SSSuccess
Student Support Services Marks 45 Years of Making a Difference
20  GIVING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS THE BOOST THEY NEED
Student Support Services has been demystifying college for FSU students for 45 years.

9  THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF A BOBCAT BUSINESS EDUCATION
As CEO of Ripple Effect – one of America’s fastest-growing private companies – Amy Kelsch Bielski ‘97 credits her Frostburg experience for building her foundation for success.

14  TAKING THE ARTIST’S PATH
The Diana L. James ‘74 Art Scholarship celebrates the lifelong bond of Bobcat friendship and honors the memory of an extraordinary alumna who found career success on the artist’s path in life.

16  FIRST CAREER SUMMIT A BIG SUCCESS
Dozens of students hobnobbed with a diverse group of successful alumni in D.C. at Frostburg’s inaugural Career Summit, designed to facilitate their college-to-career transitions and paving the way for a new Bobcat tradition. It was hosted by Wayne Scott ’89.

18  REDISCOVERING THE HEART IN HEALTH CARE
When she tired of the bureaucratic monotony of her primary care practice in 2014, Dr. Beth Smolko embarked on a new challenge: providing health care in rural Haiti. There, in destitute and difficult conditions, the director of Frostburg’s PA program rekindled her love of medicine.
Welcome to this edition of Profile. Frostburg State University has always been about transforming lives. From its inception in 1898, there was a clear need for a school in Western Maryland that would be the place of opportunity for many families whose parents aspired for their children to get the college education they themselves could never experience or afford.

Today’s generation of students is in as much need of support during college as previous generations, if not more. In this issue, you will read about Student Support Services, a federal program that is one of our key supports for students. SSS is celebrating its 45th anniversary on campus this year. We continue to provide academic tutoring and advising to keep students on the path to graduation. However, we are dealing with a greater need for first-year students to transition successfully from high school to college in terms of study habits and time management. There are mental health challenges as well for many students, including overcoming loneliness and making new friends (beyond the smart phone!). FSU, like so many colleges and universities, invests time and people to help students navigate college life. We monitor class attendance and student self-reports about how they are doing and reach out to those who need our attention.

For students who successfully make the transition into college, the importance of career readiness grows. I am extremely pleased that so many of our alums want to give back to their alma mater and get involved in mentoring and advising our students who are thinking about life after college. As a first-generation college student myself, I recall my parents being supportive, but they also told me that – other than telling me to work hard and stay motivated – they were unable to offer me much advice on career goals. A number of our alums have decided to step into that role. Career Summit is a vehicle to help guide the FSU student toward life after college. You will read about the proactive approach our alums, working with faculty and staff, are taking to ensure our students are prepared for job interviews and to present themselves and their accomplishments in a positive light. We know that securing that ideal career position in today’s competitive market goes beyond the course transcript and includes activities and internship experiences outside of the classroom. Opportunities for our students to network with FSU alums are crucial for student success.

I very much appreciate your efforts to stay connected and help our students follow your path to success!

Stay in touch, and Go Bobcats!

Cordially,

Ronald Nowaczyk, Ph.D.
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Bobcat Alums, Parents and Friends,

ON THE COVER: Student Support Services has been providing the bridge to success for students at FSU for 45 years. Some of the current SSS students are, from front row from left, Judith Insilo and Kristen Illig; second row from left, Andrea Constant, Kelsey Saylor ’18, Gaby Perez Torres and Brandi Binkley; and third row from left, Kameron Brooks, Kenneth Faulkner and Shawn Wall.

PHOTO BY ANN TOWNSELL ’87

President Nowaczyk speaks at the launch meeting of FSU’s Excellence in Academic Advising project task force, a broad-ranging group of faculty, staff and students.

Leading the Way in Advising

Frostburg State University was selected to be one of only 12 institutions nationwide involved in the first-ever cohort of the Excellence in Academic Advising initiative. As part of this process, FSU will examine and enhance student advising services in recognition of the close link between quality academic advising and retention.

FSU faculty and staff secured a grant to support the two-year effort to improve academic advising so that students’ abilities are aligned with the best disciplinary areas of study and graduation rates are improved.
FSU has made in hiring more women and people of color to senior administrative positions. The conference focuses on the changing landscape in higher education and how institutions like FSU are responding. FSU has made with The Registry the past several years, was invited to present a panel of speakers to an audience of nearly 150 presidents and other higher education executives. The topic focused on diversity and the recent strides FSU has made in hiring more women and people of color to senior administrative positions.

Presenting were two Registry members at FSU, Dr. Dorothy Campbell and Vice President for Administration and Finance John Short and Vice President for Administration and Finance Leon Wyden. They led the team by setting the broader context for leadership, diversity and inclusion.

FSU Presents at The Registry

Members of FSU’s leadership team were part of the annual conference last fall for The Registry, an organization that matches seasoned higher education professionals with colleges and universities seeking interim appointments to top executive positions. The conference focuses on the changing landscape in higher education and how institutions like FSU are responding. FSU, which has worked with The Registry the past several years, was invited to present a panel of speakers to an audience of nearly 150 presidents and other higher education executives. The topic focused on diversity and the recent strides FSU has made in hiring more women and people of color to senior administrative positions.

Presenting were two Registry members at FSU, Dr. Dorothy Campbell, who was interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences throughout 2018, and Dr. Bryce Williams, who is in her third year as interim dean of the College of Education, along with President Nowaczyk, Vice President for University Advancement John Short and Vice President for Administration and Finance Leon Wyden. Wyden led the team by setting the broader context for leadership, diversity and inclusion.

FSU Presents at The Registry

Members of FSU’s leadership team were part of the annual conference last fall for The Registry, an organization that matches seasoned higher education professionals with colleges and universities seeking interim appointments to top executive positions. The conference focuses on the changing landscape in higher education and how institutions like FSU are responding. FSU, which has worked with The Registry the past several years, was invited to present a panel of speakers to an audience of nearly 150 presidents and other higher education executives. The topic focused on diversity and the recent strides FSU has made in hiring more women and people of color to senior administrative positions.

Presenting were two Registry members at FSU, Dr. Dorothy Campbell, who was interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences throughout 2018, and Dr. Bryce Williams, who is in her third year as interim dean of the College of Education, along with President Nowaczyk, Vice President for University Advancement John Short and Vice President for Administration and Finance Leon Wyden. Wyden led the team by setting the broader context for leadership, diversity and inclusion.

FSU Presents at The Registry

Members of FSU’s leadership team were part of the annual conference last fall for The Registry, an organization that matches seasoned higher education professionals with colleges and universities seeking interim appointments to top executive positions. The conference focuses on the changing landscape in higher education and how institutions like FSU are responding. FSU, which has worked with The Registry the past several years, was invited to present a panel of speakers to an audience of nearly 150 presidents and other higher education executives. The topic focused on diversity and the recent strides FSU has made in hiring more women and people of color to senior administrative positions.

Presenting were two Registry members at FSU, Dr. Dorothy Campbell, who was interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences throughout 2018, and Dr. Bryce Williams, who is in her third year as interim dean of the College of Education, along with President Nowaczyk, Vice President for University Advancement John Short and Vice President for Administration and Finance Leon Wyden. Wyden led the team by setting the broader context for leadership, diversity and inclusion.
Residence Hall Improvements Continue

Completion in 2020.

Construction on FSU’s brand-new residence hall Cumberland Hall is expected to reopen in fall 2019.

Resident’s renovations, which are already under way.

Now lockable single-person facilities. Residents newly reconfigured bathrooms – all of which are to students this semester, featuring a full kitchen.

Even Bigger Event

The Student Government Association Big Event at Homecoming, the annual activity in which student groups clean a designated street after Homecoming, turned 25 years-old in 2018.

This event started during the 1993 FSU Homecoming when the SGA Senate realized this would be a great opportunity for the campus community to build a stronger relationship with the Frostburg community.

For the 25th Anniversary, 1993 SGA President Alex Giles ’94 came back to Frostburg to take part in this initiative. The 2019 SGA Senate honored Giles and the 1993 Senate with a resolution acknowledging the impact the event has had over its existence. Current SGA President Benjamin Forrest presented Former President Giles with a ceremonial copy of resolution.

Students Present Study Documenting the History of African-Americans in Western Maryland

In December, students in Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas’s sociology course presented their work documenting Western Maryland African-American history with the Jane Gates Heritage House at the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Teaching Project in Arlington, Va., where they met up with some alumni as well. From left are Rogers, Thomas, Logan Thomas ’99 (ARC Staff), Stephanie Ray, Davoni Cooper, Kristen Legon, ARC Federal Co-Chart Tien Thomas, Kirsten Hadrick, Donnae Washington, Ngozi Alia and Keith Witt ’96. Student reps will also present their work at this year’s Appalachian Shaker Association Conference in Asheville, N.C.

Professor’s New Book Unveils the Dangerous Hidden Game Lurking Online

From the days of ancient Greece, persuasive communication – rhetoric – considered invalid as being not worthy of consideration or study.

Then came the internet.

Trying to use a traditional rhetorical argument with an internet troll is an exercise in futility, as the trolls delight in chasing their targets with threats and mockery. But a new book argues that these techniques should be studied just as regular rhetorics is to increase understanding.

In her new book, The Internet as a Game, Dr. Jill Morris, an expert in formal rhetorics, details where and how real online harassment campaigns have been organized, and she explains when and why their targets were chosen. Morris argues that rhetoric experts – rhetoricians, as they’re called – must begin studying those unorthodox techniques commonly found online so they can cover them in classrooms.

“This is huge movement right now that nobody has studied yet,” said Morris, an associate professor of English and Foreign Languages. “Just because the things that are happening online are not traditionally rhetorical doesn’t mean they are not effective. It’s not enough to point at it and say, ‘It’s bad.’ We need to figure out how it works.”

The Internet as a Game begins that process, building on the work of other rhetoricians to offer a new framework for critically examining internet argumentation. Here it is presented as a game, guided by procedural rhetoric, the argument a game presents about the way the world works through its underlying rules and procedures.

By examining real-life online harassment campaigns that took place between 2006 and 2015, Morris unmasks and defines some of the rules, techniques and processes used to organize online strangers into loose “ad hocra- cies” built around the “game” of harassing their common foe.

While today’s students may not understand the organizational methods used by online harassers, Morris says many of her students have already seen online harassment play out.

“They need to be aware of what things can cause harassment,” Morris said. “It’s especially important if you are going to work PR for a company that the things you’re posting to your company’s website and Facebook page aren’t going to get you slammed.”

It was as an undergraduate that Morris first became interested in internet argumentation and trolling. She was running a website from her dorm room when a troll set his sights on her. From harassing emails to contacting her university, even attacking her at other sites across the internet, the troll was unfurling.

Her interest was piqued not long afterward when she realized that any nuanced arguments she posted online were either ignored or mocked.

Her new book synthesizes decades of research, experiences as a web designer and lifelong internet user, and best practices that she has honed in physical and digital college classrooms.

The Internet as a Game is written primarily for an academic audience, but it is a valuable book for all who want to understand why they have been targeted for online harassment, how that harassment is being organized and by whom.

As the world increasingly moves online, understanding that harassment becomes more and more crucial every day.

Published by Smad Beer Press, it is available from online and local booksellers.

Award-Winning Faculty Author Andy Duncan Publishes New Book

From a gallows in 16th-century England to a show in 1920s New York City, from the mythical Big Rock Candy Mountain to “Delusahatchie” – the next railroad stop past Hell – award-winning author and faculty member Andy Duncan takes readers on a dozen fantastical adventures to real and imagined settings in his new book, An Agent of Utopia, New and Selected Stories.

For his third collection, Duncan, a professor of English, decided to gather his latest stories, opting to create something closer to a “greatest hits” collection. An Agent of Utopia features two new stories alongside 10 of the author’s favorite previously published tales from 1997 to 2012.

While no two stories are alike in plot, setting or character, Duncan noted that all of the stories are united by a loose thread: things that bother him.

“John Kesel, one of my mentors, told me … ‘You can’t help it. You wind up always writing about things that bother you,’” Duncan said. “People bother me. Religion and bush bother me. And politics bother me … Who has power and who does not? The struggle between the haves and have-nots. Who’s in and who’s out? A lot of these stories are about people who are breaking boundaries of categories.”

Many of the book’s fictional stories sprang from actual historical events, personalities or oddities that somehow got stuck in the back of Duncan’s mind.

“Something has to look in my head for months or years before I eventually realize what the story is, and it coalesces around it like the pearl around the get of sand,” he explained.

An Agent of Utopia, published by Small Beer Press, is available from online and local booksellers.

The newly remodeled Annapolis Hall reopened to students this semester, featuring a full kitchen on the first floor, new lounge furniture and newly reconfigured bathrooms – all of which are now lockable single-person facilities. Residents of Cumberland Hall have been relocated into Annapolis to make way for the next phase of renovations, which are already under way.

Cumberland Hall is expected to reopen in fall 2019.

Construction on FSU’s brand-new residence hall continues to proceed on schedule for an anticipated completion in 2020.

The Internet as a Game

In his new book, Dr. Jill Morris presents an unusual perspective on the trolls that have populated the internet.

Morris believes that trolls are simply exposing our world’s underlying rules, procedures and methods.

While trolls may be annoying, they are also helpful – helping us understand the way the world works through its underlying rules and procedures.

For his third collection, Duncan’s editor declined to name a theme or ‘greatest hits’ collection. But he did encourage Duncan to focus on some of his favorite previously published tales.

An Agent of Utopia, published by Smad Beer Press, is available from online and local booksellers.

— Robert Spurrier ’73

An Agent of Utopia: New and Selected Stories

Published by Small Beer Press, is available from online and local booksellers.
C A M P U S  H O N O R S

Three Employees Honored With Staff Awards for Excellence

John Brewer ‘90, assistant director of Facilities, Planning/Construction and Housekeeping, was honored in the Exempt (salaried) employee category. An employee for 18 years, he reconstructed the Housekeeping Department and has worked on projects such as the new stadiums/press box, public safety building and the Education and Health Sciences Building. Brewer also plays a significant role in his community through numerous organizations, including the Accident Zions Lutheran Church, and as a Fishing Tournament director, Little League vice president and coach, a member of the Garrett County Fair board of directors, 4-H volunteer and youth soccer coach.

Stacy Arnold, IT Data Control supervisor, won the award in the Nonexempt Employee category. She is one of the few people on campus who interacts with all members of the campus and community, from students and parents to food vendors both on and off campus. Knowledgeable about multiple systems, she maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. She also manages 30 systems, she maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. She also manages 30 systems, she maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. She also manages 30 systems. She is one of the few people on campus who interacts with all members of the campus and community, from students and parents to food vendors both on and off campus. Knowledgeable about multiple systems, she maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. She also manages 30 systems.

Mark Williams, IT Data Control supervisor, won the award in the Nonexempt Employee category. He is one of the few people on campus who interacts with all members of the campus and community, from students and parents to food vendors both on and off campus. Knowledgeable about multiple systems, he maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. He also manages 30 systems. He is one of the few people on campus who interacts with all members of the campus and community, from students and parents to food vendors both on and off campus. Knowledgeable about multiple systems, he maintains the database for meals, Bonus and more. He also manages 30 systems.

John Brewer

Stacy Arnold

Mark Williams

Dr. Justin Dunmyer

Lisa Clark Honored with Civic Engagement Award

Lisa Clark, director of the A-STAR! AmeriCorps program, was selected as the winner of Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic’s Civic Engagement Award for 2018. “For Maryland’s four westernmost counties, Lisa serves as a catalyst for bringing people, organizations and neighbors together to work toward collaborative solutions to the many challenges facing our 21st-century communities,” said Bill Mandicott, assistant vice president of Student and Community Engagement.

As director of A-STAR! Clark oversees 130-plus AmeriCorps members across 22 partnering agencies while serving as an ambassador and recruiter for FSU. The Civic Engagement Award recognizes her contributions to the development of civic learning and engagement in Western Maryland.

Lotto Receives Third Individual Artist Award

Physics professor Dr. Greg Latta has won his third Individual Artist Award from the Maryland State Arts Council. He was recognized in the category for Non-Classical Music: Solo Performance.

In addition to teaching physics, Latta is a singer, songwriter and award-winning performer on the hammered dulcimer, banjo, guitar, Irish bouzouki, cittern, harmonica, recorder, Appalachian dulcimer and cornett. He is also host and producer of the radio show "Just Plain Folks," which can be heard Saturday afternoons on WYMY, 91.9 FM, FSU’s public radio station.

Communications Assistant Professor Annie Danzi, center, interviews the topic of her documentary, "teacher Gwen Lehman. Student crew members are, from left, Thomas Gallery ’15, Ryan Soffe ’15, Aubree Telck ’15, Andrew Richardson ’16 and Shalana Powell ’15.}

Dr. Justin Dunmyer

Lisa Clark

Dr. Paul Bernhardt

Dr. Thomas Sigerstadt

Mark Williams

Dr. Thomas Sigerstadt

Stacy Arnold

John Brewer

Dr. Paul Bernhardt

Lisa Clark
From the Alumni Association Board President

Dear Fellow FSU Alumni:

I am excited to start a new year with the Alumni Association Board or Directors. We look forward to working with the University, alumni and students. We want to extend an invitation to everyone to come back to the FSU community we all know and love. There are many events planned for 2019, including our first Homecoming in NCAA Division II. We hope to see you all there!

This year, one of our focused initiatives is to connect alumni with current students. FSU alumni have so many experiences to share with students—mostly good and some bad—that create a learning opportunity for others. During this exchange, it provides alumni who are willing to participate a link back to the ‘Burgh. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@frostburg.edu or 301.687.4068.

FSU has many exciting changes coming this year. I encourage everyone to stop by, attend an event, make a gift or assist in recruiting new students. When you come to campus, bring the kids! I am always amazed at how excited my young son is to be on campus. FSU has a great past and, with help from our alumni, can continue to have a great future.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Alumni Board, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Jason_Vansickle ‘98

Alumni News

Books by Alumni

Committed: A Woman’s Guide to Virtuous, Liberated Love
Shelley Mitchell ’88

Mitchell, an ordained pastor, challenges the stigma that a woman’s perspective is compromised if she wants to be confident, empowered and stay with her mate. Mitchell specializes in women’s issues and oversees a women’s ministry. Mitchell also wrote Divine Madness in 2005, a novel about a single mother with no one to turn to but God, who is determined to become the woman God says she is rather than whom she sees in the mirror.

What Was, What Is, What Is to Be
Amanda Baldwin Kremitzer ’08

With an annual revenue of $11.6M and three-year growth of more than 1,000 percent—yes, one thousand—their no-nonsense approach to creating ripple effects is being ranked time and again as one of the nation’s fastest-growing companies.

“How did this happen? I guess you just hire amazing people, support them and get out of their way!” posted founders and co-owners Amy Kelch Bielski ’97 on the company’s social media account.

Ripple Effect, a woman-owned small business based in Rockville, Md., was ranked No. 467 in Inc. magazine’s annual ranking of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation and No. 15 in Maryland. Washington Business Journal ranked it at No. 41 in its 75 Fastest-Growing Companies list.

With 150 employees, the company provides services for private, government and nonprofit entities in the areas of research and evaluation, policy and project management and communications and outreach.

Many of these employees are Ph.D. scientists who chose to leave the research field in favor of affecting programs and policies.

Bielski worked for various consulting firms prior to starting Ripple Effect.

“I saw that how the business was run really impacted the staff’s ability to perform their jobs at the highest level,” said Bielski of her employment with other consulting firms. “Everything from hiring and training to simple office space influenced how the staff performed, so I decided I could offer something better to both staff and clients.”

Bielski credits her time at Frostburg State for helping build a foundation for success. As a student, Bielski was a business administration major and noted that her academics laid a groundwork of knowledge. Professors such as Dr. Ahmad Tououomi and other faculty and staff provided thoughtful guidance to her throughout her FSU years.

Outside of class, Bielski said her involvement in numerous student organizations added to her classroom instruction, especially the former GOLD Program (Generating Opportunities for Leadership Development), which encouraged students to attend weekly leadership training, participate in the half council, work on committees and become involved in other activities.

Recalling her leadership roles in student organizations, “I wish I could do this as a job; I’d be awesome at it.”

As a parent of college-age children—she and husband James Bielski ’97 have two daughters—Amy Bielski knows exactly what advice to give to current Frostburg State students: Seek out experiences.

“Experiences teach us who we are and what our place is in this world,” said Bielski. “We spend a lot of time in our careers—too long for it to be the wrong career—so get out there and experience as much as possible to see what’s the right fit.”

Burke Honored as Under 30 Literary Champion

Patrick Burke M’14, who was an Irish graduate assistant for the Children’s Literature Centre in the 2013-14 academic year, was recently named by the International Literary Association (ILA) as one of their 30 Under 30 literary champions across the globe.

‘We are incredibly proud of Patrick, but not surprised,” said Dr. Barbara Ornstein, professor emerita and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.

The 30 Under 30 award is given to leaders in literary education. Burke’s career, his award-winning research on literary integration across the curriculum caught the attention of ILA.

Burke arrived at FSU through the University’s study abroad partnership with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland.

“It was a genuine pleasure to have been able to work with so many children and parents through events like Pirates Ahoy and Storybook Holiday,” said Burke of his time at Frostburg. “I am envious of everybody who had the opportunity to attend the Harry Potter Book Night recently. It is another example of the incredible energy and imagination that the CLC and FSU staff bring to their work in the community.”

Burke is now a faculty member at Mary Immaculate College working toward his doctorate at Dublin City University.

Bringing Books to the “Desert”: Alum Launches Project LIT Chapler

Project LIT is a nationwide movement that is addressing the issue of “book deserts,” communities where children have little access to books that will help them develop literacy skills that will be the foundation of their education. It was started by a high school teacher in Nashville and has been picked up by teachers nationwide.

Amanda Baldwin Kremitzer ’08, an English teacher at Tuscarora High School in Frederick, Md., launched a chapter of Project LIT last year when she recognized that Tuscarora’s feeder schools lack libraries.

At Tuscarora, Project LIT takes the form of a book club covering topics relevant to the students, and generally outside the realm of the typical English class assignment. Topics can be difficult or controversial—past topics include hate crimes and ethnic identities—and the book club creates a place where debates and honest conversations can happen, an exploration that grows from the books they read.

Kremitzer hopes to expand the club to other county schools and other teachers. Learn more at sites.google.com/fgs.org/thisproject or on Twitter and Instagram at @THIS_PROJECTLIT.

Alumni Spotlight

Ripple Effects from Frostburg Experience

By Sherry White

Push CEO Bielski Toward Success

Ripple Effects, a woman-owned small business based in Rockville, Md., was ranked No. 467 in Inc. magazine’s annual ranking of the fastest-growing private companies in the nation and No. 15 in Maryland. Washington Business Journal ranked it at No. 41 in its 75 Fastest-Growing Companies list.

With 150 employees, the company provides services for private, government and nonprofit entities in the areas of research and evaluation, policy and project management and communications and outreach.

Many of these employees are Ph.D. scientists who chose to leave the research field in favor of affecting programs and policies.

Bielski worked for various consulting firms prior to starting Ripple Effect.

“I saw that how the business was run really impacted the staff’s ability to perform their jobs at the highest level,” said Bielski of her employment with other consulting firms. “Everything from hiring and training to simple office space influenced how the staff performed, so I decided I could offer something better to both staff and clients.”

Bielski credits her time at Frostburg State for helping build a foundation for success. As a student, Bielski was a business administration major and noted that her academics laid a groundwork of knowledge. Professors such as Dr. Ahmad Tououomi and other faculty and staff provided thoughtful guidance to her throughout her FSU years.

Outside of class, Bielski said her involvement in numerous student organizations added to her classroom instruction, especially the former GOLD Program (Generating Opportunities for Leadership Development), which encouraged students to attend weekly leadership training, participate in the half council, work on committees and become involved in other activities.

Recalling her leadership roles in student organizations, “I wish I could do this as a job; I’d be awesome at it.”

As a parent of college-age children—she and husband James Bielski ’97 have two daughters—Amy Bielski knows exactly what advice to give to current Frostburg State students: Seek out experiences.

“Experiences teach us who we are and what our place is in this world,” said Bielski. “We spend a lot of time in our careers—too long for it to be the wrong career—so get out there and experience as much as possible to see what’s the right fit.”

Follow in the Footsteps of a Gold Medallion Recipient

Bob Young ’66 and Bob Lakenan ’66 were some of the alumni who said the 50th anniversary of their graduation, one seat was left vacant. The gesture was to honor their classmate, 1st Lt. M. Douglas Martin ’66, who was killed in action in Vietnam. Members of the class were presented anniversary medallions, and one was included for Martin.

Bob Lakenan ’66, Dave Schrodel ’66, Jim Richardson ’66 and other classmates decided they wanted to find any of Martin’s surviving family members to present them with the medallion more than two years ago, but Schrodel finally located Martin’s older brother, Dick. They invited him to a knoll in February, where they presented him with a shadowbox containing the medallion and a photo of his brother’s name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

Those who gathered to honor Doug Martin are, from front row left, Diana Pennington Schrodel ’97, Carolyn Smith Roy ’67, Dennis Baker ’66 and Bob Lakenan ’66; back row from left, Dave Schrodel ’66, Bill Roy ’66, Jim Richardson ’66, Dick Martin, Bob Young ’66 and Paul Helm ’66.

Join the Conversation!

Join Shannon Gribble ‘98 and Brooke Kirchner via Facebook for Thursday Night LIVE from the Alumni Center at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month.

Ask questions, share comments or just watch for an update on what’s going on at FSU.

Frostburg State University Alumni Association
Steven Glasbrenner '18
Staff Accountant
Squire, Leimkin & Company, LLP
Accomplishments/Activities: President of Accounting Association, Commencement speaker, PNC College of Business Presidential Merit Scholar Award, Student Alumni Ambassador
What is your favorite FSU memory? Having the opportunity to play college basketball in my hometown and drawing as the mascot for the Office of University Advancement!
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to strengthen the connection between students and alumni. I want to be a resource for students as they transition from college life to the real world.

Katie Morgan '15
Foreign Military Sales Program Analyst
RBC Inc.
Accomplishments/Activities: SGA President, President’s Leadership Circle, Alpha Sigma Tau
What is your favorite FSU memory? The people. The connections I made at Frostburg have become the people I rely on in life. They are the ones I celebrate my accomplishments with and those I turn to when I need a shoulder to cry on. I don’t know where I would be without them.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I would love to connect more alumni together. We are truly a force to be reckoned with and have a lot of potential for greatness.

Glen W. Wayson '14
Owner, State Farm Agency
Accomplishments/Activities: Founding my fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, to success and becoming a leader in the alumni association at this summer 2012 Sigma Alpha Epsilon Leadership School. I was the first Frostburg SAE to receive this distinction, only 1% of the whole nation were chosen that year to help run the leadership school with the staff.
Favorite FSU memory: My favorite memory of Frostburg was the blizzard of spring 2016. I created a list of great memories being snowed in with my roommates for a week and exploring the town, even though we had to walk in the middle of the streets because the snow was too high in the sidewalks.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to facilitate a deeper conduit that leads our alumni back to FSU.

Ed Herold '83
Entrepreneur and Financial Services Business Owner
Principal, Edward F. Herold, Jr., CPA, LLC
Accomplishments/Activities: Successfully established a self-sustaining financial services business operating for over 28 years providing small businesses and individuals with a wide range of services. Having my own business provides time for other passions, including philanthropy, serving on non-profit boards, participating in ultramarathons, century bike rides, duathlons and triathlons with the goal of completing an ultramarathon in 2019. What also fuels my personal and professional drive is creating and collaborating with charitable and nonprofit organizations, “paying it forward,” including ECHO, with a mission of providing education to children in Vietnam. The team’s 1000 project to provide funding for arts programs in Washington, D.C., Annapolis Green promoting environmental stewardship and the Herald family Scholarship at FSU.
What is your favorite FSU memory? One of my favorite memories has been having the opportunity to represent FSU at leadership conferences in Prague, Czech Republic, and Dubai, UAE.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to facilitate a deeper connection between alumni who are elderly or not at all involved and the university. Many alumni want to stay connected with the University, but they do not know how. It is important that we as board members become a conduit that leads our alumni back to FSU.

Mary Biscoe-Hall, Esq. '12
Litigation Associate Attorney
Summers, Brown & Summers, P.C.
Accomplishments/Activities: President of SBA and Delta Zeta National Sorority, vice-president of Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, member of President’s Leadership Core, Student Alumni Ambassador and Sadie Holle’ Owner. Following Frostburg, I attended the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and graduated in 2015. I serve on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap. I also serve as the risk management advisor for SBA chapter of Delta Zeta National Sorority. In April 2018, I was honored by FSU and received the Young Alumni Achievement Award.
What is your favorite FSU memory? I have so many favorite memories. Aside from eating endless Chick-Fil-A with my sorority sisters, there are two favorite memories. First, running the Mile of the Community Award during my senior year. Receiving this award was a great culmination of my Frostburg experience. Second, having the opportunity to represent FSU at leadership conferences in Prague, Czech Republic, and Dubai, UAE.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I would like to work to strengthen the connections between the University, surrounding community, students and alumni. We all have a common bond, and I hope we will continue to identify opportunities in which to engage with all audiences.

Meet Your New Alumni Board Members
Alumni Connections
The Alumni Association hosted a variety of alumni gatherings last summer at three major league ballparks: Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, home left, the Pirates’ PNC Park in Pittsburgh, above right, and Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. The Bobcat pride was overflowing as alumni from all decades joined to cheer on their teams.

Glenn Wayson ’14
Owner, State Farm Agency
Accomplishments/Activities: Founding my fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, to success and becoming a leader in the alumni association at this summer 2012 Sigma Alpha Epsilon Leadership School. I was the first Frostburg SAE to receive this distinction, only 1% of the whole nation were chosen that year to help run the leadership school with the staff.
Favorite FSU memory: My favorite memory of Frostburg was the blizzard of spring 2016. I created a list of great memories being snowed in with my roommates for a week and exploring the town, even though we had to walk in the middle of the streets because the snow was too high in the sidewalks.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to facilitate a deeper conduit that leads our alumni back to FSU.

Ed Herold ’83
Entrepreneur and Financial Services Business Owner
Principal, Edward F. Herold, Jr., CPA, LLC
Accomplishments/Activities: Successfully established a self-sustaining financial services business operating for over 28 years providing small businesses and individuals with a wide range of services. Having my own business provides time for other passions, including philanthropy, serving on non-profit boards, participating in ultramarathons, century bike rides, duathlons and triathlons with the goal of completing an ultramarathon in 2019. What also fuels my personal and professional drive is creating and collaborating with charitable and nonprofit organizations, “paying it forward,” including ECHO, with a mission of providing education to children in Vietnam. The team’s 1000 project to provide funding for arts programs in Washington, D.C., Annapolis Green promoting environmental stewardship and the Herold family Scholarship at FSU.
What is your favorite FSU memory? One of my favorite memories has been having the opportunity to represent FSU at leadership conferences in Prague, Czech Republic, and Dubai, UAE.
What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to facilitate a deeper connection between alumni who are elderly or not at all involved and the university. Many alumni want to stay connected with the University, but they do not know how. It is important that we as board members become a conduit that leads our alumni back to FSU.
Recognizing Leadership Donors

During Homecoming, the FSU Foundation hosted the Leadership Donor Reception, which featured students from the Vocal Jazz Ensemble and classical guitar soloist Paul Zimmerman. The reception celebrated the philanthropy of leadership donors and highlighted our continued need for support to provide life-changing experiences for our students.

New Named Funds (as of January 10, 2019)

- WCBC Radio Scholarship
- Dr. Jason H. Edwards & Dr. Megan E. Bradley Experiential Learning Scholarship
- Dr. Alice R. Manicur Endowment
- John P. Reuschlein Scholarship for Sloop Leadership Institute
- Kurt Pfluger ’80 Paul E. and Betty J. Barry Endowed Scholarship
- John Short, executive director of the FSU Foundation, at the FSU Foundation/FSUBSportsPrints.com unveiling of Lea Pfluger Flaim’s yearbook picture showing her with a tennis racket.

Planning for a vacation requires selecting a destination, making reservations and packing your bags. There is another area of life that requires good planning — your estate plan. A good estate plan can ensure you are prepared for the future, so that you have what you need when you need it.

Humble Standout Memorialized in Tennis Locker Room Dedication

During Homecoming, Frostburg dedicated the women’s tennis locker room in memory of Lea Pfluger Flaim ’82, a natural athlete and Bobcat tennis star. Flaim, who passed away in 2012, taught physical education for decades at St. Columba School in Oxon Hill, Md.

Kurt learned from the FSU Foundation that the Pflugers could dedicate the locker room in their sister’s memory. Once he discussed the idea with his family, a plan was made.

The Pflugers knew how much tennis meant to their sister. Her siblings recalled watching her grow from an easy-to-beat kid into an almost unstoppable force.

“In high school, she played volleyball, basketball and tennis, but tennis was her main thing from an early age,” said Kurt.

“Most people think of her as a tennis player,” said Len Pfluger, Flaim’s twin brother. “She was a natural athlete and Bobcat tennis star. Flaim was made.”

Despite her natural skill, Flaim wasn’t one for the spotlight — a trait the Pfluger siblings were reminded of by their sister’s former tennis coach, Nancy Crawley M’70, who attended the dedication and talked about her former player.

“She said, ‘I wanted Lea to be the number one player, but she never really wanted to be number one,’” said Kurt. “That sounds to me just like Lea.”

“She didn’t want to draw attention to herself,” agreed Diana Pfluger, Flaim’s younger sister. “She was a little shy.”

“Her siblings recalled that the Pfluger room, tucked at the end of a hallway, was the perfect place to honor their humble sister.

“The Pfluger siblings agreed that the Pflugers could dedicate the locker room, tucked at the end of a hallway, as the perfect place to honor their humble sister.

For help with your estate planning, contact Liz Nelson, Planned Giving Officer, eanelson@frostburg.edu 301.687.4068. You can also visit www.fsulflegacy.org.
L
isa Caplan Dane ’74 arrived at Frostburg State College in a non-traditional way, transferring in as a junior in 1972. Housed in Cumberland Hall, she soon met a rising artist whose taken the traditional path to college: Diana L. James ’74.

“She was my RA, but we were the same age,” Dane said. “She led one of those positive draws to virtually anybody she met. I was lucky to become a good friend of hers because we had similar interests… We immediately clicked as friends over a shared love of music, horses, hiking, art and travel.”

The friendship soon deepened, and by Commencement it had broadened to include Dane’s future husband, John H. Dane ’73. James was a bridesmaid when the Danes married in June of 1974. When the Danes’ children were born, she became a de facto aunt.

Their friendship persevered across the distance. Sometimes they visited one another. Other times they traveled together. “It was fun for us to look at each other’s lives,” said Dane. “I had a more traditional path after college; she had the artist’s path. There’s something good about both. She had the independence, but I had the security, children and so forth. We sort of benefitted from sharing both of those things.”

James chose her artist’s path deliberately. She had majored in art education. For a time, she taught art near her hometown of Aberdeen, Md. After a stint in Albuquerque, N.M., in the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she found her talents in demand, painting commissioned artworks for celebrities, set pieces for noteworthy theatre companies, decorations for the Chicago Bears’ headquarters and even period-appropriate wall designs for a commemoration of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition.

When James moved to Central Texas to care for aging family members, she resumed teaching art at the Museum of Western Art and set pieces for the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she taught art near her hometown of Aberdeen, Md. After a stint in Albuquerque, N.M., in the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she found her talents in demand, painting commissioned artworks for celebrities, set pieces for noteworthy theatre companies, decorations for the Chicago Bears’ headquarters and even period-appropriate wall designs for a commemoration of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition.

When James moved to Central Texas to care for aging family members, she resumed teaching art at the Museum of Western Art and set pieces for the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she found her talents in demand, painting commissioned artworks for celebrities, set pieces for the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she found her talents in demand, painting commissioned artworks for celebrities, set pieces for the 1980s, she moved to Chicago. There, she found her talents in demand, painting commissioned artworks for celebrities, set pieces for the CLC Book Award.

In its seventh year, the CLC award for 2018 was presented to author Carson Levis for her book, *Ida, Always*, a book about friendship and loss as told through the story of two polar bears. In addition to the 2018 winner, six other titles have the distinction of displaying the CLC Book Award insignia on the front cover.

Our goal is that this be the kind of book award that people will see in a bookstore – they will see the Newbery, they will see the Caldecott, they will see this seal on books that have been recognized by us,” said Dr. Emily Milleson, assistant professor of educational pro-

films and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.

Created in 2012, the annual CLC Book Award honors a children’s picture book that embodies the attributes of compassion, love and courage.

Picture books provide the foundation for learning to read and write, transform aesthetic appreciation, refine social and personality skills and enhance imagination and cultural understanding,” said Dr. Barbara Ornstein, professor emeritus and CLC co-director.

Nominations for the award are now open. The Children’s Literature Centre has seen more publishers seek out the Centre for critical reviews, in turn allowing the winning authors to keep their careers, and when they write a new book, it’s really kind of nice to see how many more they’re published,” said Dr. William Hingman, professor emeritus and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.

In response to the growing fame of the CLC Book Award, the Children’s Literature Centre has seen more publishers seek out the Centre for critical reviews, in turn allowing the winning authors to keep their careers, and when they write a new book, it’s really kind of nice to see how many more they’re published,” said Dr. William Hingman, professor emeritus and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.

In response to the growing fame of the CLC Book Award, the Children’s Literature Centre has seen more publishers seek out the Centre for critical reviews, in turn allowing the winning authors to keep their careers, and when they write a new book, it’s really kind of nice to see how many more they’re published,” said Dr. William Hingman, professor emeritus and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.

In response to the growing fame of the CLC Book Award, the Children’s Literature Centre has seen more publishers seek out the Centre for critical reviews, in turn allowing the winning authors to keep their careers, and when they write a new book, it’s really kind of nice to see how many more they’re published,” said Dr. William Hingman, professor emeritus and co-director of the Children’s Literature Centre.
A lot of wisdom and experience resides with Frostburg alumni. Frostburg students are on the verge of their college-career transitions. The Bobcats began with two on-campus activities about their college-career transitions. The Bobcats hosted by Universal Service Administrative Co., the Bobcats contingent pushed on. That made a strong first impression on the alumni.

“They are so driven – I would never have gotten out of bed on a snow day to come to an event in D.C.!” said Mike Schoelen ’14. Schoelen said, a professor of political science and international studies, found inspiration from the unique career journey of Joe Lambert ’79. Lambert was director of information management for the Central Intelligence Agency until his 2017 retirement, capping off a distinguished 33-year career. He majored in business administration.

“Maybe the plan I had in my head when I started my undergraduate career was not actually what I’ll end up doing, and that could work out even better,” Duncan said. That realization – that remaining flexible was an option – reassured me about what I really wanted to achieve their goals – was comforting to numerous students.

Dr. Joan Andorfer, a professor of political science who helped organize the event, “The Career Summit was meant to give students a diversified skill set to compete in the job market or in applying to graduate school,” said Dr. Jean Andorfer, a professor of political science who helped organize the event. “That began with two on-campus activities about professional dress, etiquette, networking and individual résumé guidance provided by several local alumni.”

Their prep work paid off.

“I hope I came off as half as experienced as [they] are,” Schoelen said of his undergraduate days.

“My Career Summit was to meet [students] a diversified skill set to compete in the job market or in applying to graduate school,” said Dr. Jean Andorfer, a professor of political science who helped organize the event.

“Maybe the plan I had in my head when I started my undergraduate career was not actually what I’ll end up doing, and that could work out even better,” Duncan said. That realization – that remaining flexible was an option – reassured me about what I really wanted to achieve their goals – was comforting to numerous students.

Dr. Joan Andorfer, a professor of political science who helped organize the event, “The Career Summit was meant to give students a diversified skill set to compete in the job market or in applying to graduate school,” said Andorfer.

“I don’t think that the Career Summit has fully to grow the alumni network in D.C.” said “As an alum, I feel I have a responsibility to help students become alumni of Frostburg, and to become good alumni. This has been a great opportunity for me to do that and hopefully to grow the alumni network in D.C.”

Andorfer and her fellow faculty organizers were thrilled with the results of the Career Summit. They said “This was a win-win for our motivated students, our enthusiastic alumni and the University!”

“This was a win-win for our motivated students, our enthusiastic alumni and the University!”

— Dr. Jean Andorfer, Career Summit organizer

Frostburg’s Career Summit was made possible by an Opportunity Grant from the FSU Foundation’s Annual Fund, as well as collaborative support from the Boll Institute, the Office of Alumni Relations, the Student Development Office, College of Business, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost. To help create additional opportunities like these, visit www.frostburg.edu/foundation or call 301.687.4068.

To participate in a future Career Summit, email your contact information, current employment details and areas of relevant expertise to Shannon Goldhir at shannon.goldhir@frostburg.edu.
n November 2016, Haiti – like the United States – was experiencing massive protest following a presidential election. Dr. Beth Smolko, director of FSU’s new physician assistant program, witnessed unrest firsthand in the capital city of Port-au-Prince as she headed to a clinic crowded with people who had been waiting to be seen since sunrise.

“You would arrive at a place, and they would have been sitting there – sitting there with their habits all day long, starving,” Smolko recalled.

The streets of Port-au-Prince were swarming with people and police. She was warned of “roadblocks and robberies” and, while taking precautions to ensure her safety, Smolko made it to the clinic. In four hours she saw 180 patients.

Back in the U.S. and with more trips under her belt, Smolko recalls the brutal reality that is Haiti’s health care.

“If I needed to see 100 patients because they sat there all day, I was going to see them,” she said with bold devotion.

In addition to leading the development of the physician assistant program, Smolko is also the founder of Heart of Medicine, a non-profit that connects health care providers drained from the demands of their daily routine and helps them “reconnect with what they love” through humanitarian efforts. For her contributions, the Maryland Academy of PAs named Smolko PA of the Year.

Prior to taking on the task of establishing the new PA program, Smolko was one of those drained health-care providers. Working in primary care clinics had begun to consume all of her time. She would leave work with no concrete expectations of what to expect, Smolko reflected. “I didn’t know the people I was staying with. I didn’t know what to expect,” Smolko reflected. “I didn’t know the people I was staying with. I didn’t know the language … but what I did know is human interaction is the same in any language.”

For one to two weeks at a time, Smolko provides care to the people of Haiti, offering some of their first exposure to proper health care. In her blog on heartofmedicine.net, she writes about her visits and highlights the difficulties that the underprivileged lego through to receive proper treatment when they have little to no money for the expenses.

In one entry, Smolko writes about a woman who had recently given birth and needed medication not available through the clinic. She explained to the woman that her condition was dire and that she needed to go to the hospital. Smolko accompanied the woman to describe her symptoms to the doctor. Soon after their arrival, Smolko realized why many of her patients refuse hospitalization. She describes her realization in the entry, “Trusting Your Gut.”

“When we arrived, I explained her presentation, what medications she was taking, and she was immediately taken to a room. A doctor came out of the room with a piece of paper. Written on the paper were three medications (two were IV meds). They felt she was septic. Now, I was confused. Why were they giving us a list when she could be dying?” she wrote.

Smolko’s friend explained that the hospital wouldn’t treat her patient until they bought the medication, which could not be acquired from the hospital pharmacy. Shocked, Smolko changed money, sought out an open pharmacy and covered the medication costs with donations made to Heart of Medicine.

With that money, Smolko was able to save the woman’s life, but for many that isn’t the case.

“I knew my patients better than my own kids,” Smolko admitted. Searching for more, she reached out to a colleague who had a clinic in Haiti. Set on escaping the monotonous routine that had become her life, Smolko went to Haiti for the first time in 2014.

EXPECTATION VS. REALITY

With no concrete expectations of what to expect, Smolko found joy in the most unlikely of places. Her surroundings were destitute, but she was met with smiles and laughter.

“When I got to serve, I didn’t know what to expect,” Smolko reflected. “I didn’t know the people I was staying with. I didn’t know the language … but what I did know is human interaction is the same in any language.”

For one to two weeks at a time, Smolko provides care to the people of Haiti, offering some of their first exposure to proper health care. In her blog on heartofmedicine.net, she writes about her visits and highlights the difficulties that the underprivileged lego through to receive proper treatment when they have little to no money for the expenses.

In one entry, Smolko writes about a woman who had recently given birth and needed medication not available through the clinic. She explained to the woman that her condition was dire and that she needed to go to the hospital. Smolko accompanied the woman to describe her symptoms to the doctor. Soon after their arrival, Smolko realized why many of her patients refuse hospitalization. She describes her realization in the entry, “Trusting Your Gut.”

“When we arrived, I explained her presentation, what medications she was taking, and she was immediately taken to a room. A doctor came out of the room with a piece of paper. Written on the paper were three medications (two were IV meds). They felt she was septic. Now, I was confused. Why were they giving us a list when she could be dying?” she wrote.

Smolko’s friend explained that the hospital wouldn’t treat her patient until they bought the medication, which could not be acquired from the hospital pharmacy. Shocked, Smolko changed money, sought out an open pharmacy and covered the medication costs with donations made to Heart of Medicine.

With that money, Smolko was able to save the woman’s life, but for many that isn’t the case.

“I knew my patients better than my own kids,” Smolko admitted. Searching for more, she reached out to a colleague who had a clinic in Haiti. Set on escaping the monotonous routine that had become her life, Smolko went to Haiti for the first time in 2014.

EXPECTATION VS. REALITY

With no concrete expectations of what to expect, Smolko found joy in the most unlikely of places. Her surroundings were destitute, but she was met with smiles and laughter.

“When I got to serve, I didn’t know what to expect,” Smolko reflected. “I didn’t know the people I was staying with. I didn’t know the language … but what I did know is human interaction is the same in any language.”

For one to two weeks at a time, Smolko provides care to the people of Haiti, offering some of their first exposure to proper health care. In her blog on heartofmedicine.net, she writes about her visits and highlights the difficulties that the underprivileged lego through to receive proper treatment when they have little to no money for the expenses.

In one entry, Smolko writes about a woman who had recently given birth and needed medication not available through the clinic. She explained to the woman that her condition was dire and that she needed to go to the hospital. Smolko accompanied the woman to describe her symptoms to the doctor. Soon after their arrival, Smolko realized why many of her patients refuse hospitalization. She describes her realization in the entry, “Trusting Your Gut.”

“When we arrived, I explained her presentation, what medications she was taking, and she was immediately taken to a room. A doctor came out of the room with a piece of paper. Written on the paper were three medications (two were IV meds). They felt she was septic. Now, I was confused. Why were they giving us a list when she could be dying?” she wrote.

Smolko’s friend explained that the hospital wouldn’t treat her patient until they bought the medication, which could not be acquired from the hospital pharmacy. Shocked, Smolko changed money, sought out an open pharmacy and covered the medication costs with donations made to Heart of Medicine.

With that money, Smolko was able to save the woman’s life, but for many that isn’t the case.

“...and feeling renewed after subsequent trips – she was sure that Haiti was exactly what she needed to renew her love for medicine, and she was determined to share this experience with other physicians who were experiencing the same disconnect.

“We’re typing on computers instead of looking at our patients in the eyes,” she protested. “Through Heart of Medicine, primary care providers have the opportunity to journey to Haiti to join them in providing primary health care services to communities with very little access to such care.

Smolko would also like to develop a capstone project that would allow interested students to travel to Haiti while focusing on global health. She hopes that this exposure will help them reconnect with physical medicine.

Smolko confessed, “We’ve gotten so used to ordering labs and MRIs and X-rays. … You don’t have that in Haiti. You only have your knowledge and your compassion.”

Once there, she would like her students to study the area, identify a problem and come up with a solution involving evidence-based medicine. Smolko believes the opportunity will be an experience that they will never forget.

Smolko continues traveling to Haiti. Over time, she has become a part of that small community that has welcomed her into their lives just as she has let them into hers.

“If I see the people who have helped me, they will stop me in the street, they will come out of their houses, give me hugs, and I try to say something in Kreyol. … She laughs as she attempts to imitate the lighthearted reaction of her Haitian friends to her attempts at speaking their language: “The people that I’ve met have been capable of finding joy no matter what.”

For more information about Heart of Medicine and to read Smolko’s blog, visit heartofmedicine.net.

By Moriah O’Neal ‘18
When Breara Douglas ’16 first arrived at FSU, she felt displaced and overwhelmed. As a first-generation college student, she had no idea what to do first. “I attempted to put on a brave face for my family and friends. In reality, I was scared I was making a huge mistake. College was just an idea I had, but now I was on campus. I definitely felt very out of my element,” Douglas said.

Judith Insilo felt the same way: “Being a first-generation student, you often find yourself figuring life out on your own,” she said.

Fortunately for Douglas and Insilo – and thousands of others like them over the past 45 years, FSU’s Student Support Services team provides just what first-generation students need: guidance and encouragement for many aspects of college life, such as academic advising, professional tutoring, financial and economic literacy training, study skills and time management courses, assistance with financial aid, personal counseling, career and graduate school guidance and much more.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIPS

The FSU team’s approach begins with a basic human concept. “We have such a great team, and it’s all about the relationships,” said Tamara Lawey ’91/M’01, director of SSS since 2011. “When you talk to students, it’s the relationships that make the difference.”

For generations, educators across the country have watched the children of college graduates succeed in higher education more readily than their peers whose parents never completed college. Numerous factors contribute to that inequality, but two largest ones are tough to overcome: Children of graduates learn from their parents’ college experiences, and those parents tend to be wealthier than parents of first-generation students. The experience and income gaps are a chasm the first-generation student has to cross.

In the 45 years that Student Support Services (SSS) has been at FSU, the federally funded TRIO program has been building the bridge to help first-generation students and students from other disadvantaged groups cross a number of significant barriers to success.
Lowry’s team serves 275-plus students each year, many of whom come to think of the office as their on-campus family. “[The SSS team] had my best interest at heart from day one and grew to be like a family to me: a family that understood what it was like to be far away from home,” said William Frank ’17.

Those relationships often last long beyond graduation. “Post-graduation, living in Scottsdale, Ariz., I still keep in touch with my [SSS] mentors. It’s awesome to know that I have built relationships with people that will last a lifetime,” said Franchesca Garland ’16.

**AND IT WORKS**

Time and again, the SSS formula has proven effective. Nationally, the six-year graduation rate for children of graduates is about 20 percent higher than for first-generation students. At FSU, in the most recent class year, SSS students outperformed the student body as a whole by an astounding 30 percent. Unsurprisingly, SSS seats, limited by the amount of federal funding received, are in high demand at FSU.

“It’s who we are. It’s the people we serve,” explained Lowry. “Every year, we survey Frostburg’s first-year students, and upwards of 47 percent are first-generation. Even more of them are otherwise eligible through having low income or in other categories.”

The federal government specifies program eligibility. Two-thirds of the participants must be first-generation or disabled students who come from low-income families. For the students fortunate enough to be selected into SSS, the program is an express lane toward college success. For many SSS students, the life-changing nature of the program becomes most obvious in hindsight.

“Every year, we survey Frostburg’s first-year students, and upwards of 47 percent are first-generation. Even more of them are otherwise eligible through having low income or in other categories.”

The federal government specifies program eligibility. Two-thirds of the participants must be first-generation or disabled students who come from low-income families. For the students fortunate enough to be selected into SSS, the program is an express lane toward college success. For many SSS students, the life-changing nature of the program becomes most obvious in hindsight.

“If it weren’t for the empowering staff that kept them on track, they surely might have derailed their progress, specifically tools or assistance that got them over the hump,” said Brandon Kelly ’13/M’15.

For many, being involved in SSS truly was the difference between staying or dropping out.

“Student Support Services was an answer to my prayers. Meeting Tam changed my mind about staying at FSU and pushing through this journey. SSS became my support system in many ways,” said Gaby Perez Torres, Accounting and Business Administration major. “I came to FSU not knowing anything about the college life and how it worked. The advisors at SSS have helped me tremendously with settling in, financial aid, study tips and so much more.”

“I would have truly been lost.”

The second I entered Tam Lowry’s office, things began to look more manageable.

— Sara Hughes ’15

We asked some Student Support Services graduates and current junior and senior students how SSS had made the difference in their college journeys. They had some common themes: a sense of feeling lost and uncertain in the unfamiliar college atmosphere, encountering obstacles that otherwise might have derailed their progress, specific tools or assistance that got them through the hump, and gratitude toward the caring and knowledgeable staff that kept them going. Not to mention lots of pride in what they accomplished. Here are their words.

Many students reported feeling lost and uncertain when they get to Frostburg, especially not having families with knowledge about the college experience.

“The entire process was overwhelming and moderately scary. The second I entered Tam Lowry’s office, things began to look more manageable.”

— Sara Hughes ’15, FSU grad student

“I came to FSU not knowing anything about the college life and how it worked. The advisors at SSS have helped me tremendously with settling in, financial aid, study tips and so much more.”

— Gaby Perez Torres, Accounting and Business Administration major

For many, being involved in SSS truly was the difference between staying or dropping out.

“Student Support Services was an answer to my prayers. Meeting Tam changed my mind about staying at FSU and pushing through this journey. SSS became my support system in many ways,” said Gaby Perez Torres, Accounting and Business Administration major. “I came to FSU not knowing anything about the college life and how it worked. The advisors at SSS have helped me tremendously with settling in, financial aid, study tips and so much more.”

“I would have truly been lost.”

The assistance provided could be general, or sometimes very specific. SSS staff in particular made sure to help students find assistance with academic shortcomings, such as conquering math.

“I was not strong in math and my study habits needed a lot of work. … When the time arose to take those dreaded math courses, Ms. Don Maxwell provided tutoring that made it possible for me to pass. … With the help of SSS, I made it on the Dean’s List, which I never thought would happen. I thought of myself as an average student, but SSS convinced me I was capable of so much more.”

— CPL, Ron Williams ’14, Department of Defense Police Department

Or conquering English.

“My eagerness to begin my college journey ended very quickly during my first year. I remember struggling with English 101 – the professor telling me that my thought process was outstanding but the way that I wrote needed major improvement. After about my fourth failing assignment, I decided to take advantage of the one-on-one assistance that SSS offered. Mrs. Harriet Douglas M’96 helped me to better understand sentence structure. We met regularly throughout the school year. As I improved, she got me excited about school again after my rough early start.”

— Brandon Kelly ’13/M’15, director of Parks and Programming, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

Sometimes the assistance is more tangible.

“I recall searching high and low for textbooks until one day, entering SSS, I was told their books are available to us. I needed calculators or laptops many times, and each time SSS had me covered. Their financial help always made this journey that much easier. Franchesca Karalewitz also made sure I was placed with work. I worked with the office just about until graduation.”

— Breara Douglas
But beyond help with academic or financial issues, SSS participation often led to students achieving things they had never imagined.

“I applied and completed a Disney College Program, where I moved to Orlando, Fla., to take classes and work at Walt Disney World. Upon returning to FSU, SSS helped me meet connect with the Center for International Education. With a massive amount of help, I was accepted into the Semester at Sea program through the University of Virginia. I visited 17 countries over four months aboard the MV Explorer, taking classes in marine biology, oceanography, and anthropology. This experience changed my life.”

— Sara Hughes

The real secret to the success of FSU’s Student Support Services has to do with the people, a consistent theme among all involved. As SSS director Tamara Lowry said, “It’s all about the relationships.”

“It’s strange to think that this was ‘just their job.’ Now that I am in the workforce, I appreciate the time they took for each student. The family-like culture that this office breeds is what I believe makes it a success.”

— Andrea Constant, Sociology and Social Science major

“Tamara was always supportive. She never judged me for any of the wild or funny stories she heard. She cared, genuinely, and I could always feel that was true. She backed me in everything. If our plan got off track, she knew how to tell me, ‘Let’s get it together.’ Over four years, I sat with each mentor in the office at one point or another. Especially when I couldn’t figure out what exactly was wrong, I was very blessed to have them as my family away from home. SSS was my foundation, my physical and emotional support system. I could do this. I would always appreciate SSS.”

— Breaza Douglas

“I was counseled by Holly Clark ‘08/M’10, who always did her best to make sure I stayed on the right track. … The entire staff is amazing. They were always there for me no matter what I needed. I am forever grateful.”

— Sophia Cooper ’15

“I was counseled by Holly Clark ‘08/M’10, who always did her best to make sure I stayed on the right track. … The entire staff is amazing. They were always there for me no matter what I needed. I am forever grateful.”

— Sophia Cooper ’15

“Lots of memories and lifelong friends were made at FSU, but I can honestly say that I would not have graduated college if not for the support of Holly Clark and Student Support Services. … Holly made sure that I was in the right classes, told me where to look for scholarships and always reminded me how close I was graduating. We would sit down and set short- and long-term goals that we would often revisit and reflect on.”

— Jaleel Moore ’16, health and physical education teacher, Howard County Public Schools

“Shawn Jones was my academic advisor and soon became my mentor. Shawn challenged me to want more for myself — pushing me to strive to go above average in my life. … Shawn taught me how to balance my life between academics, family, friends, personal time and work. He would always remind me to make time for myself so that I would not get burned out. … It’s safe to say we became great friends and still keep in contact regularly.”

— Brandon Kelly

“I met Tamara Lowry, who was so helpful during my time at the University. She was able to help in every aspect of my education. First, I was just interested in finding a tutor to help me get through math-related courses; however, she was able to help in many other areas. Not only did she help me with my coursework, she was able to help with selecting courses and which professor would be a good fit for me. I was a new father at the time I started Frostburg, and she was always someone I could talk with about the stresses of college life and being a dad at the same time. I am forever grateful to Tamara and the SSS program at Frostburg State.”

— Michael Bishop ’09

“The staff go over and beyond with anything that I need help with. For example, one time they helped me write an essay step by step until I had absolutely no clue where to start, and another time, they helped me create a class guideline to follow for grading on time with both majors I want. I could not be prouder to call myself a member of the Student Support Services Program knowing that they always have my back when I need help.”

— Shawn Wall, Political Science and Law & Society major

“SSS is an invaluable asset to the student body, and it allows you to access your full potential in ways that you may have never expected. I will always be indebted to Tam and her staff for all that they have done for students like me who just need a leg up in a world that is brand new to us and our families. I succeeded (and continue to succeed) because of the network of support that grew from the first step through the door all those years ago.”

— Sara Hughes

“Balancing being a full-time student, a high school football and basketball coach, working 50 hours per week and tutoring at an after-school program was extremely tough in college. I still cannot believe that I graduated from college while doing all of this.”

— Jaleel Moore

“It has been four years since I graduated from Frostburg, and in that time I have become a federal police officer, an adjunct criminal justice college instructor, a deputy director of policing and security for three bars and a section chief of a national Joint Task Force. None of this would have been possible without the diligent work of the SSS staff, and I will forever be grateful to the program!”

— Cpl. Ron Williams

“The scholarship helped give me confidence to start, and another time, they helped me write an essay step by step when I had absolutely no clue where to start, and another time, they helped me create a class guideline to follow for graduating on time with both majors I want. I could not be prouder to call myself a member of the Student Support Services Program knowing that they always have my back when I need help.”

— Shawn Moore ’16

SSS Scholarship Born of Parents’ Gratitude

Each year, one junior or senior SSS student is chosen as the Student Support Services TRIO Scholarship recipient. The scholarship benefits a student who has participated in SSS for two or more semesters, demonstrating an active role in co-curricular activities.

“Receiving the scholarship could not have come at a better time,” said Jaleel Moore ’16. Moore said he was struggling financially and had been considering applying for a bank loan for his senior year. But the scholarship did more than boost his finances.

“The scholarship helped give me confidence for the following school year. I had been busting my tail really hard to finish my career strong at FSU. Receiving the scholarship was extremely rewarding to see that I was being recognized for my efforts in the classroom, on campus and in the community … I felt like SSS gave me the recognition and confidence that I would not have obtained otherwise.”

The SSS TRIO Scholarship was born through the generosity of an SSS student’s attentive parents, John Rosine and Claire Cassidy, who decided to pay forward the support shown their daughter, Julie Cassidy-Rosine ’04.

“I’m sure that made a difference in her college success,” said Cassidy, who said FSU was the only school they looked at that offered a real support program for students with learning difficulties. “She did well there. Our daughter is now a happy, successful adult.”

They began their giving under former SSS director, Judy Wolfe 67/M’80. Her successor, Harriet Douglas M’96, worked with the Foundation to turn the gifts into a scholarship fund.

The scholarship’s endowment received an unexpected boost when Douglas’ colleagues launched a going-away campaign in honor of her retirement last June, and dozens of gifts were received from her former students, colleagues and friends.

To support the TRIO SSS Scholarship, visit www. frostburg.edu/foundation, call 301-675-4404 or send a gift designated to “TRIO SSS Scholarship” to the encorched envelope.

— Robert Spidle ’73
Sports

ECAC Offensive Player of the Year – Connor Cox
NJAC Offensive Player of the Year – Connor Cox
NJAC Coach of the Year – DeLane Fitzgerald

Standouts:

2 All-American honors (football)
5 ECAC All-Stars (football)
3 D3football.com All-Region awards
7 All-CAC selections

Fall Sports by the Numbers:

Riley Hartman

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The women’s soccer team recently captured its 11th consecutive United Soccer Coaches College Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award, this year earning the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. Under the direction of head coach Brian Parker ’92, Frostburg was one of just 19 schools in the nation to earn the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the country for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.

The gold-level award is based on a percentage (between 1 and 10 percent) calculated by the total number of cards received by players or coaches divided by the team’s total number of games played. The Bobcats earned the Gold Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The United Soccer Coaches recognized 167 schools across the nation for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and an adherence to the laws of the game.
For many more homecoming photos, follow us on Flickr. Search Frostburg State University Alumni Association.

The Spirit of the 1970's. For many more homecoming photos, follow us on Flickr. Celebrate the legacy of their brother and the foundation of the baseball program.

Student Government Association Reunion

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

Patrick and Anne Marie McLane enjoy catching up during the Retired Employee Luncheon.

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

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

For many more homecoming photos, follow us on Flickr. Search Frostburg State University Alumni Association.
Jane Wendelin recently retired from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., where she served for 18 years as the assistant director for Budget and Research Administration at the Reasor Institute for Advanced Study, leading a team supporting faculty engaged in neuroscience and computational social science research.

1972

George Shoeneringer retired from the University System of Maryland in June 2018 after nearly 40 years. He worked at Towson University, University of Maryland, and University of Maryland University College. He earned his bachelor’s degree from UMBC. He lives in Marine City, Fla., with his wife, Mary; his son, Matt, is an engineering student at the University of Maryland, College Park. “Louie! YES! Never those days,” he wrote.

1981

Terry Robinson, a former student of Northern Garrett High School in Accident, Md., after teaching health and physical education for 38 years, Terry was named by her mother, Jo Ann Fisher Robinson ’53, retired in 1989 after 38 years of teaching. The two Robinson womendominatethe NHS gym for 60 years! Terry was also the school’s certified athletic trainer. She wants to thank Tony Zejalgo for being her mentor and encouraging her to pursue a career in sports medicine.

1992

Chris Goughenour has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and Washington, D.C. He will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Education Credit Union Council.

1993

Maj. Ron Martin M’83 retired from the Maryland National Guard in 2014 after serving for 30 years. He is an attorney and has been appointed as the interim city administrator for the city of Frostburg for his outstanding service.

2000

Ritaun Jan has been appointed chief information officer for the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. Ritaun has held several leadership roles in the healthcare industry and has spent close to two decades in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of technical solutions that address the needs of Fortune 500 companies and not-for-profit organizations.

2019

Kris Windlinx has accepted the position of director of university studies. She has a master’s in management from McDaniel College in Westminster, Md. He is an assistant principal at Kenwood High School in El Paso, Texas. He completed his 19th year in teaching and learning as a teacher.

YOUR UPDATE YOUR INFO ONLINE

To RSVP for any event above or to get more information, please call 301.687.4068 or email alumni@frostburg.edu.
MILESTONES

Three former Bobcats graduated together with Doctor of Education degrees from the University of Maryland School of Education in December of 2017. From left are Dr. Jennifer Jones Gilman ’77, Dr. Dale Farrell ’94, and Dr. Kelly Murray Hall ’96. All three are administrators in St. Mary's County Public Schools in Southern Maryland.

Year: She is a fifth-grade teacher at Cascades Elementary School in Cascades, Md.
Dr. Rachel Skipper earned her doctorate in mathematics from Rensselaer University, State University of New York. She is in a post-doctoral position at the University of Göttingen in Germany and in residence at the École normale supérieure de Lyon in France; she will then join the faculty at Ohio State University in a post-doctoral position as a Ross assistant professor.

2012

Julie Rudder LaFave M’12 has been appointed commissioner of the Syracuse Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs. She was previously deputy commissioner and worked in the director of Parks and Recreation for the town of Sullivan, N.Y.
Casey Morris M’12 has been named assistant volleyball coach at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn.

2013

Mark Freeman, M’11, was selected to be the new state Farm agent-owner in Paradea, Md. Doers will open on June 1.

2014

Brandon Rodgers, PT, DPT, ATC, accepted the position of physical therapist assistant strength and conditioning coach for the NFL Tampa Bay Lighting Hockey Club.
Glen Wapson has been selected to be the new state Farm agent-owner in Paradea, Md. Doers will open on June 1.

2015

Brenda Friend has accepted the position of executive assistant to the chief of Community Development with the National Community Retention Coalition in Washington, D.C. She was previously executive director of the Greater Cumberland Committee.
Morgan Hoover has been named the assistant volleyball coach at Gonzaga College in Washington, D.C.

2016

Emily Bredershot was named senior program director for the YMCA of Cumberland. She has worked at the Y for more than eight years.

2017

Trace Liguore has accepted a position at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission. This position consists of communication with both houses of Congress, running the commission’s front office and assisting with the presentation of President Eisenhower’s legacy. He appreciates his time working as a student in the Ort Library with Special Collections librarian Marilyn Price M’91 and for the knowledge and tools he gained from PSE’s Department of History to properly execute historical research.

2018

CJ Barnett has been named the Head Operations Assistant at the Reagan Administration Trade Center in Washington, D.C. In addition, he is multi-training for the American Ninja Warrior 2019-2020 season and opening a personal training business called Fourth Down Fitbox.

2019-2020

Emily McConaghy M’18 has been appointed as head softball coach at Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vt.

Families

1978

Sharon Shookman and her husband, Stephen ’80, announce the birth of their first granddaughter, Austin ’AJ’ Jr., on May 18, 2018.

2002

Jennifer Smith Corner M’94 and her husband, Justin ’02, welcomed her, Elizabeth ’Bella’, on Dec. 10, 2018. She joins big sister, Johanna ’Joy’.

2004

Allison Rittmiller Candelus and her husband, Ed, welcomed a daughter, Lily Rose, on Aug. 9, 2018. His big brother, Noah, and big sister, Lila, are four.

2005

Kim Bradler Gomez and her husband, Keith, welcomed a daughter Quinn Rose. She joins big brother, Owen.

2006

Nicole Wigfield D’Arte M’06 and her husband, Nick, welcomed their daughter, Josie Darby, on June 28, 2018. She joins big brother, Jordan.

2009

Christina Lorefici Maracc and her husband, Reis ’08, are the proud parents of Breigh Anthony ’05 and Evan Francis ’01.

2010

Hannah Byler M’12 and her husband, Matt, welcomed their son, Leo, on Aug. 20, 2018. His big sister, Amelia, is two.

2013

Jennifer Carroll and her husband, Matt, welcomed their son, Matthew, on March 11, 2018. He joins big sister, Willow.

2015

Leanne Behrendt M’18 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann, on July 26, 2018. She joins big brothers, Thomas, Robert and Anthony.

2016

Nicole Wigfield D’Arte M’06 and her husband, Nick, welcomed their daughter, Josie Darby, on June 28, 2018. She joins big brother, Jordan.

2018

Kelley Pittsinger married Brandon Patrick on June 23, 2018, at Springfi eld Barn in Williamsport, Md.

2019

Morgan McDaniel Donald and his husband, Curtis ’07, welcomed their first son, Owen Curtis, on July 21, 2017.

2020

Gortney Tucker Phipps and her husband, Patrick, welcomed their daughter Stella. She joins big brother, Elton.

2022

Katherine Gao Birkson and her husband, Jason, announced the birth of their son, Jacken, on Aug. 8, 2017.

Christopher Weidk welcomed his son, Ryan, on Sept. 7, 2017.

2024

Talia Warren D’Adamo and her husband, Ed, welcomed a daughter, Lily Rose, on Aug. 9, 2018. His big brother, Noah, and big sister, Lila, are four.

2025

Brianne Zimmerman M’16 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son, Leo, on Aug. 20, 2018. His big sister, Willow, is two.

2026

Leanne Behrendt M’18 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann, on July 26, 2018. She joins big brothers, Thomas, Robert and Anthony.

2027

Leanne Behrendt M’18 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Ann, on July 26, 2018. She joins big brothers, Thomas, Robert and Anthony.
Rhett Joseph welcomed their son, and her big sister, Addison. Victoria Elaine, on July 4, 2018. She joins big brother, Gabriel. Andrea Warnick Fitzwater and her husband, Berkley. Spencer Shyne, on May 31, 2018. She joins Blaine, welcomed their second child, Sasha Werner Leasure and her husband, MILESTONES


René Arkinson M’78, who died on Oct. 19, 2016, started at FSU in 1970, and over the course of his 38-year career served as advisor to the president, director of public relations and later the station director at WFSU, the University radio station. He also taught in the Department of History, continuing for several years following his retirement from the radio station. Significantly, WFSU became a National Public Radio affiliate station during his time as station director. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife, Linda Arkinson ‘73/M’06, and children, Geoffrey, Pamela and Robert, Dr. Thomas W. Small, who died on Jan. 13, 2019, was a professor emeritus in the Department of Geography. He taught at FSU for 34 years, from 1972 to 2006. In addition to being a dedicated educator with a focus on soil geomorphology, he led the effort to bring the U.S. Geological Survey to FSU in 2004, which continues to provide opportunities for student experience. Even the teacher, even after retirement he shared his knowledge of regional geography on field trips with WFSU faculty and local teachers. He is survived by his wife, Frances Sommermeyer Small ’49, and son, Stephen.

Dr. Fred Yaffe, who died on June 23, 2018, was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1999 to 2003. Yaffe was the first dean of the College after it was created by merging the School of Natural and Social Sciences with the School of Arts and Humanities. His office was notable for his impressive collection of toy-related figurines, a nod to his research focus on visual perception within his field of psychology. He was also involved in local arts organizations, including acting at The Cumberland Theatre.
In August 2018, Col. Drew Pekala ’97 had an American flag flown on a combat mission over Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support. Pekala is a member of the legendary 1993 Bobcat football team, which was honored on its 25th anniversary at the Hall of Fame dinner during Homecoming.

Pekala intended to present the flag to the 2018 Bobcats, but he was deployed in Afghanistan in October. His teammates took care of business. The ’93 Bobcats, the first to make an NCAA playoff appearance, were all smiles when they presented that flag on Pekala’s behalf to Head Coach DeLane Fitzgerald and the 2018 team — which became the second team to enter the NCAA playoffs.
100% Online Degree Programs

- RN to BSN
- Master of Science in Applied Computer Science
- Master of Business Administration
  Concentrations:
  - Business Analytics
  - Health Care Management
  - Management
- Master of Science in Nursing
  Concentrations:
  - Education
  - Administration
- Master of Science in Recreation, Parks and Sport Management

90-95% Online - Hybrid Degree Programs

- Master of Science in Nursing
  Concentrations:
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

For More Information:
FSU Office of Graduate Services
Phone: 301.687.7053 | Email: gradservices@frostburg.edu
www.frostburg.edu/grad

One University. A World of Experiences.
Recent research shows about half of all college students are food insecure (having limited or uncertain access to food), making the uphill battle of college study even steeper. Plus, food insecurity is most common among students facing other barriers to success.

To level the playing field, some caring Bobcats founded the **PAWS PANTRY**, which provides food and basic necessities to any Frostburg student in need at zero cost.

Donations of nonperishable foods and hygiene products are always welcome, but your monetary support allows the PAWS Pantry to provide students with essential perishable staples like fresh bread, milk and eggs.

To support the PAWS Pantry, send your check made payable to the FSU Foundation – #70241, or make a gift at the crowdfunding site [WWW.GIVECAMPUS.COM/SCHOOLS/FROSTBURGSTATEUNIVERSITY](http://WWW.GIVECAMPUS.COM/SCHOOLS/FROSTBURGSTATEUNIVERSITY).

This is just one of many crowdfunding campaigns initiated by students, faculty, staff and alumni to benefit FSU students. Visit [WWW.GIVECAMPUS.COM/SCHOOLS/FROSTBURGSTATEUNIVERSITY](http://WWW.GIVECAMPUS.COM/SCHOOLS/FROSTBURGSTATEUNIVERSITY) to see others.