Expanding Horizons
One University. An Ever-Broader World of Experiences.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Enlarging our students’ sense of what is possible – for themselves and for our world: the Frostburg experience is increasingly having that kind of impact. Stories in this issue of Profile demonstrate the power of mentors, faculty and staff who boost our students’ confidence by listening to, and often helping to enable, their dreams.

It is not surprising that the research from the Gallup-Purdue Index reveals that the two experiences that are the most powerful predictors of professional success are 1) having a mentor and 2) being involved in a long-term project. Both of these opportunities have been embedded in Frostburg’s culture for decades, and now we have the research that makes it clear that these should be an essential part of a student’s experience. I am convinced that these experiences, together with the growing internationalization of the campus, are helping to make the Frostburg degree that much more valuable. Frostburg has fared very well in some recent college rankings that focus on return on investment. The Economist has ranked FSU in the 92nd percentile among all colleges and universities in the country on that measure – the value that we add to the lives of our graduates.

Projects take many forms – perhaps it’s a student from India who is eager to share elements of his culture with those in his Frostburg home. A project may also be an internship, undergraduate research (a great example of how projects intersect with mentoring) or a leadership experience. It may also be an opportunity to be engaged in community service – here in Allegany County, elsewhere in the U.S. or on the other side of the globe. Such projects reveal that the problems that confront our world are unscripted, transdisciplinary and complex. They also discover the importance of relationships, as very little is accomplished without the capacity to develop quality relationships.

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During my stint as interim president, the importance of other types of relationships, partnerships, has been made very clear – partnerships with universities throughout the globe, with businesses in Western Maryland and beyond, with other USM institutions, with state agencies, with local government officials and with our alumni. Such partnerships will boost our enrollment, create opportunities for our students and contribute to the economic development of this region.

It has been an honor to serve FSU in this role. I have deeply appreciated the support I have received from the campus and the community, and I am looking forward to working closely with our new president, Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk (see page 2), during his transition and beyond. I trust that everyone will provide him and his family a warm welcome to Western Maryland.

I look forward to returning to Student Affairs. My service as interim president has given me greater insight into the difference that FSU can make – for our students, for this region and for our world. I deeply value the work ethic of our faculty and staff – both past and present – and the resilience of our students. I am not surprised that The Economist gave Frostburg State University a grade of A.
13 CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
Anatomy students have a far superior way of learning about the human body thanks to Opportunity Grants from the FSU Foundation’s Annual Fund.

7 EYE ON THE SKY
A team of students was instrumental in establishing the new observatory on the roof of the Gira Center and building the process that allows live images, like this one of the moon, to be beamed directly onto the planetarium’s dome screen.

14 EXPANDING HORIZONS
Frostburg students have an increasing number of ways to gain new perspectives on their world, including scholarships that support the life-changing experience of study abroad, new classmates from around the globe sharing their own culture, an annual retreat that celebrates diversity, even a class using the magical world of Harry Potter to illuminate our own human interactions.

24 TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD
Along with the challenge of learning lines, dance routines and songs, the students presenting Junie B. Jones: The Musical also had to be ready to pack up the whole show and perform it in a series of unfamiliar spaces.

27 LEWIS INDUCTED INTO COACHES HALL OF FAME
Dr. Robert Lewis has been inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his 31 years of success as a coach and mentor.
Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk Appointed FSU President

Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk has been named 15th president of FSU, coming to Frostburg from Clarion University in Pennsylvania, where he is president and vice president for academic affairs. He will join Frostburg as president on May 9.

“Ron Nowaczyk has the experience to lead and grow a comprehensive campus in today’s challenging environment,” said University System of Maryland Chancellor Robert L. Caret. “He is a great fit on both a personal and professional level for the Frostburg community and Western Maryland. I believe he will bring the energy, vision, and strategic leadership the campus needs to move forward.”

“He has dedicated his career to helping public universities in rural areas academically and engage as active partners in improving the quality of life in surrounding communities,” said James L. Shae, chair of the FSU Board of Regents. “We look forward to welcoming him to the University System of Maryland and the Frostburg community.”

Nowaczyk has been president at Clarion since 2011, and was previously dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, associate vice chancellor for economic and community development at East Carolina University, chair of East Carolina University’s Department of Psychology, and a faculty member at Clemson University. His other professional experiences include serving as a visiting scientist at the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and as a visiting human factors research consultant at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Lincoln, N.J.

“I am both honored and excited about leading the Frostburg State University community in the upcoming years,” said Nowaczyk. “Frostburg State’s history and mission in serving the state and region speak to the commitment and dedication of its faculty and staff. I hope to help the university enhance its value as an educational leader and economic partner in Western Maryland. My family and I are looking forward to becoming part of Frostburg.”

Nowaczyk earned his doctoral and master’s degrees from Miami University of Ohio and his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, all three in psychology.

FSU Partners With Medical Cannabis Manufacturer to Explore Research and Job Opportunities

FSU has entered into a partnership with Maryland-based medical cannabis manufacturer, Peak Harvest Health (PHH), to explore ethnobotanical research and workforce development opportunities in Western Maryland. The partnership is contingent on PHH’s successfully acquiring a license from the Natalie M. LaPade Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, which is expected to issue its first license this summer.

The PHH partnership will bring potential employment opportunities for FSU’s ethnobotany, biology and chemistry graduates at the company’s proposed Cumberland, Md., facility. PHH also agreed to underwrite initial funding of a research incubator called the Appalachian Cannabis Research Cooperative (ACRC). ACRC would provide a setting for researchers from FSU and other area universities to experiment with emerging technologies and advancements in the growing industry. It would also allow FSU faculty and students to collaborate with PHH employees to analyze data and produce white papers based on product-related data collected from PHH’s patients and proposed clinical trials.

The nature of the research performed will be strictly limited by federal and state laws.

$2.5 Million Gift Largest in FSU’s History

The late Woodward D. Pealer, a Cumberland, Md., businessman and longtime supporter of FSU, has bequeathed more than $2.5 million to the FSU Foundation, the largest gift ever in the University’s history.

The bequest will fund the Woodward and Virginia Pealer Scholarship established in 1990, which benefits full-time FSU sophomores, juniors or seniors with financial need, giving preference to non-traditional students. It will also support faculty development at FSU.

“This gift demonstrates the high esteem that Woody Pealer held for Frostburg State University and is a fitting culmination of his life of service and charity,” said Interim President Bowling. “His extraordinary generosity will support students for generations to come.”

More than 90 Pealer Scholarships have been awarded since its creation. At its inception, the scholarship supported one student per year. The number issued has increased as the endowment has grown. In 2015, 6 students earned Pealer Scholarships. With the addition of Pealer’s extraordinary estate gift, the scholarship will benefit many more students in future years.

“Mr. Pealer’s legacy will not only assist students directly through scholarships that will help them pay their tuition, but through support for faculty as they increase their knowledge of their specialty and their skills as educators,” said John Short, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the FSU Foundation.

Pealer, who had retired from business and as a judge of the Maryland Tax Court, passed away Jan. 21, 2014, at the age of 92, following a lifetime of service to his city, county, state and country. Virginia Pealer, a businesswoman herself, died in 2006.

In July of 1995, FSU dedicated the Performing Arts Center’s Pealer Recital Hall to honor him and his wife. In 2009, in recognition of his lifetime of accomplishments and service, FSU granted Pealer an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Time Notes FSU’s Increased Diversity

In a recent TIME magazine report “Colleges That Have Diversified the Most,” Frostburg is ranked No. 23 nationally. The school looked at the percentage of students at nonprofit private U.S. universities who were not part of the school’s largest racial group, and how that changed from 1990 to 2014. Frostburg’s diversity increased 34.2 percent during that time period.

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Maryland Grants to Help Develop New Paths to Nursing

The path to an FSU bachelor’s degree in nursing may be smoother – and significantly less expensive – thanks in part to nearly $2.5 million in grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop new collaborative nursing programs.

Currently, students in FSU’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program must complete their BSN training elsewhere, a process that requires three years, with another 18 months at FSU, if the program is taken full-time.

FSU’s partnership with Allegany College of Maryland reduces the time it takes to complete a BSN. Following one year of general education courses on campus in Frostburg, students will complete two years at ACM for an associate degree, followed by online nursing courses at FSU, plus a practicum, to complete their RN training elsewhere, a less expensive – thanks in part to nearly $2.5 million in grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop new collaborative nursing programs.

Exceptional Employees Honored

Serving FSU for a combined 29 years, three outstanding employees were honored at Fall Convocation with the annual Staff Awards for Excellence. Nominated by their colleagues, these staff members were recognized for exceptional service to the institution.

Lyndsey Baker was honored in the Exempt (salaried) employee category. She joined the FSU community in the spring of 2012 in a part-time role as the Maryland Strategic Prevention coordinator. Her commitment to seeking additional grant funds and her dedication to work led to a full-time position in 2014. Baker is responsible for uniting community members, administrators, law enforcement, city officials, bar owners, health practitioners, high school representatives and others to address underage and high-risk consumption of alcohol. Her commitment has helped reduce high-risk alcohol consumption at FSU.

Joni Smith was honored in the Non-exempt (hourly) employee category. She has been employed as a graphic artist in FSU’s Office of Publications for seven years. Smith has a very strong work ethic, a creative approach to her assignments and a congenial and helpful attitude when working with faculty and staff. Professional, eager to help, conscientious, detail oriented and budget conscious are just a few of the phrases contained in her letters of support. These phrases demonstrate why Smith is such a great asset to the FSU team and an exceptional employee.

Patrick Fairall was honored under the Non-exempt employee/facilities-maintenance category. He has been an FSU employee for nearly 19 years. For his first 13 years, Fairall worked as a painter. In 2010, he began working for the Physical Plant’s multi-trades shop as a moving and storage specialist. Fairall is one of the employees who works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every FSU event is set up smoothly and broken down without a hitch. According to his supervisor, budget conscious are just a few of the phrases contained in her letters of support. These phrases demonstrate why Smith is such a great asset to the FSU team and an exceptional employee.

Tea Tradition

Xiaoyi Wang, an education major from Weifang, China, makes “kung fu” tea during a traditional Chinese tea ceremony, part of a presentation on tea last fall by several international students at the Lewis J. Ort Library. The library celebrated the history of tea, which included the display of a collection of teapots from library staff.

Branam-Armiento and Gaumer Encourage Students to Mentor the Next Generation

For Vincent Morton, Jr., ’12, it was the challenge that Dr. Amy Branam-Armiento laid down. For Stephanie McKnight-Bailey, it was the lighthearted nudges in direction she received from Dr. Carol Gaumer ’89/M’91 over the years. Three alumni nominated their mentor faculty members for the Outstanding Mentor Award, presented each year as part of Homecoming’s Career Expo, and “pay it forward” in their own ways.

Branam-Armiento, chair of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, “undoubtedly took me from a not-so-assistant student with potential to an accomplished scholar by the end of my tenure at Frostburg State. She walked me into her office and showed me her degrees. Then, she challenged me to get a few of my own,” Morton said. “The kicker: I was sure that a bachelor’s was all I was capable of. I didn’t really even know if I had it in me to earn that.”

Morton not only earned his bachelor’s degree, but also a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is now at Tulane University as the senior program coordinator in the College Readiness program.

Gaumer, chair of the Department of Marketing, was McKnight-Bailey’s advisor as well as professor, and through that interaction, “we established a lighthearted relationship that has helped me make some very important decisions in my professional career,” she said. “I can honestly say that she hasn’t steered me wrong from the moment she suggested that I acquire a few years of work experience before enrolling in graduate school. … Dr. Gaumer continues to be the first person I contact for her input in terms of how my education and experiences can be utilized and further honed.”

“I will never be able to completely repay her for the thoughtfulness and support she has provided over the years,” McKnight-Bailey added, so instead, she returns to speak to current FSU students at Career Expo nearly every year.

To nominate a faculty or staff member who has made a significant contribution to your academic, personal and professional development, send a letter describing that person’s mentorship to Dr. Robbin Cordle at mentorship@admin.fsu.edu or 101 Founders Road, Frostburg, MD 21532 before July 1. Call 301-687-4404 for more information. The next presentation will be Friday, Oct. 21, during Homecoming.

Capitol Hill Internship Cements Passion for Politics

Taylor Schmitz’s eye-opening internship on Capitol Hill last summer convinced the FSU senior to follow his passion for politics, thanks to the support of FSU’s Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs.

“You can only learn so much from a textbook, no matter how much you read,” said Schmitz, a Mount Airy resident, who interned in the office of U.S. Rep. Bill Posey, R-Fla. “There’s only so much you can learn before you can get to Capitol Hill and see what happens behind the scenes.”

Schmitz double-majored in political science and criminal justice. In Washington, he did everything from calling constituents and reading over legislation to attending committee hearings for Posey. He also met Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the current speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Schmitz originally envisioned himself teaching, but his political interests increased at FSU and were cemented after helping a family fund campaign for state delegate.

He was encouraged to apply to internships by Tim Magnache, executive director of the Beall Institute, which was created in 2005 with gifts to the FSU Foundation from the estate of Beall, a former U.S. senator, and from his family and friends. Ever since, it has helped students to intern on Capitol Hill in D.C. and in Maryland’s General Assembly in Annapolis.

During his time on Capitol Hill, Schmitz worked with legislative aides, an intern coordinator and the chief of staff. He progressed from performing administrative tasks and setting up tours around the Capitol to writing letters and talking to constituents.

Despite the public’s dissatisfaction with Congress, Schmitz was encouraged to see that the legislative system still works.

“You voice does matter. Calling your representative or senator does matter, even at the federal level. It’s very important to hear from constituents, and it’s very easy to get involved.”
FSU's academic programs continue to earn recognition for their quality and affordability. Among the most recent:

NURSING:
- BestMasterofScienceinNursing.com: No. 10 among the most up-and-coming nursing schools in the East
- Best Master of Science in Nursing Degrees: No. 13 among most affordable competitive colleges for online RN-BSN degrees
- TopRNsToBSN.com

Educational Programs:
- TopMastersinEducation.com: No. 28 among best value master’s in special education programs
- TopMastersinEducation.com: No. 28 among best value master’s in recreation and parks management programs

Social Work:
- TopMastersinSocialWork.com

Recreation and Parks Management:
- CollegeValuesOnline.com: No. 16 among best value bachelor’s in recreation degrees for B.S. in Recreation and Parks Management

New Rankings: Value Added by FSU Degree
Two new college rankings studies based on the U.S. Department of Education’s 2015 College Scorecard database, one from the Economist and another from the Brookings Institute, sought to determine the value colleges add to their students’ earnings potential. The studies compared former students and graduates’ actual earnings to the earnings researchers projected for attrition of such an institution.

Both studies, using different methods, found FSU enhanced its former students’ earnings potential at the midpoint of their careers significantly more than expected for schools of similar type, size and location.

The Economist:
- FSU ranked 101 of 1,275 four-year schools.
- FSU was in the top 8% nationwide.
- 10 years after enrolling, FSU graduates earn $5,500/year more than expected.

Brookings Institute:
- FSU scored 78 out of a possible 100.
- FSU was in the top 25% nationwide.
- 10 years after enrolling, FSU graduates earn $6,000/year more than expected.

FSU Now Mentoring Other Schools in NASPA Lead Initiative
Last year, FSU created a series of Town Hall Meetings for students and elected officials that focused on government at the local, state and federal levels. Thanks to conversations started there, the city of Frostburg and the FSU Student Government Association have partnered to create an off-campus student recycling program.

The meetings began as a result of FSU’s participation in the National Initiative on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (Lead Initiative), a program run by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

FSU has been so successful that other schools are now looking to it for advice. The Lead Initiative partners U.S. colleges and universities to share best practices on how to educate students to become informed, engaged citizens of a democratic society. For the past two years, Patrick O’Brien ’07, director of FSU’s Office of Civic Engagement, has learned from colleagues at other institutions.

This year, FSU has been named a Lead Consulting Institution, which means O’Brien and FSU staff will act as mentors for other Lead Initiative participants, sharing lessons learned at Frostburg with prestigious institutions around the country.

NASPA defines Lead Consulting Institutions as “first among peers, having leadership responsibilities for the mentoring, guidance and support of each cohort.”

Observatory Bringing the Universe Into Focus at Planetarium
By Charles Schelle

The universe is now coming into focus at FSU, where stunning images from the rooftop observatory are being projected on the FSU Planetarium and Multimedia Learning Center’s dome screen during weekly sky shows.

The observatory, located on the roof of the Gira Center, features a robotically mounted 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with attachable cameras to capture deep space images and planets in amazing detail. “It’s large—aperture allows you to view very faint objects,” said Dr. Jason Speights, director of the MLC. “At the same time, it’s capable of high magnification, so the planets can be seen in great detail.”

Images showing Saturn’s rings, Jupiter’s bouncing clouds, and much more are now being featured during planetarium shows, including some via live feeds from the sky, and could not have been done without FSU students, who continue to fine-tune the equipment.

Dustin Ullery, Tyler Ram and Paul Brooke ’15 all helped set up the observatory and other newly purchased planetarium equipment as part of a special projects course. The students also help produce and host planetarium shows.

“I’ve grown up looking at all these pictures, but being up here on the roof and getting the images myself made it a lot more tangible,” said Ullery, who is double majoring in physics and mathematics. “I think it’s a better learning experience overall for the students to see what’s going on in the planetarium and in the universe with our own eyes.”

Testing the equipment, which includes aligning the telescope with the sky, calibrating its positioning, looking through image data and wiring the telescope to computers, meant some freezing nights atop the Gira Center roof at 3 a.m., when initial work took place during the winter. Ram couldn’t imagine being anywhere better.

“Not a lot of people get to use this beautiful telescope to see things that no man is supposed to see,” said Ram, a physics and engineering double major, with a concentration in electrical engineering.

Creating images of nebulae and star clusters from the telescope isn’t as simple as a point-and-shoot camera. Students sifted through stacks of data and matrices not only to find the right images, but used the information to understand the physics of space. Using programs named AstroPix and RegiStax, Ullery, Ram and Brooke would call data from Flexible Image Transport System files, which could take minutes or hours, to process images and calibrate the equipment.

“I’d have 1,000 to 2,000 pictures of Jupiter, and I’d have to hand pick it and use RegiStax where it takes the good pictures, get rid of the bad ones and press them together to make a good image,” Ram said. “That was one of the biggest challenges to make those pictures look like they looked through the telescope.”

Ullery appreciated that both students and faculty worked with some newer programs and equipment neither had experienced.

“We all had to figure it out together,” he said. “It was nice to have a one-on-one relationship with faculty who worked with this staff before, but not these exact things, so we could see how they adapted to information that they didn’t understand. It really helped us to adapt to situations with new technology.”

Speights never tires of witnessing students’ reactions from seeing objects in space for the first time.

“They would kind of trip out over that,” he said, laughing. “There were some moments where they would spout out when they got an image or see something for the first time with their unaided eye.”

Ram has had one or two of those moments. “I can see that horizon with trees, and I can’t see anything past that,” Ram said pointing to Big Savage Mountain from the Gira Center roof. “Yes, I can step five feet in here and see millions of light years away. It’s like having a superpower.”

The observatory is located on the roof of the new Gira Center.
Alumnus to Lead Firestone Industrial Division

Scott Damon M’95 now leads Firestone Industrial Products as its president. Damon, who earned his Master of Business Administration degree from FSU, joined the Indianapolis-based company in August. He will oversee the strategic growth of Firestone Industrial Products and its 1,100 employees. The company will move to Nashville in 2017, where several Firestone divisions will have a combined headquarters with Bridgestone Americas.

Damon’s experience includes serving as president for Speedco since 2014 and numerous roles with Bridgestone from 1996 to 2014, including executive director of strategic planning at Bridgestone Americas, Technical Center in Akron and vice president of marketing and director of marketing for strategic brands and channels for Bridgestone Commercial Solutions. Firestone Industrial Products is a group company of Bridgestone Americas and specializes in air spring manufacturing for automobiles and agricultural equipment.

“Scott is a dynamic leader, and I am confident his years of experience and extensive background across the Bridgestone portfolio of companies will help Firestone continue to meet the needs of our global customer base,” said Mick Suzuki, vice president of diversified businesses with Bridgestone Americas. “We look forward to his contributions.”

Honored for Service

The Alumni Association honored four alumni with the Service to Alma Mater Award during the Board of Directors Fall meeting as part of FSU’s 2015 Homecoming celebration. From left are Rebecca A. Brown-McCusker M’88, Mary E. Clapsaddle M’87, retired Air Force Col. Ronald G. Forrester M’72 and the Rev. James L. Mason M’75/M’87.

Books by Alumni

The Essay
By Isabell Niland M’79/M’03
Benjamin “Studs” Stauffer, now an adult, recalls his years in elementary school when his classmates would tease him for having a deformed leg and hand. Benjamin finally gets a chance to show his classmates the meaning of compassion when he wins an essay contest that changes his life and the way people see him.

The Soldier’s Word
By Kenn Woods M’92
A Civil War re-enactor, Woods examines the ways in which uniforms were ragged and torn in a romantic myth that arose following the war. The book includes surprising anecdotes and some “facts” of that era on a variety of topics.

Daugherty is Delaware Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Merv Daugherty M’77 has been named the 2015-2016 Delaware Superintendent of the Year. Daugherty has been the superintendent of the Red Clay Consolidated School District in Wilmington, Del., since 2009. During that time, he has coordinated interventions and awareness school programs and helped to develop after-school programs for students. While speaking about his honor, Daugherty said, “I look forward to continue working with all stakeholders on our shared goal of a quality education for all students.”

Sharing Their Bobcat Pride

Alumni, families and friends of our Bobcat winter sports teams came together recently to celebrate their student-athletes. Pictured, from top to bottom, are gatherings for the women’s basketball team and the men’s basketball team, held before each faced off in February against St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and one for the swim team before facing Marymount in January.

Frostburg’s First African-American Grad Reflects on His Experience

By Liz Douglas Medcalf
Leon Brumback M’61/M’67, Frostburg’s first African-American graduate, recently reflected on his time in college and the difference that made in his life during an interview with students at Frostburg’s Mountain Ridge High School as part of their documentary on the history of FSU.

“It was just a wonderful experience for me,” said the 1994 recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. “You have to remember, I was basically a country kid. Integration was just another word for me when I was growing up. We were a poor family. The word ‘college’ never entered my vocabulary until my senior year. And then it all just kind of fell into place.”

Brumback reflected that coming to Frostburg allowed him to fully take part in the college experience, opportunities he had largely been unable to have before.

Until his senior year in high school, he traveled by bus 45 miles each way to segregated schools. All that time in transit meant no sports, no clubs, no activities.

“Things improved in his senior year at his local school and at then-Hagerstown Junior College, although most of his non-studying time was spent hitchhiking to and from HJC,” he said.

“They got here, it was a different story. There was so much going on all the time that I was able to join a number of clubs and organizations. And there was always something going on in the dorms. It was just good times, all the time for me,” he said. He played three sports, joined the French and drama clubs, and took advantage of as many opportunities as he could.

He admitted to some apprehension when first arriving on campus, so much so that he requested that he not be assigned a roommate to avoid creating friction. “Coming out of segregated schools, I faced off in February against St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and one for the swim team before facing Marymount in January.

It turns out that he needn’t have worried. His favorite memory of Frostburg was the reception he received.

“As soon as the guys discovered that I was there by myself, they all welcomed me as a roommate. It was smooth sailing from the very beginning,” he said. “Overcoming that apprehension of what I thought might have been because I was the only black student, and then being totally accepted right from the beginning and just being one of the guys, just another student, was a good experience for me.”

After graduating, he taught for some 30 years. He loved his job and was often honored for his skill. And signs of his success are everywhere: His dentist, doctor and lawyer are all former students of his.

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It turns out that he needn’t have worried. His favorite memory of Frostburg was the reception he received.

“As soon as the guys discovered that I was there by myself, they all welcomed me as a roommate. It was smooth sailing from the very beginning,” he said. “Overcoming that apprehension of what I thought might have been because I was the only black student, and then being totally accepted right from the beginning and just being one of the guys, just another student, was a good experience for me.”

After graduating, he taught for some 30 years. He loved his job and was often honored for his skill. And signs of his success are everywhere: His dentist, doctor and lawyer are all former students of his.

Daugherty is Delaware Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Merv Daugherty M’77 has been named the 2015-2016 Delaware Superintendent of the Year. Daugherty has been the superintendent of the Red Clay Consolidated School District in Wilmington, Del., since 2009. During that time, he has coordinated interventions and awareness school programs and helped to develop after-school programs for students. While speaking about his honor, Daugherty said, “I look forward to continue working with all stakeholders on our shared goal of a quality education for all students.”

Sharing Their Bobcat Pride

Alumni, families and friends of our Bobcat winter sports teams came together recently to celebrate their student-athletes. Pictured, from top to bottom, are gatherings for the women’s basketball team and the men’s basketball team, held before each faced off in February against St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and one for the swim team before facing Marymount in January.

Frostburg’s First African-American Grad Reflects on His Experience

By Liz Douglas Medcalf
Leon Brumback M’61/M’67, Frostburg’s first African-American graduate, recently reflected on his time in college and the difference that made in his life during an interview with students at Frostburg’s Mountain Ridge High School as part of their documentary on the history of FSU.

“It was just a wonderful experience for me,” said the 1994 recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award. “You have to remember, I was basically a country kid. Integration was just another word for me when I was growing up. We were a poor family. The word ‘college’ never entered my vocabulary until my senior year. And then it all just kind of fell into place.”

Brumback reflected that coming to Frostburg allowed him to fully take part in the college experience, opportunities he had largely been unable to have before.

Until his senior year in high school, he traveled by bus 45 miles each way to segregated schools. All that time in transit meant no sports, no clubs, no activities.

“Things improved in his senior year at his local school and at then-Hagerstown Junior College, although most of his non-studying time was spent hitchhiking to and from HJC,” he said.

“They got here, it was a different story. There was so much going on all the time that I was able to join a number of clubs and organizations. And there was always something going on in the dorms. It was just good times, all the time for me,” he said. He played three sports, joined the French and drama clubs, and took advantage of as many opportunities as he could.

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Each Homecoming, alumni from a variety of fields take the time to meet with current students during the Career Expo, giving them the benefit of their perspective. Students use this networking program as an opportunity to ask questions, make connections and collect business cards. Here are some of the bits of advice and reflections that were shared this year.

**If I Knew Then ...**

MATTHEW SMITH '14

**History/Accounting**

Business

Strategic Development Manager/Specialization Sales Representative, Chesapeake Lighting

What advice do you have for students?

Take every opportunity given to you ... You can at any time do your time management in order to focus on where you need to be. If it results in less social activity with your friends, then be it. They will be there. You will have time later on to spend time with them.

But you're developing your career right now. Those opportunities you miss can be the one thing that get you the job over somebody else.

WILL CLAUSON '13

Engineering

Product Engineer, Orbital ATK

What did you gain from your experience at FSU?

It's good to have internship or research experience if you want. I had the pleasure during my senior year to do research with Dr. Jason Speights ... I did a little bit of astrophysics research here, and that was crucial for me. It opened up an entire new world for me. I remember reading my first peer-reviewed scientific paper, and it probably took me a couple of hours, with the paper here and Google here, to get through the first paragraph. I look at Google Scholar and just type in a keyword. Your mind will be blown.

DANA REINHARDT '04/M'06

Educational Professions

Allegany County Public Schools, Third-Grade Teacher

What advice do you have for current students?

Ask your mentor teachers a ton of questions ... In my mind, you can ask them anything.

What advice do you have for students?

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AARON LITTLEJOHN '13

Physics

Ph. D. Candidate in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

What tips do you have for someone going to grad school?

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STEPHANIE MCKNIGHT-BAILEY '03

Business

Contracting Officer, FAA

How would you compare your training and preparation at Frostburg versus some of your colleagues?

I think the class size was integral to the attention we got from our professors. ... I think with the smaller class size, we had our ability to better understand the material to interact with the professors as well as our colleagues. ... I can't tell you how much time I spent in Dr. [Carol] Gourion or Dr. [Tony] Lara's office. I'm surprised they didn't claim me on their taxes.

DR. CRYSTAL ELLIS-DOBRAZ '05/M'06

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Strategic Development Manager/Specialization Sales Representative, Chesapeake Lighting

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Supporting Education for the Love of Community

By Robert Spahr ’13

More than 40 years after arriving to practice medicine in Cumberland “for a little while,” the legacy of the late Dr. Sikander Sandhir and his wife, Prabhat Sandhir, is supporting future teachers studying at FSU through the Dr. Sikander and Mrs. Prabhat Sandhir Education Scholarship.

“Education is the most important thing we can give our children,” said Prabhat.

The Sandhirs first came to America in 1972 for the educational opportunities it would offer their sons. Sikander had been born in India, Prabhat in Nairobi, Kenya. After living in Kenya, England and Scotland for training and medical practice, they came to Cumberland, Md., not realizing that would be where they would settle for good.

“When we first moved to Cumberland, we thought we would stay for a little while,” Prabhat said. “The love of the community made us stay here.”

Sikander’s successful medical practice provided a comfortable life and educational opportunities for their sons, who all became doctors themselves. He taught them all the importance of giving back to the community that had shown so much love to his family. Giving back, he told his family, was their duty.

The Sandhirs decided to give back to the educational institutions that had drawn them to settle in America.

Prabhat became involved with the Allegany County Board of Education. In the 1980s, the couple helped introduce Western Maryland to their cultural heritage during the Festival of India in Frostburg. They established awards at area high schools for students excelling in math and science. They also supported Allegany County’s “Teacher of the Year” award.

In 2004, they created the Sandhir Foundation to continue to support activities and causes in Allegany County. Their FSU scholarship was established in 2012 and is being awarded, and they have another at Allegany College of Maryland.

Sadly, Sikander succumbed to a rare blood disorder in November 2013. Yet over the course of four decades in Western Maryland, he and Prabhat gave much back to their adopted community. As other doctors left their practices, they took on the mission to educate their patients in Frostburg. He served the people of Allegany County for 37 years until his 2009 retirement.

“The community is my family,” said Prabhat. “We are so blessed. This may not be a rich community, but it is a very loving one.”

While her children have now grown and moved to larger cities around the country, Prabhat has no desire to relocate. She does travel frequently to visit her young grandchildren, including the twin boys who were born on her husband’s birthday—a miracle, she said. Prabhat hopes to instill the same community-oriented values in them that she and her husband passed to their children.

“It can make an impact in life to do a little something for people,” Prabhat said. “The religion of the whole world is humanity.”

The Sandhir Education Scholarship started by Prabhat will continue to help prospective educators for generations to come, and its impact will resonate through the children they go on to teach.

Opportunity Grant Serves as Heartbeat for Human Anatomy Courses

Peering upward from her seat, Hannah Tavik is carefully locating the mylohyoid muscle on her patient’s neck using a metal pointer. It’s OK if she pokes around or feels for the muscle because this patient is actually a $6,900, anatomically correct model provided through an FSU Foundation Opportunity Grant.

“Being able to use a real model is helpful because you get to physically touch each muscle,” Tavik said during her Human Anatomy and Physiology class. “You can see where the muscles, nerves and veins lie on the body versus a picture, which is two-dimensional.”

The grant allowed the Department of Biology to purchase a three-quarter-scale muscular anatomy figure complete with internal organs and interchangeable genders. The grant also paid for a deluxe medical-grade disarticulated skeleton. One of the uses of Opportunity Grants is to allow instructors to fund additional materials and classroom experiences.

About 130 students will use these models each semester across several courses, said Dr. Karen Keller ’89/M’92, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology.

“It’s a vital part of class,” Keller said. “The students absolutely need the hands-on models to learn this.”

The FSU Foundation previously purchased other models for the lab, Keller added.

“Before, students would exclusively rely on photos and software to identify parts of the body. The software — A.D.A.M. — is a little like the board game Operation, but much more high-tech.”

“The trend now is to go back to hands-on models,” Keller said. “The first thing we do is we learn all the muscles we possibly can on human models. They see them on several models, so they recognize they’re not exactly the same, then we do the dissections.”

Keller is thankful Foundation gifts were able to provide the experience to students because she sees the difference in class.

“It makes a huge difference. I can tell by their test scores,” Keller said. “I can tell when students email after they get into a professional school. They say, ‘Thank you for making me learn this. I can do this now.’”

Tavik, a sports and exercise science major, said the class will help her with her career goal of being a college athletic director.

“I might have to be a personal trainer or coach, and by learning the body, I’ll be able to work my way up to my career,” Tavik said.

Opportunity Grants are funded by gifts to the FSU Foundation’s Annual Fund. To support the Annual Fund, visit www.frostburg.edu/waystogive or call 301.687.4161.
HELPING MORE STUDENTS FIND A World of Experiences

Sudy abroad has a lifelong impact, giving students: the opportunity to rethink perceived notions and see the world from a different perspective. Faculty and staff at FSU who have seen the change in their students have established funds to make this life-changing experience more accessible.

Bobcats Beyond Borders

Victoria Gearhart ’12/M’15, director of FSU’s Center for International Education (CIE), loves seeing her study abroad students come home. “I meet face to face with them throughout the semester or semesters before their departure,” she said. “So when they return, I just see a confidence in them that I didn’t see before they left. I see an attitude of ‘look what I’ve done. Look what I’ve conquered.’”

Junior Nick DeMichele, a dual major in political science and English, came to FSU with an eye toward study abroad. As a sophomore, DeMichele spent a semester at Northumbria University in England and traveled throughout Europe. Later, he spent another semester at the National Taiwan University in Taiwan in 2015. “I also visited Hong Kong and Tokyo,” DeMichele said. “Along the way, I travelled through monasteries, Buddhist temples, night markets and some of the tallest buildings in the world. Frostburg has helped me travel the world, and see the different nuances in the way racism is practiced.”

Joseph Gearhart, associate director of FSU’s Center for International Education, agrees. “The experience forced DeMichele to see the world from a different perspective. Faculty and staff at FSU have established funds to make this life-changing experience more accessible.”

“Victoria, I don’t think I’m going to be able to make it,” DeMichele said. “I want to have to withdraw my application.” And I have a whole file cabinet full of students who’ve had to withdraw due to financial reasons.”

Gearhart maintains a webpage with available scholarships offered by outside groups around the country. She also directs students to apply for existing study abroad scholarships at FSU – the Harold R. Rome International Scholarship, the Gamma Fund and two Wickert Family Study Abroad Scholarships, one in memory of Alan and Jane Wickert and another in memory of Catherine Morton.

Still, she wanted to do more. To increase the scholarship awards available for study abroad students, Gearhart contacted the FSU Foundation. The result was Bobcats Beyond Borders, a scholarship fund, which she hopes will inspire future study abroad students to join in.

Gearhart speaks to her current students about the importance of giving back to support the generations of students to come. As students give back and the Bobcats Beyond Borders fund grows, the scholarship will make life-changing study abroad experiences possible for more and more students, regardless of their financial limitations.

Robert M. Moore, Jr., Memorial Scholarship

He advises his own students to travel abroad to better understand the core concepts of sociology – how groups of people interact, and how cultural traditions and expectations affect that interaction in different places. And now he is also working to make cross-cultural experiences more affordable for FSU students.

Moore created the Robert M. Moore, Jr., Memorial Scholarship for sociologists to experience cultural difference through living abroad in memory of his father’s long struggle against segregated housing practices in Philadelphia.

“Don’t ever let people off guard – being an American first rather than being African-American first.” Moore returned from Italy better aware of himself and his country, even his own flaws. “I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I feared going into the cities just like everyone else,” Moore said. “My first urban experience was living in downtown Rome, and I fell in love with cities. So I came back here and lived for 10 years in Philadelphia.” He saw similar changes in one of his own students after she returned from abroad.

“I remember one African-American student who had a lot of reservations. She ended up going off to Ireland and came back with an Irish boyfriend,” Moore said. “And I think it enabled her to look at America in a different way: to continue to look at race but also to look at class, background and other variables as well.”

In the first year, the Robert M. Moore, Jr., Memorial Scholarship was awarded in 2015, and with the fund awarded, it will continue to support study abroad students as they broaden their linguistic and cultural horizons for generations to come. The Almquists expressed their satisfaction that the award their daughter envisioned is now making a difference for the students she never got the chance to teach.

Katherine Ann Almquist Scholarship

Dr. Katherine Almquist was an assistant professor of foreign languages at FSU from 2002 through 2012, when she passed away unexpectedly. After her death, her parents learned that she had started to fund a scholarship in her honor to support students with financial need studying in a non-English-speaking European country, with preference for first-generation students.

Her parents, Dick and Louise Almquist, were surprised to learn of the tribute. Appreciative and humbled by the gesture, they renamed the scholarship the Katherine Ann Almquist Scholarship in her memory and worked to endow the fund.

The scholarship is a fitting tribute to a woman whose love of foreign languages informed her career, an interest shaped during her studies abroad in France and Italy. “We feel the exchange experience solidly directed her career to French, and the Italian experience broadened it to more languages,” said her father. “The experiences abroad – living in other cultures – resulted in greater appreciation for and ability to deal with them.”

The first Almquist Scholarship was awarded in 2015, and with the fund awarded, it will continue to support study abroad students as they broaden their linguistic and cultural horizons for generations to come. The Almquists expressed their satisfaction that the award their daughter envisioned is now making a difference for the students she never got the chance to teach.

To support any of these scholarships, visit www.frostburg.edu/waystogive. To create a new scholarship, call the FSU Foundation at 301-687-4161.
Pending Sundays rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Wednesday nights competing at trivia in Dante’s Bar could sum up the downtime for many Frostburg State University students. It was true for Mohan Vorganti, a 24-year-old then-master’s degree student from India who became just another Bobcat living the typical American twentysomething life. But thanks to his presence, and that of 36 other Indian students studying at FSU last fall, the Bobcat experience for American students also includes cricket, yoga and customs from the Indian holiday, Diwali. No one at the University could anticipate these cultural exchanges becoming so popular, or that the population of Indian students would grow so fast.

“I come from a diverse country, but they’re very open to foreigners here,” said Vorganti, who received his master’s degree in computer science in December. “The way they received me, that’s overwhelming. That’s why they call America the land of the immigrants.”

Actually, nobody could anticipate FSU receiving so many Indian students in such a short time.

“We had fewer than 10 Indian students last year,” said Victoria Gearhart ’12/M’15, associate director of the Center for International Education (CIE). “Those students here last year started telling us, ‘We have cousins who want to come to FSU. We have some friends who want to come to FSU.’

“Little by little we kept hearing reports of friends, cousins, family members, and Graduate Services telling us of this increase in students. This summer it occurred to us that, ‘Wow, we would have a huge group of students coming.’” All told, FSU went from having eight Indian students in spring of 2015 to 78 in the current semester.

That number is expected to continue climbing, in part thanks to Vorganti himself. His post in a Facebook group of 37,000 Indian students looking to obtain their master’s degrees in the U.S went viral among its membership as Vorganti urged his Indian peers to broaden their horizons, citing FSU as a place to do just that.

“My inbox was filled with people asking me questions,” he said. So were the inboxes for FSU’s Graduate Services and CIE, so much so that those offices enlisted the help of current Indian students to provide answers.

Coming to America

Most of the influx of Indian students come from southeastern India, which includes Vorganti’s hometown of Hyderabad. The 425-year-old city is in a tech industry boom where companies like Google, Monster and Dell all have a presence. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is from the same city, where it happens to host the company’s largest research and development office outside of North America.

Vorganti had a comfortable job working for video game maker Electronic Arts as a quality assurance engineer in its mobile division in India. Yes, he tested video games for a living, with one of his biggest projects being The Sims FreePlay for Android devices.

“When I got the job, I updated my Facebook status: ‘All my life my parents were scolding me for playing video games, and now it’s earning me my bread and butter,’” Vorganti said, beaming.

Interacting with developers from America during product development, Vorganti wanted to broaden his horizons and immerse himself in American culture. He thought he would get that at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, but when he arrived, he saw that every student in his computer science classes looked like him.

“I thought, ‘OK, I have come this far, and if I wanted to get a master’s degree in India, I would easily be getting that without spending thousands of dollars,’” he said. “But I came here to do something unique, something where I could learn from the people who are surrounding me.”

After searching state by state for master’s programs in applied computer science, he found Frostburg. He transferred, and it proved to be the right place for him.
Shanthan Mareddy

His passion for Frostburg spilled over to a Facebook post: "The whole point of studying abroad is not to sit in a class of Indians and hang around Indians all the time instead of exploring people from other countries and cultures," he wrote.

His phone lit up with questions and messages from students in the 37,000-member group asking how they can apply, what grades they need and if they can transfer, and those same messages soon flooded inboxes at FSU offices. "They are definitely coming for our Computer Science program. FSU has a great computer science program for graduate students," Gearhart said. "This type of marketing – word-of-mouth – has been successful. Our students have a great experience here. They’re making those connections, so they want other students to have those experiences."

Shanthan Mareddy, left, is among the Indian computer science students at FSU thanks to word-of-mouth marketing. Mareddy heard about FSU from a friend last year and finished the first part of his degree in December. "I love this place, and I love the people around here," he said. "It's totally different from India and totally different from the U.K. They give you a lot of opportunities to explore your thoughts and dreams. It makes you a better person," Mareddy said.

Bringing India to Frostburg

The transition to American life and studies wasn’t seamless for Vorganti, who Americanized his name from Sushil Voragante. Homesickness hit hard during that first semester and his grades suffered. "But the hospitality in town was so awesome that I found ways to overcome it," he said.

CIE is that first touch of hospitality that the students receive, helping students with processing their visa applications, potential questions they need to answer at the embassy and, in this case, finding housing. "Many of the Indian students don’t know each other until they get here. The current Indian students will meet with those students, talk with them and make those housing arrangements," Gearhart said. "Typically we don’t help students find housing off campus, but due to this large increase, we’re not just going to sit back and not help them. We’re going to assist them and make it a great experience when they arrive."

As Vorganti connected with Americans, more Indian students came to campus, starting a way to bring the two cultures together to go beyond conversations about Bollywood and chicken curry.

A new student organization called the Indian and South Asian Student Association (ISASA) formed to help bring some of the comforts of home to FSU.

"A major part of the Indian Student Association is to keep them engaged with activities, so their brain is occupied all the time, and they don’t feel homesick," he said.

They banded together for some pick-up cricket matches on the softball field when they noticed American students started to show up and watch. Come October, the association called out for students, faculty and staff to join in on the fun. Interim President Bowling lit the Diwali candle to commence the celebration that included multiple song and dance acts from the Indian student population. Following the performance, it was time to break bread when the audience to devour.

"You drive on Main Street and you quickly see Chinese students walking on the other side of the road,” Gearhart said. “We’re definitely becoming more diverse. I believe not only our campus but our community is embracing that.”

"I love this place, and I love the people around here. They give you a lot of opportunities to explore your thoughts and dreams. It makes you a better person." – Shanthan Mareddy

Shanthan Mareddy Priyanka Kondeti, Indian student, Sampath Mora, part of the audience to devour. Yoga sessions proved to be so popular that a larger space had to be found. The Diwali celebration included dance demonstrations. The Diwali celebration.

Nithin Kovuri participates in a yoga class led by Indian student, Sampath Mora.
BREAKING BARRIERS and Building Connections at the Annual Diversity Retreat

By Robert Spahr '13

For 17 years now, a feature of the fall semester has been the Annual Diversity Retreat, whose theme this year was “Building Community: Deeper Connections,” which meant breaking down cultural barriers and sharing personal experiences to better understand how people are shaped by the world around them.

Robin Wynder '80/M'87, director of FSU’s Diversity Center, facilitates each off-campus retreat according to principles of the National Coalition Building Institute. NCBI is an organization that strives to create communities in which everyone belongs by training teams of peer leaders to pass out nametags – to the wrong individuals.

Participants had to find the person with their tag and return the wrong one to its right recipient. “It was difficult” Wynder said. “… I haven’t had explosive reactions to components of that workshop in a while, but we did … for a few of the participants, it was more than they could handle at that point.”

That’s when Wynder handed the reins to Massie-Burrell and Snyder and spoke privately with the participants experiencing conflict. “And the response to that was fantastic. There were two groups in particular who needed to have a conversation with each other. And they yelled and they screamed and they fought in the beginning, but Wynder was pleased overall. “I didn’t see anyone who appeared to be disgusted, unhappy or uncomfortable by the end of that evening, and definitely by the end of the retreat,” she said. “They made new friends, but they OK because they need to be as open and honest as they can be in order to grow. If they sit there and pretend they’re just happy to be here, people are just constantly throwing them down.”

Participants sorted themselves into groups they identified with and discussed how they wished others would perceive them. “I learned a lot of new things about people who I already knew,” said Johnson. “You just make new friends and start to enjoy the campus a little bit more when you can be diverse.”

Wynder has seen that transformation firsthand. “I had a couple of freshmen who were really withdrawn,” Wynder said. “And I was surprised when they signed up for the retreat. And it was just exactly what they needed because it gave them a point of connection.”

More than 50 students participated in the 17th annual Diversity Retreat, spending a fall weekend working through sometimes difficult cultural differences and making new connections.

“Growing up in the diverse community surrounding the San Francisco Bay Area and experiencing different cultures while traveling and living overseas, I really love meeting people who enrich my life with their culture, beliefs and values,” he said. “The caucuses were extremely moving and emotional.”

Participants sorted themselves into groups they identified with and discussed how they felt others perceived them. Then they presented those discussions to the retreat and spoke about how they wished others would perceive them.

Robin Wynder '90/M'87, director of FSU’s Diversity Center, facilitates each off-campus retreat according to principles of the National Coalition Building Institute. NCBI is an organization that strives to create communities in which everyone belongs by training teams of peer leaders to pass out nametags – to the wrong individuals. Participants had to find the person with their tag and return the wrong one to its right recipient.

“Bringing awareness and empowerment in diversity, equity and inclusion issues, and in coalition building. Student awareness and empowerment in diversity, equity and inclusion issues, and in coalition building.

Robert Wynder '13

More than 50 students participated in the 17th annual Diversity Retreat, spending a fall weekend working through sometimes difficult cultural differences and making new connections.
How does the Minister of Magic influence criminal justice in Harry Potter's Wizarding World? Does villain Voldemort's control rival that of Adolph Hitler during World War II?

The fascinating questions and arguments about the lives of wizards and muggles are just some of the discussions in a special topics sociology class that was offered at FSU in the fall. The Sociology of Harry Potter.

"Everybody knows at least something about the Wizarding World, even if they are not fans of Harry Potter. They know there are wands and there is magic. They might even know about Death Eaters and Dementors," said Dr. Mandy Vandivier '99/M'01, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology who taught the 400-level, three-credit course.

Students based at two sites, the Frostburg campus and at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, explored the interpersonal relationships and how they influence society in Potter’s world in the online class. Sociology is the study of human society, so recognizing the same forces at work in a fictional society can be illuminating.

Zachary Yeager was excited he could take the course at Frostburg.

"I've seen it at big D-1 schools, but I didn't think we'd have something cool like this," said the FSU senior.

Vandivier wanted to create a sociology class that can dive deep into a familiar world.

"We can take this opportunity and review all of it using sociological imagination to gain a deeper understanding of someone else’s culture without explaining what it’s like in that culture, because we have such an inherent knowledge about that culture and our own," she said.

The class also attracted students who weren’t Potter fanatics, but who were intrigued by what the course offered.

"I’m not a Harry Potter nerd, as I would say, but I decided to take it, and I like it," said sociology and psychology double major Maame Ackon.

Ackon has not read any of J.K. Rowling’s books, but saw some of the Potter movies. The class actually sparked her interest to revisit Potter.

"It’s a weird analogy, and people didn’t agree with me on that, but in my mind they kind of controlled their worlds," she said.

Yeager pulled from his law and society studies and compared criminal justice in the U.S. with Potter’s society, looking at the frequency of death and murder as well as prisons. He was just as interested in a classmate’s argument about Squibs – someone without magical powers despite having magical parents.

"They brought up how they’re the outsiders of the Harry Potter world because they don't have magic and can’t really do anything," Yeager said. "The student compared Squibs with people who have diseases in the real world because they’re looked at like outcasts. I would have never thought of that."

Ackon said she felt connected to her online classmates through replying to each other’s posts on discussion boards.

"It’s all completely interactive, and we all ‘talk’ to each other," said Ackon, who also completed another special topics course in the spring, The Sociology of Reality Shows.

To bridge the two campus communities, as well as bring the online students together in real life, the class organized several events, including a Quidditch match played on the Upper Quad on the Frostburg campus. Students were all smiles, running from end to end with broomsticks between their legs in a hectic game that combines elements of handball, dodgeball, soccer and tag.

"It’s a lot of running – more than people thought there would be," Yeager said. The Quidditch game was so successful that students have expressed interest in starting a Quidditch club.

Students also marched in the Frostburg Halloween Parade and joined together for a costume party in Hagerstown, furthering the celebration of Potter.

Vandivier is also thrilled that Harry Potter's story is continuing, creating new source material for when her class is offered again in fall 2016. A new play, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I & II, debuts next year, serving as the eighth story in the Potter series.

Vandivier is offering Social Movements of Harry Potter this semester, examining the movements of Hermione Granger’s Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.), Dumbledore’s Army and other aspects.
Students Learn to Take a Show on the Road

With Junie B. Jones

By Charles Schelle

Just like the title character of Junie B. Jones: The Musical, the show's cast and crew can stand out in a crowd for all the right reasons. The children's musical is part of FSU's Roundabout Theatre and CES Arts for the Schools, which travelled to area schools to stage the play during the fall semester.

The musical, featuring student designs at a number of levels, had a challenge not faced in most shows. In addition to shows in their regular home in the Performing Arts Center, they had to be ready to pack everything up and perform in unfamiliar spaces when they took their show on the road.

The fast-paced work featured non-stop singing, dialogue, dance steps and subtle set changes that made Junie B. Jones' world come alive. It's a must to hold the attention of a young audience.

"Children are very energetic, so you need to give them an energy so they'll pay attention," said choreographer Erienne McEldowney. The FSU senior leaned on a jazzy style of music to execute a high-energy show.

"You need to give the actors really popping dance moves. The actors have to have energy, whether they're speaking or singing or dancing," she said. "I was using that jazzy style to energize the movements and everything else. We have a lot of running here, running there. Quick shuffles there."

Despite the controlled chaos, lead actress Jasmine Proctor said McEldowney's work easily translates into Junie B. Jones.

"You have a lot to remember, but you just have to be really calm and have a lot of focus," the FSU sophomore said. "I was using that jazzy style to energize the movements and everything else. We have a lot of running here, running there. Quick shuffles there."

Behind the dancing and acting, the actors interacted with the set that transformed from a closed notebook to an open notebook that doubled as a classroom and a home. Building blocks that spelled out Junie B. Jones were also used as seats throughout scenes, all thanks to set and props designer Kimberly Lartz.

"I love children's theater," the FSU senior said. With all of the colors and everything around me, I thought, "What was the most outrageous thing I could think of that I could put in here and just make sense?" Her pride and joy of the set was a chalkboard that lowered down to reveal a kitchen window and a table for house scenes. The pictures on the interior walls were inspired by scenes in the musical.

"I chose my favorite moments from the Junie B. Jones show. She has the moments with Herb on the bus, and that stole my heart," she said, identifying the picture of the bus on the wall. "That needs to go right there and needs to be one of the big things you see. It's kind of, 'What is her life and what is important to her?'"

Lartz also channeled her inner Junie B. Jones by showing that different can be cool. She challenged stereotypes with her carpentry skills, which were especially useful when building a collapsible set for touring.

"It's definitely been an interesting experience. I learned to embrace the fact that I'm a small woman. Going beyond that, I wear steel toes. I always have a nail gun on me," she said. "It challenges everyone around you to change what they think a carpenter should be."

Proctor hopes that the kids who saw Junie B. Jones were inspired by the message of the play and the hard work of the cast and crew.

"I hope that some kids relate to Junie B. because they're that little kid too, and realize that it's OK to be yourself," said Proctor, who was an avid reader of the eponymous book series by Barbara Park. "I also hope that a lot of little kids get interested in theatre because it's a great art form. It's a great way to really express yourself. I wish that I had more people to try to push me into theatre when I was growing up, especially being so young."

The cast and crew say they could not have staged Junie B. Jones if it weren't for the opportunities given to them at FSU.

"All of our professors and all of our teachers are so hands on. They go above and beyond to help us and to better us as actors and actresses," Proctor said. "I'm really thankful for them for showing me the ropes and helping me better myself as an actress."
Swimming Standouts

Sophomore Christian March has 27 wins and remains undefeated in the 200 breaststroke event. He broke two meet records and two school records, as well as earned two NCAA provisional “B” cut times in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events this season. March enters the championship season ranked second in the CAC in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events.

Arenas, junior, sophomore Macey Nitchie broke school records in the 500-yard freestyle (5:20.69) and the 100-yard freestyle (53.74), and has posted 20 first-place finishes this season. Her teammate, freshman Maddie Weinberger, broke a 20-year school record in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:08.08) and a school record in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:20.41). Weinberger has also posted 20 first-place finishes and currently holds the top time in the CAC for the 200-yard breaststroke (2:20.41).

Outstanding in Their (Track & Fields)

Senior J.R. Lowery holds the nation’s seventh-longest throw in the shot put after breaking the Frostburg record and qualifying for the ECAC Indoor Championships, with a toss of 16.18 meters (53’ 1”). He also holds the nation’s 26th best throw in the weight throw after breaking his own school record with an ECAC Indoor Championship qualifying distance of 16.18 meters (53’ 1”).

Senior Kyra Trenedal is currently ninth in the country in the 60-meter dash (7.83) and 16th in NCAA Division III in the 200-meter dash (26.11).

Platinum Eight Years in a Row

The women’s soccer Bobcats’ 2015 season was Platinum, according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, which named the team its Ethics and Sportsmanship Award winner. The Platinum Award, one of the most difficult to achieve in college soccer, is given to teams that have received no yellow caution cards or red ejection cards throughout the season. This marks the eighth year in a row the Bobcats have been honored. They are one of only eight teams nationally to receive the award. They finished the season with a 10-7-3 mark and appeared in the first round of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Tournament.

Bobcat seniors, from left, Keboey Westworth, Jesse Dillaha, Abby Agosopo, Paige Gray, Brooke Longs, Erin Worthman and Chloe McCoy.

FALL 2015 BY THE NUMBERS:

1   NJAC Rookie of the Year
1   NJAC Special Teams Player of the Year
3   DIII Senior Bowl Selections – Football
6   All-Region honorees
9   ECAC All-Stars

SPORTS

Connor Cox

Christian March

Macey Nitchie

J.R. Lowery

Zach Shattuck

Levi Shattuck

Jay Shattuck

Zach Shattuck

Shattuck Lapping the Competition in Record-Breaking Season

Zach Shattuck is like lightsening in the water. His electric-fying season saw the sophomore break 23 Paralympic American records in the 2015-16 season, including five Class 50 records in a single meet. The 4-foot-6-inch Bobcat is a U.S. 1:15.0 ranked swimmer in his events among 56 swimmers—a classification based on stature.

Shattuck, who only started swimming competitively in 2014, hasn’t taken too much time to reflect on his accomplishments. “When I’m in my tournaments and hanging around, I’m just another kid trying to break my own times,” Shattuck said.

Regardless of the class or division, Shattuck had an unforgettable season for head coach Justin Anderson.

“Zach had one of the most prolific seasons of anyone I’ve coached,” he said.

Several records stood for years—decades, even—including one set before Shattuck was born. On Jan. 30, he broke an American record in the 10-meter butterfly that was set in 1994.

“That was really cool to be able to say somebody set this record before I was born, and I beat it,” said Shattuck, who will turn 20 on March 20.

His most commanding performance was in the 400-individual medley, Anderson added. Shattuck swam 4:16.13 in the medley on Jan. 28. The previous record, set the year before, was 4:25.22.

“It’s one of the most gratifying events in all of swimming to be able to break,” Anderson said.

Shattuck is on the U.S. Emerging Team and will compete in the U.S. Paralympic Swim Trials in Charlotte, N.C., from June 30 to July 2, to earn his way onto the team that’s headed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September.

“His record-setting performances today are a direct reflection of his dedication,” Anderson said. “The whole team is so proud of him and excited to be a part of his quest to make the Rio Paralympic Games.”

-- Charles Schelle

Levi Shattuck

In Record-Breaking Season

Levi Shattuck

Zach Shattuck

Shattuck Lapping the Competition in Record-Breaking Season

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Shattuck Lapping the Competition in Record-Breaking Season

Zach Shattuck
Frostburg Coaches’ Influence Continues to Pay Dividends
by Charles Schelle

Few people have more influence on a student-athlete than does a coach. And when those athletes go on to become coaches themselves, that wisdom transcends generations. Here are some examples of that generational wisdom.

Parker’s Persistence Pays Off

The Bobcats women’s soccer squad prides itself on playing an honest game, and the results are evident both on and off the field thanks to the tone set by head coach Brian Parker ’92.

Consider some of these major accomplishments:

• Parker’s team has never had a losing record in his 13 seasons.
• They’ve earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America’s College Team Academic Award eight years in a row, based on team GPA.
• They’ve earned NSCAA Ethics and Sportsmanship Award eight years in a row for sportsmanship.
• They’ve made NCAA tournament appearances in the last 15 seasons.

“If you want to have successful athletic teams at any college or university, you need to recruit talented players and need to put them in an organized environment where they can excel,” Parker said. “That’s what we tried to create here where smart, athletic young ladies can succeed in a college athletics environment. It’s a matter of continually pushing the bar a little higher each year and raising the expectation level.”

Parker is detailed and methodical in how he gets his players to respond to both their responsibilities on the field and in the classroom, setting specific guidelines for performance, dress, language, academic goals and field goals. “We put everything in writing, and we go through it every day,” he said. “We want our players to have a fun and rewarding experience.”

The former goalkeeper for the men’s Bobcat squad turned to coaching after an injury ended his playing career, taking the reins of the women’s club team from 1990 to 1993.

He built the Urbana High School girls soccer program from the ground up when the school opened in 1995, winning two regional championship titles. In 2002, an opening came up at FSU that he couldn’t pass up: becoming the Bobcats’ head coach.

Parker makes it clear to his players that at Division III, the time is now to be the “fittest, smartest and fastest soccer player they’ll ever see.”

At the same time as Parker tries to squeeze every ounce of effort out of his players, he wants them to do the same out of FSU by getting involved on campus.

“We use the phrase, ‘You should squeeze every last drop of energy out of your effort in college,’ ” he said. “One of the great things about the D-III model is the calendar encourages us to take advantage of what we have to offer.”

It’s that bond and trust that has Parker saying his proudest moments with his players are when they invite him to their weddings. (Parker also found his wife at FSU—Assistant Coach Jackie Donovan ’93/M’11—through a soccer coach.)

“Jackie was one of the most focused and determined athletes I coached here – just a really smart, skillful athlete,” Parker said. He added that he knew she would be an excellent coach from having the “it factor” of using her body language and voice to command people’s attention, coupled with her knowledge of the game.

Donovan knows she has to keep evolving as a coach and works with her players on film analysis to adapt play and build skill. As she continues to build Lourdes University’s program, she will never forget what FSU did for her to put her in that position.

“My time at Frostburg is something I’ll always remember. It was a fantastic experience playing at the collegiate level,” Donovan said. “I can’t speak enough about the university. I gush about my time there and the fact I was able to play collegiately while getting my education and master’s.”

Donovan’s Bobcats included knocking off a Top 25 national team and playing in a challenging Wolvencroft-Hoosier Athletic Conference that features two nationally ranked squads.

The Hollidaysburg, Pa., native was attracted by the chance to shape her own soccer program after building her soccer resume. She started 83 games with the Bobcats, leading to a NCAA Division III tournament appearance in 2005, then spent two years as a graduate assistant coach at FSU. She then moved on to associate women’s head coach in 2011 at Adrian College, where the team won the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association regular season championship. A part of her success comes from instilling the same high expectations in her players for both their play and academics that her FSU head coach Brian Parker ’92 had when she played.

“Bobcats understand the importance of being the best,” Parker said. “We put everything in writing, and we go through it every day.”

A lot of values I instill are the ones I learned from Frostburg. Major ones like accountability – making sure girls are accountable for themselves and teammates,” Donovan said. “Respect is a very big one for us as well.”

Parker knew Donovan would make an excellent coach.

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Brown spent eight years at FSU as the men’s assistant basketball coach where he helped the Bobcats to the AMCC Tournament in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons and the Capital Atlantic Conference Tournament in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons. He also served as a graduate assistant in the 2004-05 season and a student assistant from 2002-04. Brown played for the Bobcats for three seasons, including an AMCC Championship in 2001. He led the Bobcats that season in steals (66), assists (167) and three-point percentage (46.2) to earn an All-AMCC honorable mention recognition.

Brown has a bachelor’s degree in recreation and parks management and a master’s degree in education from FSU. He is married to Jennifer Edith Brown ’93/M’05, and they have two sons and a daughter.

Leo Lombardi joins Cleveland Cavaliers as Assistant Coach

Lombardi spent eight years as coach and Bobcats’ alumnus Mike Lombardi ’96 is taking his talents to Cleveland.

Lombardi was hired in January as the new assistant coach for the Cleveland Cavaliers, where he will coach LeBron James and company.

Shortly after his hire, Lombardi was named to the coaching staff for the 2016 Eastern Conference All-Stars for the NBA All-Star Game in Toronto.

Lombardi won the 2008 NBA title with the Celtics, helping Boston reach two NBA Finals and three Eastern Conference Finals thanks to his stingy defensive system and talented squad. He spent the last two seasons with the Phoenix Suns.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native majored in Health and Physical Education while at FSU and was a guard for the Bobcats basketball team.

Brown earns Head Coaching job at Pitt-Bradford

Former Bobcats basketball standout Sean Brown, Sr. ’93/M’05 is entering his first season as head coach of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford women’s basketball team.

The NCAA Division III team plays in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

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Six new members were inducted into the Bobcat Hall of Fame. Pictured from left are KathyTisdale ’88/Bob ’90, Janice Castillo ’14, Andrea Chavez ’81, the widow of Tony Chase ’87, also receiving the award is her husband’s friend, Maria Ferguson ’91/’92, Dante Myles ’81, and Dr. David Felt.

Enthusiastic FSU fans gathered for pre-game festivities, tailgating and team spirit.

The 1993 Football team was honored for the mark they made in FSU athletic history.

Alumni basketball games connected and closed out the weekend by joining the current team for a rousing game of hoops.

Tyler Kendrick ’15 hung out with Bob E. Cat at the Welcome Center and greeted alumni as they returned to campus.

Nicole Lighty lost her father, Mark Lighty, this past fall. He was a dedicated supporter of the Field Hockey team and a plaque has been placed at the Hall of Recognition in honour of his commitment.

Dr. David Felt, professor emeritus, had the opportunity to meet the Fall Social Science Educator Scholarship recipient, Marla Heilken, during the retired employee luncheon.

Kathleen Harkey and Brandon Holman were crowned the 2015 Homecoming Queen & King.

Dr. Alice Manceur and Dr. David Gillespie reunite during the retired employees luncheon.

Related employees, Vincent Pecora, Dr. Alice Manceur, and Dr. David Gillespie reunite during the retired employees luncheon.

Alumni from the 1980’s return to their alma mater for a weekend of reconnecting and much much more. Join Bob and show your school spirit.

Retired employees, Vincent Pecora, Dr. Alice Manceur, and Dr. David Gillespie reunite during the retired employees luncheon.

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Alumni from the 1980’s return to their alma mater for a weekend of reconnecting and much much more. Join Bob and show your school spirit.
1966 Tom Slater was named the historian, a newly established position, for the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee.

1969 David Diaz was awarded the top prize, the Mayoral Award, for his painting "The Hook" at the art in the Open painting competition in Waterford, Ireland. A plein air artist with works in collections in the U.S. and Asia, he is also an art educator. For information, visit www.artistonhook.org.

J. Ron Hennings retired from 9-12 education in 2012 after 43 years, with 18 in administration, including 20 as superintendent. For the past three years, he has taught Teacher Prep and Educational Leadership courses for Prescott College in Prescott, Ariz.

Toby Stora was appointed chief financial officer at First Federal Bank & Trust in Oakland, Md. Toby has more than 20 years of experience in banking and financial management, most recently as finance manager at First Federal’s Senior Leadership Team.

1988 Russell Strickland M’87 was appointed executive director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. He brings more than four decades of experience in the fields of emergency services and management.

1989 Retired Air Force Col. Donald J. Bass was named recreation manager with the city of Unalaska Department of Parks and Recreation. Albert was elected to the Alaska Recreation and Park Association Board of Directors last fall and has been a regular presenter at the annual AMRA conference. He has been an active member of the University community through Unalaska Christian Fellowship where he serves as an adult Sunday school teacher and youth leader.

1993 Kelly Cassell M’87 was appointed the executive dean at Allegany College of Maryland, which goes by Allegany Community College in Cumberland, Md. She also serves as assistant director for economic development and land acquisition.

1997 Dr. Jonathan Filer M’06/M’08 was selected the chief of Business Management for the C&O Canal National Historical Park in Cumberland. Dr. Filer has more than 20 years of experience in financial management and business development and heads up the Pricing and Realization Committee. Employed since 1997, he also serves closely behind the park in the business, development, health care and transportation sectors. Michael holds the prestigious distinction of Certified Construction Industry Professional, a certification held by fewer than 50 professionals in Maryland. He is also a Certified Construction Auditor.

2001 Dr. Glenn Rice, Jr. M’00 was selected the chair of the Board of Directors for the C&O Canal National Historical Park. As part-time volunteer coordinator, he has made the park’s volunteer program into one of the largest in the system, engaging nearly 4,000 volunteers in more than 200 duty programs. Most recently he assumed the role of partnerships coordinator at the G&O Canal, working cross-divisionally within the park on program development and budget management and contributing to the revisions of the National Park Service’s policies on philanthropy and partnerships. Daniel also serves as an adjunct professor at FSU.

2005 Coty Ware-Burns was recognized as one of The Daily Record’s 2015 Maryland Leading Women, which honors women age 40 and younger for their career accomplishments based on their professional experiences, community involvement and their unique contributions. Coty is the founder of Mountain City Center for the Arts, LLC in Frostburg.

2006 Tracy Mineck Morey was promoted to director of Student, Lakers + Company LLP, a certified public accounting firm in Bedford, Va. Tracy received her Master of Science in Accounting from the College of William and Mary in May 2005. Since graduation, she has worked with the firm specializing in audit and tax compliance for nonprofit organizations.

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Kevin Free
2014

serving as assistant coach for the under-16 team.

James Purpora ‘15 was named assistant men’s lacrosse coach at Queens University of Charlotte, N.C. While at FSU, he worked as a graduate assistant with the men’s lacrosse team, during a season in which they posted a 16-5 record. The University was nationally ranked for six straight weekends during the season.  

Marriages
1989

Kelly Emery married Chris Romer on June 20, 2015. Kelly is a third-grade teacher in Bethesda, Md. Chris is a school counselor in Gaithersburg, Md. The couple resides in Rockville, Md.

2000

Jo-Ann Umstot-Verdiglione and her husband, Mark, have been married for 30 years. Jo was in her 10th year at Target Agency as a senior event manager.

2007

Carly Muleta married Robert Walz ‘97 on Aug. 26, 2016. Carly is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland and a researcher at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and received a fellowship through the Environmental Protection Agency. Robert is serving as an electrical apprenticeship with B&M Local 26. He is employed with Power Services.

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Tiny Warrior

This beaming little recruit trying on a Marine’s cover, or cap, was ready for duty thanks to a visit from FSU student veterans.

Two-year-old Weston Rock is putting up a fight against a brain tumor, receiving intensive chemotherapy at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and his warrior spirit is evident in his love for all things military.

Three FSU student veterans, Kodi Bowers, pictured, Anthony Pitts and Colton Wassell, were just as excited to lift Weston’s spirits when they showed up in uniform last fall bearing military-themed gifts. The students were responding to the boy’s request, received via nurses and Weston’s family through the FSU Veterans Services Office.

This visit is just one of the many charitable endeavors Veterans Services participates in throughout the year.
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Help Give Our Fiercest ’Cats a New Home

Whether simply driven to compete or motivated by a deeper purpose, Bobcat women push themselves constantly on the athletic fields and in the classroom.

As NCAA Division III athletes, their teams are funded only by student athletic fees and the support of alumni, family and fans. Their commitment to athletic excellence is matched only by their dedication to academic achievement.

In FSU’s first five years in the Capital Athletic Conference, Bobcat women have captured CAC Championships, made NCAA Tournament appearances and captured the 2013 ECAC South Region Championship. Impressively, during that time, Bobcat women have earned 335 spots on the CAC’s prestigious All-Academic Teams, some achieving Academic All-American!

FSU and the FSU Foundation want to show our women Bobcats how much they mean to us. We are raising money to build new locker rooms for all of our women’s teams. Make a gift to the Women’s Locker Room Fund today to show your Bobcat pride!

P.S. Individuals giving $1,000+ will receive naming rights for a locker in one of the new rooms. Wouldn’t you like to see YOUR name or the name of a loved one displayed for generations to come?

YOU CAN HELP with a gift to the Women’s Locker Room Fund. Use the enclosed envelope, call us at 301.687.4161 or make a gift online at www.frostburg.edu/makeagift.