students gave a sneak peek on what they love about bringing details to fit each character.

“IT’s really fun because you get to see how the show could look until you have your vision of what it really should look like,” said Rachel Saylor. “Without this hands-on experience, they can’t go forward in other jobs or what ever it may be. Theatre is definitely a hands-on major. It’s not really a book-learning major,” Clark said. “Yes, we have basic script analysis and all that stuff where we actually read and develop all those skills. However, it’s the hands-on working with equipment, working with fabrics, working with tools, whatever it may be, under the guidance of the other designers and faculty that they can actually grow and take their knowledge elsewhere.”

When the actors finally take the stage, these behind-the-scenes workers have tremendous pride. “I feel like this is how Jon feels like every day,” Wilson said. “She gets to see her work on stage and in person. It’s like a mother seeing her child, I guess. I get to be a part of that and get to experience that to a certain extent.”

Cross now works full-time as an applications developer at IBM Allegany Ballistics Laboratory Federal Data Center in Rocket Center, W.Va. He said the research he completed at FSU was invaluable as he was interviewing for his new job.

“It helped me be a way better programmer and helped me to get deep into learning concepts of Java,” Cross said.

Even with all the course work, Cross acknowledged that passion is just as important as good grades.

“There is advantage that I think that programming is fun,” he said.

Choose Your Own Ending, which was performed this spring. Each audience voted on the progression of the story.

“Because it’s a choose-your-own-ending show, there are various possibilities that the audience can vote on which way the show goes,” said Jennifer Clark, costume shop supervisor. “So the designers had to be prepared for those possibilities. For instance, the lighting designer and sound designer had to do extra cues, extra work and extra design in case this vote happens this way.

And costumes had to make sure there was a costume for a specific person that may or may not appear depending on how the design goes. It was a little bit of extra work but it proved to be interesting to see how everybody’s minds work as they worked to develop the designs.”

The Costume Shop students said they loved being challenged to create stunning, yet practical, pieces.

“I realized the costume sort of helps the character become the character, or the actor become the character,” said Apryl Wilson, an English major and theatre minor. “It helps me understand the dynamic between the actor and the costumes.

“I am all about problem solving and trial and error because then you really get it to be perfect and how it should look,” Saylor added. Becoming a professional in the theatre business requires more than learning from a book.

“Without this hands-on experience, they can’t go forward in other jobs or grad school or whatever it may be. Theatre is definitely a hands-on major. It’s not really a book-learning major,” Clark said. “Yes, we have basic script analysis and all that stuff where we actually read and develop all those skills. However, it’s the hands-on working with equipment, working...

By Charles Schelle

A new application developed by a recent graduate could strike a chord with self-taught musicians one day.

Timothy Cross ’14 created a program called Musicians Aid before graduating from FSU with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. Musicians Aid could be a blessing for aspiring musicians if fully developed, and the promise of the technology captured the attention of Silicon Valley companies at an international conference in February.

Cross wanted to see if he could build a program that teaches how to play sheet music by turning notes played by a musician into lines of sheet music with the help of software.

“Musicians Aid was a program I developed to assist musicians with the concept of coming up with their own ideas of music,” Cross said, “and being able to play the notes, then also have the notes shown on screen, so if they want to play them again, they could.”

The research was presented in February at the IS&T/SPIE Electronic Imaging Conference in San Francisco with the research paper “Musical Examination to Bridge Audio Data and Sheet Music.” Cross’ work was under the guidance of Dr. Xunyu Pan, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies. Pan’s FSU colleagues Dr. Liangliang Xiao, assistant professor, and Xiaoli He, instructor, assisted with the research paper.

SPIE is an international organization for optics and photonics professionals whose electronic imaging conference is attended by well-known companies like Google and Hewlett-Packard.

“I’m very honored,” Cross said. He was intrigued by the interest shown by various people and their reasons, “because there are so many different ways you could expand on the project.”

The FSU President’s Experiential Learning Enhancement Fund Program and an FSU Foundation Opportunity Grant provided funding for the research.

How Musicians Aid Works

For the software to work, Cross would play “Mary Had a Little Lamb” on his guitar as a computer program records his audio. A database would translate the notes played into sheet music format. The musician could then play the performance back, and the application can compare the audio recorded with the database’s sheet music. The accuracy would be determined by the pitch and audio frequency of each note.

“We would be able to find out how to evaluate your performance,” Pan said. “You wouldn’t need a musical instructor there.”

Future Possibilities

Cross and Pan know the program has limitations in recognizing complex songs and different instruments. Pan hopes to develop the technology further.

Cross’s app shows a line of musical notes that correspond to the sounds created by his guitar.
2014-15 BY THE NUMBERS:

- 9 All-Americans
- 2 Capital One Academic All-Americans
- 1 USILA Scholar All-American
- 38 All-CAC selections
- 3 CAC Rookies of the Year
- 2 CAC Head Coaches of the Year
- 3 CAC Champions (track & field)
- 2 All-Region selections
- 13 All-ECAC All-Stars
- 1 ECAC Champion
- 17 All-Region honorees
- 6 Empire B Presidents List honorees
- 155 All-CAC Academic selections

Summering With Spirit

For the 2014-15 seasons, men's track & field thrower Chauncey Manson ‘12, Lawney of five school records, posted 11 wins, qualified for the ECAC Championships 21 times, earned three All-ECAC awards and competed in the NCAA Championships.

Baseball’s Best

The 2015 Bobcat baseball team cemented its place in FSU history with the program’s first appearance in the NCAA World Series, which followed wins in the Capital Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships, and a school and CAC record 41 wins. The team also led the nearly 380 member and three D3baseball.com All-Americans.

Throwing His Weight Around

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FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY: ONE UNIVERSITY. A WORLD OF EXPERIENCES.

Six members will be inducted into the Bobcat Hall of Fame at the ceremony on Friday, Oct. 16, during Homecoming. The ceremony will also recognize the 1990 football team on the 25th anniversary of its record-setting season and student-athletes named to the CAC’s Silver Anniversary Team.

Hall of Fame Ceremony to Honor Six Inductees, the ’90 Football Team and the CAC’s 25th Anniversary

In 2014, a former student-athlete set five school records, posted 11 wins, qualified for the ECAC Championships 21 times, earned three All-ECAC awards and competed in the NCAA Championships.

Summering With Spirit

Women’s soccer’s Erin Wirthman has kept busy over the last two summers by, no surprise, playing soccer more. Earlier this summer, Wirthman was selected to the reserve team of the Washington Spirit of the National Women’s Soccer League, amateur team Division II women’s professional soccer league. The Spirit Reserve compete in the W-League or Women’s Pro-Axis Soccer, the longest-standing women’s soccer league in North America. Wirthman spent the summer of 2014 on the Spirit D-20 team.

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Following the conclusion of its fifth season, Frostburg has increased its win total in each of the last three years, has spent the final six weeks of the season ranked in the U.S. Collegiate Lacrosse Association Weekly Coaches Poll and ranked in the top 10 in several national statistical categories. The Bobcats show no signs of slowing down. “It’s hard to keep in perspective where it started and where it is now because the team is so goal-oriented,” said head coach Tommy Pearce. “They set awesome goals for themselves and go after them with everything they have.”

In 2009, FSU announced that men’s lacrosse would become the school’s 21st sport and Pearce would revive the program that had been relegated to club status since the late 1970s. Pearce brought an impressive résumé, including leading Gettysburg College to the NCAA Division III National Championship twice, once as a player and once as a coach. He hit the ground running at Frostburg, as the building blocks for the program. The Bobcats jumped into the USILA Poll for the first time and again advanced to the CAC Tournament and a berth in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Mid-Atlantic Region Championship.

In 2014, Frostburg posted 14 wins, hosted its first-ever CAC Tournament game, advanced to the CAC Tournament semifinals for the first time and again earned a berth in the ECAC Mid-Atlantic Championship.

That season’s highlight was back-to-back wins over St. Mary’s at Bobcat Stadium, the first in the regular-season finale, which clinched the first-round home game in the CAC Tournament, and the second four days later in the tournament’s first round. Seventeen players, the first four-year recruiting class in the second chapter of men’s lacrosse, were honored for senior day. Those seniors were Korey Bosley ’15, Jake McNeill ’14, Andy Lubmann, Britton Hoover ’14, Marcus Kyracou ’15, Zach Douglas ’14, Phil Hess ’14, Ryan Serto ’15, Lucas Flagg ’14, Devon Stanley ’15, Chase Grulp ’14, Kevin Kinney ’14, Ricky Kneebone ’14, Tyler Haines ’14, Billy Lark ’15, Brandon Goldfarb ’14 and Anton King ’15.

While it might be too early to completely understand what the 2015 team accomplished, here goes:

• The Bobcats opened their season 4-0 and were one of the final undefeated teams in Division III.

• Frostburg earned the program’s first bye in the CAC Tournament, won its first-ever CAC Tournament semifinal game and advanced to the league championship for the first time.

• Following a 14-8 home win over Christopher Newport in late March, the Bobcats jumped into the U.SILA Poll for the first time in program history and remained there throughout the remainder of the season.

• FSU scored 10 or more goals in 14 contests and led the nation in fewest turnovers per contest (13.53). The Bobcats also finished their season ranked fourth in the nation in assists (164), sixth in clearing percentage (.891), seventh in ground balls (704), eighth in scoring defense (6.16) and ninth in scoring margin (7.11).

• Eight players were All-CAC honorees, five on the first team, while senior defender Zach Burkhardt and Paul Newman garnered their third-consecutive All-CAC awards.

• Three players, Burkhardt, Chris Rios and Tom Kraemer, were named to the USILA All-American Honorable Mention team, the first in the program’s history. Burkhardt was also named a USILA Scholar All-American after earning a 3.8 GPA.

• Pearce was selected as the CAC Coach of the Year for the second time in three years.

“The year they set out to do was so good that we were surprised, said Pearce. “I didn’t want the season to end. …”

In June, football alumni and friends gathered for the Eighth Annual Football Golf Outing and Reunion at Rocky Gap Casino and Resort. It was a day filled with tales of exploits on and off the field. Pictured in the third row, from left, are Assistant Coach Tyrone Whit, Junior Davis ’95, Travis Smith ’95, Road Coach Deane Fitzgerald, Associate Athletic Director Robin Stevenson, Matt Carmelus ’60, Jason VanMeter ’01 and Stephen Meszaros, in the back row, from left, are Tom Baldwin ’95, Rachel Williams ’90, Herb Thomas ’76, Tom Holland ’95, Assistant Coach John Keeling, Steve Eisenbraun ’92, Richard Messer ’75 and Tom Jones ’97. In the third row, from left, are Ryan Lee ’99, Dave Deboldkowski ’02, Jason Henry ’99, Scott Haggard ’14, Assistant Coach Ron Groover, Mike Thode and Matt Meyer, in the front row, from left, are Brian Bell ’82, A.J. Bell ’95, Assistant Coach Pete Mayer and Alan Baldwin ’74.
Join us for a weekend celebrating FSU!

Meet up with friends and faculty, enjoy some great food and festivities and check out what’s new around campus.

Don’t forget to top it all off with the Homecoming football game and our late-night party, the Frostburg Finale!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15**
- Noon, Room 317, COT
  - Retired Employee Luncheon
    - By reservation only. RSVP Deadline: Oct. 7.

- 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Main Arena, Cordts PE Center
  - Pep Rally
    - Sponsored by the Student Government Association

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**
- 9:00 am – Noon, Compass Pavilion
  - Career Expo – “Aspire”
    - For more information, contact Dr. Robin L. Coates or Donna Swope, Office of Career Services, at donica@frostburg.edu or 301.687.4483.

- 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Rider Gallery, Fine Arts Building
  - SYNERGY ReDUX
    - Alumnus Art Exhibition
    - PSU art alumni return after 11 years to reprise their “Synergy” art exhibit and share how the exhibit has impacted their creative work and processes. Works by Justin Sherman ‘94, Rebecca Sherman ‘94, Cary Werner ‘94, Andrew James ‘94, Brian Friend ‘94, Laurie Hall ‘85 and an instructor Tom Frone.

- 5:00 pm, Main Arena, Cordts PE Center
  - Bobcat Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner
    - Join us to welcome six new inductees, commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the 1990 Football Team and celebrate four athletes being selected for the Capital Athletic Conference 25th Anniversary Team.

- 7:30 pm, Drama Theatre, PAC
  - Department of Theatre students present
  - The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie
    - Tickets go on sale Sept. 21, Box Office, 301.687.7462.

- 9:00 pm, ARMH, LUC
  - Late Night Comedy Night
    - Sponsored by University Programming Council
    - For more information, contact Robert Cooper at 301.687.4040.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**
- 7:00 am – 12:30 pm, ARMH, LUC
  - Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Brunch
  - Tailgating
    - Free parking on a first-come, first-served basis. Stop by the Alumni Tent for giveaways and refreshments.

- 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Lobby, LUC
  - Alumni Welcome Center
    - Refreshments, games and activities for the kids! Update contact information, leave a note for fellow alumni and register for awesome prizes.

- 11:00 am, Lobby, LUC
  - Walking Campus Tour
    - Get up close and personal with the buildings you grew to love!

- 11:00 am, Tent, Bobcat Stadium
  - Football Alumni and Family Reception
    - Football alumni and families of current players are invited to join us for a pre-game reception.

- 2:00 pm, Bobcat Stadium
  - Men’s Soccer Game
    - Sponsored by St. Mary’s College Seahawks
    - Free Admission

- 7:30 pm, Drama Theatre, PAC
  - Department of theatre students present
  - The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie
    - Tickets go on sale Sept. 21, Box Office, 301.687.7462.

- 9:00 pm – 1:00 am, LUC
  - Frostburg Finale (see box at right)
    - Includes: DJ, karaoke, photo booth, arcade games, food, drinks and more!
    - CASH BAR with complimentary appetizers.
    - Advance registration is recommended. For more information, contact our alumni@frostburg.edu or 301.687.4040.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am, ARMAH, LUC
  - Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
    - All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!
    - For more information, call 301.687.4066 or email alumni@frostburg.edu.

- 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, Main Arena, Cordts PE Center
  - Student Homecoming Dance
    - Sponsored by Black Student Alliance

**Homecoming Finale**
- Saturday, October 17 - 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM, LUC
- Join fellow Bobcats for a fabulous night of music, games and camaraderie!

**Includes:**
- Karaoke
- DJ mixing and mashing the tunes
- Photo booth, arcade games, creation stations
- Complimentary appetizers and CASH BAR

- Cost: $20. Must be 21 years old, ID required, security check.
- For more information: alumni@frostburg.edu or 301.687.4040

**To RSVP for any event listed above, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, call 301.687.4066 or email alumni@frostburg.edu. To register online, go to www.frostburg.edu/homecoming.**
Books by Alumni

The Clay Remembers
Barry K. Miller 65
Oppressed by a husband who treats her as his property, Anna Robinson struggles to find her voice and attain a high degree of peer recognition. Her husband, Frank, is a victim of an unspeakable crime. The Clay Remembers, told through the lens of a Oklahoma, is a story of a woman who must navigate a complex legal system to seek justice. The novel is a true account of the events surrounding the death of a woman who was brutally attacked by her husband and subsequently killed. The Clay Remembers is a powerful and poignant story that explores themes of domestic violence, justice, and resilience. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the struggle for women's rights and the fight against gender-based violence.
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MILESTONES

Marriages

1987
Lustricia Martin married Christopher Krebs ’86 on April 11, 2015. This is a litigation specialist for Erie Insurance Company. Clark is a teacher for the Baltimore City School System. The couple resides in Beltsville, Md. Their children are Twin girls, Jackie Grace and Emily Grace, born May 10, 2010.

2011
Rebecca Slate married Robert Benavitas, divisional manager at Liberty Mutual. They reside in Cumberland, Md.

2012
Kristina Marie Moore ’12 married Bryce Alan Sigler ’11 on May 9, 2015.

Families

1996
Greg Poland and his wife, Alison, announce the birth of their son, Andrew. Michael, Jr., on March 14, 2015.

2007
Melanie Topick and her husband, Andrew, announce the birth of their third child, Jack Michael, on June 20, 2015.

2009
Bevtta Demisch and husband, John, announce the birth of their first child, Emma Elizabeth, born June 12, 2015.

2010
Hannah Byler and her husband, Matt, announce the birth of their third child, Zoyah Rose, born May 31, 2015.

2011
Jennifer Steck and her husband, Andrew, announce the birth of their third child, Grant Michael, born June 3, 2015.

2012
Billy Jackson and his wife, Crystal, announce the birth of their second child, Samantha Olivia, born on May 28, 2015.

In Memoriam

Alumni

1957 Enordo R. “Moose” Arnone ’57/M’64, who died on June 28, 2015. He was a lifelong educator, following up a successful career as an assistant referee in soccer, and as a lawyer. He was a member of the University’s faculty for four years as a soccer goalie, and he pitched professionally in the St. Louis Browns/Baltimore Orioles organization. Arnone was deeply involved in his community and spearheaded many successful fundraisers for the University.

1959 Dr. Mark G. Middleton, who died March 1, 2015, was a professor of political science at the University of Maryland, College Park, and was the University’s director of the Maryland Institute for Policy Research. He was a long-time member of the University’s community and was active in many political organizations.

Dr. Mark G. Middleton, who died Jan. 19, 2015, was an adjunct faculty member in the FSU Department of Sociology for the past 10 years. At the time of his death, he was completing his doctorate in human and community development, which West Virginia University awarded posthumously. He launched Middleton Mount Snow Harps in 2002, designing and making the musical instruments. He was an active member of numerous organizations, he supported his husband through his career, and she used to the Bealls to promote a spirit of civic responsibility and an increased knowledge of government affairs and the political process.

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Not Your Average Summer Class

The forestry minor at FSU includes the study of subjects you might expect — botany, dendrology, forest ecology — and something you might not: chainsaws. Forestry students must prove that they can cut down a tree in a training program called Game of Logging, part of a particularly hands-on field practice class. Students like ethnobotany major Karen Johnson learn the proper techniques to clear out dead and diseased trees in a way that minimizes damage to other trees.

Read more or watch a video at bit.ly/FSUChainsaw
Main Stage Series

Steel Wheels Weekend With Western Maryland Scenic Railroad
FRIDAY, SEP. 11 • 12:30 PM
Sandy Shortridge
FRIDAY, SEP. 11 • 7:30 PM
Sandy Shortridge and The Whitetop Mountain Band
SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 • 12:30 PM
The Whitetop Mountain Band
SUNDAY, SEPT. 13 • 12:30 PM
Adam McPeak and Mountain Thunder

Appalachian Festival Capstone Concert
Jayme Stone’s Lomax Project
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 • 7:30 PM

Maryland Symphony Orchestra
With Guest Artist Francisco Fullana
FRIDAY, OCT. 9 • 7:30 PM

LIVE! at StarScape
De Temps Antan
SATURDAY, NOV. 21 • 7:30 PM
The Hot Sardines
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 7:30 PM

CES Concert Series
Daughtry
SATURDAY, OCT. 10 • 8:00 PM

A Columbia Artists Production Direct From India
Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India
Performing Spirit of India
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28 • 7:30 PM

Frostburg Theatre and Dance
Junie B. Jones – The Musical
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4 • 4:30 PM

Indian Ink Theatre Company
The Elephant Wrestler
FRIDAY, NOV. 6 • 7:30 PM

The Barter Players in Frosty
SATURDAY, DEC. 12 • 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00 PM

Flashdance – The Musical
THURSDAY, MARCH 10 • 7:30 PM

A Columbia Artists Production
Direct From Moscow, Russia
Moscow Festival Ballet
Company of 50
The Sleeping Beauty
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 • 7:30 PM
THURSDAY, MARCH 24 • 7:30 PM

On the EDGE
ALL EVENTS BEGIN AT 8:15 PM
Kellylee Evans • THURSDAY, OCT. 1
OVEOUS: Poetry and Music • THURSDAY, NOV. 19
Becca Stevens Band • THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Well-Strung • THURSDAY, MARCH 3
Zuzu African Acrobats • THURSDAY, APRIL 21

To purchase tickets or for more information:
1.866.TIXX.CES (1.866.849.9237) | 301.687.3137 | ces.frostburg.edu
Tickets go on sale August 24, 2015, at the Lane University Center Box Office
CES IS A PROGRAM OF THE FSU DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Persons with disabilities may request accommodation through the ADA Compliance Office: 301.687.4102 (VRO 1.800.735.2258). Frostburg State University is a smoke-free campus.

CES is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive, and is sponsored in part by the Allegany Arts Council with funds from the Maryland State Arts Council. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.
Taking the Longer View:
Opportunity Grants Help Enterprising Ideas Grow

For decades, FSU’s planetarium program has offered students and the local community deeper glimpses of the night sky through its collection of telescopes. However, the one telescope that offered views of deep space had been relegated to storage because of its unwieldy size and weight.

Two resourceful FSU students, physics majors Michael Miklewski, right, and Zachary Wolodkin ’15, wanted to turn the 17.5-inch reflector telescope into something mobile and usable, and they are doing so, thanks to the assistance of an FSU Foundation Opportunity Grant. Come this fall, a retrofitted telescope will be ready to open the horizons of current and future students.

Grants like this, supported through gifts to the Annual Fund, provide scores of similar applied learning experiences. Not only do these opportunities provide these students with practical experience related to their academic studies, but they have been shown to keep students on track for graduation.

Read more about their project on page 21.