

# profile

The Frostburg State University Magazine



## SHEDDING LIGHT ON **TITANIC**

**One Student's Summer  
with the Legendary Ship**

# inside:



## profile

Vol. 15 No. 2 Summer 2003

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Tom Sarfass

## 4 Otters Gone Wild!

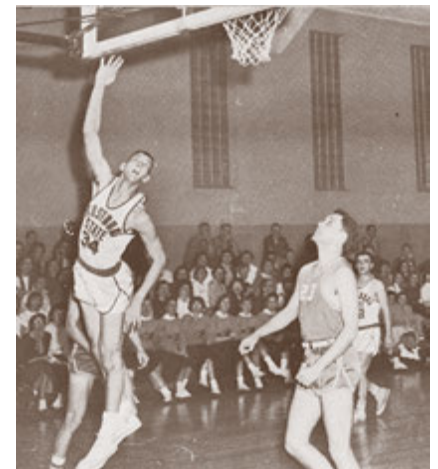
When researchers set up a video camera to capture these fascinating creatures in the wild, their findings were "otterly" wonderful.



(ABC/JASON BELL)

## 12 "76 Trombones" for a '73 Grad

Tony and Emmy award-winning actress Debra Monk (above, Class of '73) hit high notes in Disney's "The Music Man." Find out where Monk and other FSU people have been seen and heard in our "Noted and Quoted" section.



## 16 Compton Chronicles

The plays. The sporting events. The classes. The private moments. After the razing of Compton Hall, alumni shared their fond memories of the building that many called "home."

**On the cover:** The bow of the Titanic.  
Image ©Buena Vista Pictures Distribution and Walden Media LLC. All rights reserved.



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## 20 "Titanic" Experience

As part of the lighting crew for "Ghosts of the Abyss," a new documentary about the Titanic by filmmaker James Cameron, FSU student Steven Birchfield definitely had a summer to remember.

## 27 Buttons of the Cause

"Pinning down" Al Feldstein on his favorite cause would be difficult. The graduate's extensive political button collection shows no partiality.



## 37 Snow Business

In Frostburg, we shoveled, plowed and cursed our way through the winter of 2003. See how the snow-related actions of the one former Frostburg professor received worldwide attention.

Photo: John A. Bone - Cumberland Times-News



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## Keeping Focused Through Challenging Times

# Dear Friends,

As I'm certain most of you are aware, the State of Maryland is facing severe fiscal challenges. As a consequence, higher education, the University System of Maryland and Frostburg State University have experienced major reductions in resources. Thus far, we have handled these mandatory budget cuts by increasing tuition, reducing operating budgets, delaying campus improvement projects, eliminating already vacant positions, implementing furlough days for both faculty and staff and, most unfortunately, laying off some of our employees. USM Chancellor William E. Kirwan, in a report to legislators earlier this summer, commented that tuition increases, combined with layoffs and other cost reductions, are necessary to preserve quality at USM institutions, which have been hit harder than any other State agencies, suffering a cut of approximately \$120 million as of July 1.

In his remarks, Chancellor Kirwan stressed his concern, saying that continuing, massive cuts "will pose a major setback in [the System's] national progress. It will become increasingly difficult to continue to assure quality, at an affordable price, for our current students, and nearly impossible to meet that standard for the growing number of high school graduates who will be set to attend our institutions in the very near future."

These are troubling times, indeed. However, despite formidable budgetary challenges, I am constantly reminded of our institution's past and how, through the decades, Frostburg State has rebounded from times of adversity as an even better and stronger institution.

In the '40s, at the threat of impending closure, community mem-

bers rallied behind then-President Lillian Compton and stopped the State from shutting Frostburg's doors, paving the way for the name and mission change to Frostburg State College in the '60s and the advancement to University status in the '80s. In the recession of the early '90s, campus programs were cut, and several people lost their jobs. It took us several years to recover from the 20 percent loss in State appropriations that we experienced then. Eventually, the recession gave way in the mid-'90s to revitalization and a robust economy. At FSU, we benefited by seeing our budgets grow, seeing salaries rise significantly for all sectors of our campus employees, seeing existing physical facilities take on a new luster, and seeing new, magnificent buildings rise on our campus: CES Appalachian Laboratory, the Compton Science Center and the Edgewood Commons residence complex. Enrollments have grown significantly throughout the University System, as well as here at Frostburg.

Despite today's financial challenges, there are many campus "good news" items:

- Our student population this year, enrolling 12 percent minority students, represents the most diverse group ever enrolled at our University. The freshman class had the highest academic profile, as indicated by grade point averages and SAT scores, in decades.
- Faculty members continued to distinguish themselves as superb teachers and scholars. Some have brought national and interna-

tional recognition to themselves and to our university.

- Our alumni continue to revere their alma mater, cherishing their days spent here and applauding all the wonderful progress that they see. Some of them even formed an advocacy group to carry word to Annapolis about this excellent institution and all that it means to them and to our region. Partners joined them in urging legislators to support FSU's budget - including members of the Greater Cumberland Committee, comprised of influential CEOs in the area.



Dr. Catherine R. Gira

- The long and embracing arm of the University continues to reach out to our neighbors in the community through our AmeriCorps program and a wide spectrum of volunteer activities and, most recently, through the assistance of a generous Community Outreach Partnership Center grant from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Our relationship with elected officials of the City of Frostburg is a true partnership through which we aspire to improve the community in which our students and many of us reside.
- Student performances continue to astound us with their quality - be they in theatre, dance, music, the visual arts, athletics or academic competitions.

Suffice it to say, by a number of measures, these are very good times. But I also know that for an institution renowned for its past and respected for its present, the best is undoubtedly yet to come.

*Catherine R. Gira*

Catherine R. Gira

## mailbag

### "Homegrown Hero" Remembered

...Thank for you the article on Jim ("Homegrown Hero: Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Capt. James A. Graham," Winter, 2003). I have received only wonderful responses to your feature story. Dear friends have called and remembering what a time that was for each of us.



Capt. James Graham

One of the things I realized later is how such an event ripples through the lives of others and most times, one never knows. All that is coming back to me now. It truly is the nicest and best tribute ever prepared and published for Jim and we continue to be most grateful. I so hope the younger generation of readers will be touched by what is now history to them and deep emotional memories for us.

God bless our men and women in uniform today and always.

Janice (Graham) Clark  
Class of '63  
Fredericksburg, Va.

...I was Jim's Graham's Allen Hall roommate who "assisted" him with the repairs to his prized Chevy's transmission. We'd lie in the parking lot (in the snow) to make the repairs.

Jim honored me by asking me to be his best man at his wedding. A couple of years later, I was a pallbearer at his funeral. I know that Jim died happy, doing that in which he believed, loved and respected.

Mike Scheerer  
Class of '63  
Center Valley, Pa.

...I was touched by the story "Homegrown Hero." It brought tears to my eyes. This was my generation and these were boys with

by Vince Clews Class of '66

## Filmmaking Gives Alum Unique (and Sometimes Harsh) Perspective on the World

**Here's a great irony of life.** My profession as a scriptwriter/producer and director of film and video projects has allowed me international travel to places I'm not sure I knew existed when I was a student at Frostburg State College (that's not so much a comment on my education as it is on my lack of collegiate intellectual curiosity).

I have filmed outside the monastery in Axum, Ethiopia, where Coptic monks say they house the Ark of the Covenant (and I believe them). I have interviewed a former Khmer Rouge general on the edge of the Killing Fields in Cambodia and shot footage of the Phnom Penh High School Pol Pot turned into a torture chamber. And I've played soccer with children in a remote



"Children are the best and, too, often the saddest part of these trips," says Clews, right.

village in El Salvador where people were just beginning to rebuild their lives after decades of war had destroyed their homes and their families.

It hasn't all been so thought-provoking. We once shot the making of a fashion catalog in Antigua – in January. Also, Rio and Brussels are not exactly hardship assignments.

My travel has been an illuminating and gratifying opportunity. But this last trip, one that included filming in Angola, Sierra Leone, Israel, Macedonia, and stops in five other countries, may have been the last one like it I will be taking. An over three-week dead run, with only two of us carting "excess baggage" amounts of video equipment, did me in. When the 25 year-old youthfully slim cameraman, said he was exhausted, I told him, "Add 35 years and 80 pounds to that and then talk to me."

This most recent assignment, to produce an organizational video, came from an NGO (Non-Government Organization) called Search for Common Ground. Search promotes non-violent conflict resolution in countries threatened by, or in, conflict (note the last five words). The conflict in Angola has been over for a number of years, but you can still feel the residual tension, and it doesn't feel good.

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country where the people are gracious and warm. The country is blessed with idyllic ocean beaches, mountains filled with lush vegetation. As Uncle Des, a term of endearment given by his colleagues to our host Desmond During, said, "God has blessed us with plenty of natural resources, but not the economic resources to do anything with them."

Poverty means something much different in Africa than it does in America. It's life-threatening on a moment-to-moment basis. In Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, we were taken down to an impoverished community of lean-tos below the city. The area reeked of the islands of garbage that dotted a polluted, gray stream running through it. Pigs foraged where children played in the filthy water. On a piece of concrete slab the residents had written in black paint, "Welcome to Bone Suffer." To reach our film location, we had to cross the stream on an I-beam. I looked down at the water and thought, "If I fall in this water, my immune system won't keep me alive for a day." By the end of the week there, our gracious

(Photos by Cathie DeGonia/Vince Clews)

continued ▶

whom I grew up. Thank you for the wonderful accounts of the "kids" who gave their lives for our country... the commitment and sacrifice that was made back in the '60s and '70s.

Louise Horner  
FSU parent  
New Windsor, Md.

### "Spike's" Legacy

Thank you very much for the story about my brother Robert "Spike" Herboldsheimer ("Herboldsheimer Family Donates Tinsmithing Tools," Winter, 2003). My family remembers Spike's valiant efforts to travel from Cumberland to Frostburg to attend Frostburg Normal. He often had to hitchhike to get to college.

Teaching and education is in our genes; I too, became a teacher, principal and superintendent in some California schools. I also graduated from FSU – FRESNO State University.

It is reassuring to know the tools will be used.

Dick Herboldsheimer  
Fresno, Ca.

### Memories of 9/11

...I saw the article in *Profile* ("Remembering 9/11," Winter, 2003) which prompted me to write.

On 11 September 2001, like most Americans, I was going about my daily business when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. With a low "roar" and feeling the building shake, at 9:40

a.m. I found myself being more than an "observer" as American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, about 100 yards from my office.

I spent the next hour ensuring my troops (and staff from four different locations within the Pentagon) were safely evacuated. I can recall my family crying, when I was finally able to get word back that I was alive and all right.

At 4 a.m. the next morning, my troops – the best in the world – and I were back in the building. The days that followed were at times chaotic. Fire, parts of the building filled with smoke and fumes, numerous evacuations, all became part of normal "day-to-day" operations.

I have since moved on to a new assignment within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, but the memories of that day are with me always.

Vigils to remember the attacks that day – cards, letters, care packages to the troops, a simple "thank you" – mean more than you can imagine to those so far from home, or those closer to home such as police and fire personnel who work on a daily basis to ensure the freedom we as Americans continue to enjoy.

Mark Gurganus  
Former Deputy Director, Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency, Office Automation Directorate  
Class of '85  
Prince Frederick, Md.

## write us We'd love to hear from you

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Be sure to include your address and graduation year!

write us



Clews, a film director, has visited less-touristy areas of the world, such as Bone Suffer in Africa.

hosts gave us each a ronko, the traditional attire worn by the paramount chiefs of Sierra Leone. And they invited us to join them in a dance. (There are, gratefully, no pictures of me to verify that I complied.)

In Israel, I was humbled to be in the Holy Land (how can a minister's son not be awed by such an experience?) I filmed both Israelis and Palestinians who are actively working toward a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Let's hope they are the ones who succeed.

Macedonia was my favorite stop. They call it the Switzerland of the Balkans. They should. It's delightful with its sophisticated cities, beautiful towns and old villages, snow-capped mountains, lake resorts and wonderful people. Then the cameraman got sick. We took him to the infectious disease building at the hospital in Skopje, the capital. It was like walking into a 1950s black and white movie set in a Cold War Russia hospital – dark halls, sparse examination room (just one), one thermometer, no computers. And, to top it off, a nurse that looked like the female Soviet agent in *From Russia with Love* (only less attractive). I'm told the other buildings in the complex are more modern and the care is up to date. I don't ever intend to find out.

I have a picture from Ethiopia that I sometimes pull out and show to people who are complaining about life in America. It's a 12-year-old girl walking toward the camera. She has a bundle of kindling on her back. She was walking from the spot where they harvested it. It was 15 miles away. When she gets home to the dirt hut she lives in, she will help fix dinner for her family, do chores on their little farm, and then it will be dark and her day will be over. The next morning she will get up and walk 10 miles for water. She's not doing this on her summer break. This is what she does everyday. And, if she wants to see what the rest of her life is going to be like, she can look over her shoulder. The woman in the background, also carrying a bundle of wood, is her mother. Only in her late 30s, she is near the end of her life expectancy in Ethiopia.

My work has allowed me to visit places most vacationers never go. I've been reminded over and over again of something we too often miss. It's this: On our worst day here in the U.S., we're better off than hundreds of millions of people worldwide, on their best day. If you want to argue that, call me from Bone Suffer and we'll talk about it.

*Vince Clews began his writing career at Frostburg with "Clews Views," a regular column for State-to-Date. He taught high school, produced an award-winning series for PBS, and wrote, produced and directed for his own film and video production company for 20 years. He recently returned to his first love – freelance writing. Vince holds a master's degree from Indiana State University, Terre Haute.*

*If you have an idea for an Alumni Viewpoint, e-mail [tdemartino@frostburg.edu](mailto:tdemartino@frostburg.edu).*



## River Otters Caught on Film

Combining elements of "Candid Camera" and "Wild Kingdom," researchers at Frostburg State University have developed a new sort of show, starring river otters.

As part his work with the Pennsylvania otter recovery project, Dr. Tom Serfass, an associate professor of biology at FSU, came up with the idea of setting up video cameras and still cameras, triggered by infrared heat and motion sensors, to capture images of these elusive aquatic creatures. His intent was to obtain a more accurate census count. By filming the otters, researchers hope to determine whether the animals captured on film are actually contributing to scat droppings found at a given site. DNA is extracted from the scat to identify individual otters for the census.

Sadie Stevens, one of Serfass's graduate students, oversees the camera project, which now includes two "otter cams" in Pennsylvania's Ohiopyle State Park and one at Allegheny National Forest's Tionesta Creek. Weather permitting, Serfass and his graduate student research team hope to have set up a total of eight video cameras and 12 still cameras throughout Pennsylvania for a year of filming.

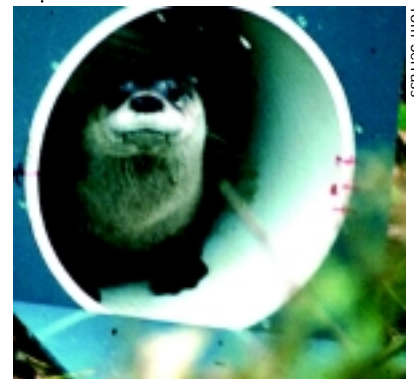
As a bonus, the film footage affords a glimpse of otters' antics that can be used for behavioral studies and offers proof that these playful members of the weasel family like to have a good time sliding on their bellies, chasing each other, tussling, doing flips and frolicking.

"It's been really exciting," Stevens says. "We don't have much data on this sort of thing. It's a real incentive to us." She

plans to pursue doctoral study and a career in conservation, with a focus on carnivores.

Stevens' work is part of a large-scale monitoring project at sites where river otters have been reintroduced throughout Pennsylvania. From this project, Serfass hopes to develop a model to monitor the status and distribution of otter populations throughout North America.

"Reintroducing otters to these ecosystems is an important part in



River otters are the main study of Dr. Tom Serfass, FSU biology professor.

helping to restore that system's ecological diversity," Serfass said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Because of their sensitivity to pollutants, the otters act as watershed "barometers." The fact that these animals are thriving in the reintroduction sites indicates that cleanup efforts have been successful.

A positive outcome for the Ohiopyle State Park watershed was made possible by a landmark legal judgment in 1999 that resulted in the largest civil penalty ever levied by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection against a mining company. Mine pollution in

Tom Serfass

## FSU Frederick Center to Close

### Coincides with Opening of New USM Center

In June, Frostburg State University announced that it would be closing its Frederick Center at the end of 2004. The decision was made to coincide with the opening of the new University System of Maryland Center in Hagerstown, slated for January 2005.

"Frostburg State University has enjoyed serving students at various sites in Frederick since 1972. However, in light of the opening of the new USM Center in Hagerstown, we can be more efficient and effective by closing our Frederick Center," says FSU President Dr. Catherine R. Gira. "The new USM Center will better serve the total educational needs of students in Frederick and the surrounding region."

The current Frederick Center, located in Westview Office Court, opened in 1990 as a satellite of FSU's Hagerstown Center. The present enrollment is nearly 200 students, who can earn a Master of Business Administration degree or baccalaureate degrees in justice studies or business. Academic deans have contacted FSU Frederick Center students to discuss the students' courses of study and their future options.



### "Quincy" Examines Acting Profession

Actor **Jack Klugman** spoke to FSU theatre students this past spring. Klugman, best known for his roles on such TV shows as "The Odd Couple" and "Quincy," was on campus to perform the stage version of "On Golden Pond" as part of the FSU Cultural Events Series. Klugman answered questions about his own career in Hollywood and gave the young actors advice for their futures in show business.

the Casselman River had previously interrupted the release of otters into the area, the last major watershed in the otter reintroduction program. Funds from the fine paid for a passive mine drainage treatment system, the stocking of fish and the release of otters into the Youghiogheny River.

Now beginning its third decade, the otter recovery project receives some funding from the sale of license plates featuring the river otter. This initiative was developed by one of the project's major supporters, the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, which worked in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Funding also comes from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

With cleaner waterways, legal protection from trapping and increased public appreciation, these intriguing creatures now have a chance to thrive as they once did in pre-colonial days.

— Sara Mullins

## Outstanding Faculty, Staff Recognized

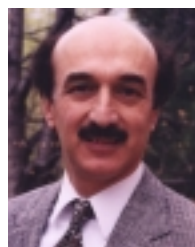
The University honored outstanding faculty and staff this past semester.

This year's recipients of Faculty Achievement Awards were **Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi**, Department of Business Management, for teaching; **Dr. Jason H. Edwards**, Department of Psychology, for academic accomplishment; and **Dr. John J. O'Rorke**, Department of Political Science, for University/Community Service.

The excellent teaching of Tootoonchi is recognized widely by both students and faculty. Students benefit from his informative and innovative teaching style.

Since he joined the university in 1989, Tootoonchi has been recognized by the College of Business

for being an outstanding teacher, and he is one of only two faculty members since 1983 to have received the Founda-



Tootoonchi

tion Award twice in the same category. Tootoonchi continues to enhance his teaching skills, most recently through the integration of technology. He regularly mentors students about career choices and supports them in developing outstanding research projects that have been submitted and presented at conferences.

Since coming to FSU in 1997, Edwards has published 10 articles in refereed

journals in the area of psychotherapeutic treatment of children and adolescents.

His findings have had

clear implications for the diagnosis, treatment and education of children and adolescents, and he has achieved a national reputation as an expert on numerous childhood psychological disorders including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. He has



Edwards

made 25 conference presentations since joining the faculty. In addition Edwards is highly involved as a reviewer, serving on the editorial board for the *Journal of Mental Health Counseling* and for the American Psychological Association.

For over a decade, O'Rorke's commitment to faculty matters has had a positive impact. In the four years he served as chair of Faculty Senate, O'Rorke demonstrated his dedication to ensuring that faculty had a voice in shared governance. He also shared his knowledge in political science and public administration by advising the Student Government Association, coordinating the Model United Nations Security Council for area high school students, serving on the Frostburg Housing Authority and chairing numerous University committees. ▶



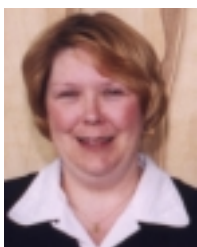
O'Rorke

The FSU Staff Awards for Excellence were presented to three FSU staff members in different employment categories.

**Linda Steele**, administrative specialist for the Physics and Engineering Departments, won for exempt employees. Steele coordinates the administrative aspects of FSU's collaborative engineering program with the University of Maryland College Park and played a crucial role in the successful accreditation of that program. She is often called upon to perform research and writing for other campus offices. She takes part in charitable fund-raising events, such as March of Dimes WalkAmerica and Animal Welfare Society activities.



Alderton-Steele



Capacchione

**Connie Capacchione**, administrative assistant for the Department of Mass Communication and graduate

programs in counseling psychology and biology, won for nonexempt employees (non-facilities/maintenance.) Capacchione manages to keep up with her duties, among three departments, with accuracy and professionalism. She serves alongside her husband with his pastoral ministry at two local Methodist churches. She and her husband previously played a role in the start of the Farmers Markets in Allegany County.

For nonexempt employees in facilities/maintenance, housekeeping supervisor **Sandra Youngblood** was winner. She started in housekeeping in 1980 and now supervises employees working the residence halls. Youngblood started the Nikki Clark Memorial Scholarship Fund through the FSU Foundation, Inc. She also is active in the Lonaconing Lions Club, Georges Creek Ambulance Service and St. Joseph's Church in Midland.



Youngblood

Both awards are supported through the FSU Foundation, Inc. and the 2003 Annual Fund Campaign.

### Steele Shines at FSU

Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele served as the keynote speaker for this year's FSU Martin Luther King Convocation. Steele challenged to students to set high goals and bring about change in their personal lives, but joked that the line for governor started "behind him." The MLK Convocation is an opportunity for the campus and surrounding communities to reflect on the issues of human rights and human dignity for which Dr. King stood, to reaffirm the importance of seeking equality and to consider the role that each individual can play in this effort.



## The Envelope, Please...

(FSU faculty and staff recent award recipients)

**Philip Allen**, Liberal Studies, was invited in April to the 50th anniversary celebration of the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) at Emory University. In 1956 he was the first Ph.D. graduate of this innovative program, one of the pioneer interdisciplinary and comparative studies departments established in the United States. During the three-day conference and celebration, Allen was interviewed about the early days of ILA and the eccentric faculty who conducted the colloquia based themes like "Freedom and Authority." Fifty years later, the graduates and current students were particularly interested in Philip's memories of the Civil Rights issues that plagued Emory University '50s and '60s. The ILA is flourishing now with programs in African-American studies, women's studies, film studies and public scholarship. The current Ph.D. candidates are pursuing dissertations in Indian and Hong Kong cinema, utopian imagination, urban space and drag kings. Faculty include Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa.

**Joan DeVee Dixon**, Music, was awarded a Sasakawa Fellowship by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which supported her participation in the National Faculty Development Institute on "Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum," held at San Diego State University from June 2 to 27, 2003.

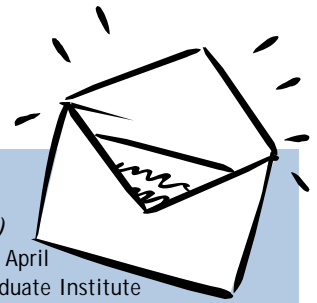
**Barbara Hurd**, English, was one of two writers awarded the 2002 Towson University Prize for Literature. Hurd received accolades for her collection of essays *Stirring the Mud: On Swamps, Bogs and Human Imagination*. Hurd's winning entry was also chosen a Best Book of 2001 by *The Los Angeles Times*. A second book of essays, *Entering the Stone: On Caves and Feeling Through the Dark* is due out in August from Houghton, Mifflin. She is the 2002 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Nonfiction and the Bright Hill Press Poetry Award, which will include publication of her book-length collection of poems, *The Singer's Temple*. Hurd was awarded a second year of the Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from the University System of Maryland through 2004.

**Robert Llewellyn**, Visual Arts, was selected to exhibit print and drawings at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Annapolis, in April. The exhibition, titled RADICAL NAUTICAL, was curated by Christina Mamucy, Director of Maryland Hall Galleries.

**John J. Lombardi**, Mass Communications, received a fellowship to attend the annual National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Conference & Exhibition. NATPE, the world's leading association for media-content professionals, works to enhance the quality and quantity of content by offering resources and experience to every content creator, no matter the medium. Of about 100 applicants, Lombardi was one of only about 12 selected to receive a full NATPE Faculty Fellowship.

**Ann Townsell** (Class of '87), Publications, received a Silver Award and a Bronze Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in the CASE District II Accolades 2002. She received Silver Award for the President's Report, Visual Design in Print, multi-page publication, and the Bronze Award for the Homecoming Poster 2002, Visual Design in Print, posters.

**Gary Van Zinderen**, Student Activities, has been named first runner up to Campus Event Planner of the Year/Award for Excellence, sponsored by Power Performers: High-Impact Speakers and Entertainers and *Campus Event Planners Magazine*. Power Performers is a promotions company that provides speakers and entertainers to venues. Van Zinderen was nominated for the award by someone who had performed at FSU.





# Teamwork Brings City Government to Local TV Viewers

Everyone wins in the new partnership between FSU, the City of Frostburg and Tele-Media Co., the local cable television provider.

Since the beginning of the year, FSU students have been videotaping Frostburg's City Council meetings, which are then broadcast over FSU Channel 3, the cable channel programmed by Mass Communications students and delivered to nearly 5,000 homes in the Frostburg area.

The City of Frostburg wins by making its public meetings more accessible to its citizens. Frostburg citizens win by being better informed about their local government. Tele-Media wins by increasing the public service it provides to the community and building on its goal of adding more public content to the local cable. FSU wins by gaining some needed equipment through funds provided by Tele-Media through the City of Frostburg. And FSU Mass Communication students win by gaining the valuable hands-on experience of covering events.

"It's a great learning experience," said Dr. John Lombardi, assistant professor of Mass Communications. "It's a much more real experience than we can ever provide in a classroom experience."

The service came as a result of the contract renegotiation between Tele-Media and Frostburg, but it also served the purposes of both entities well.

"The reaction's been great," said Frostburg City Administrator An-

drew Fulghum. "It provides a great opportunity for folks who wouldn't necessarily come out to a meeting to keep up with local government, and it creates a better sense of understanding of what's going on."

Fulghum feels more comfortable now that information is being disseminated to the public more consistently. "People have the

opportunity to see their elected officials in action."

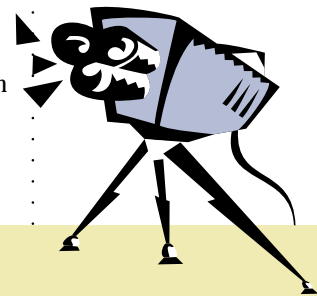
At the same time, Tele-Media has been looking for ways to improve the local content on its system, said Tom Kenly, vice president and general manager of Tele-Media Co. He views the University as a great local resource now and in the future. "I want to put even more local information on the cable system," Kenly said.

Tele-Media originally planned to purchase the equipment needed to televise the meetings, but FSU had recently acquired most of what was needed through a previous technology grant. Instead, Tele-Media gave \$16,000 to the City of Frostburg, which

gave it to FSU, which used it to perform other upgrades to Channel 3.

"This grew to be a really, really great opportunity for students," said Melanie Lombardi, FSU Channel 3 manager. "As we've been turning this over to the students, several have become very skilled at using professional equipment. They will be better prepared for jobs in the industry."

— Liz Douglas Medcalf



## TV Station Receives First-Class Equipment

FSU Mass Communication students are now able to train on a sophisticated piece of production equipment thanks to an upgrade at the Washington, D.C., Veterans Affairs Education Center and a resourceful FSU parent.

The five-year-old Grass Valley Video Switcher Model 250 is worth about \$22,500; a new one would cost about \$300,000, according to Lindsay Pack, department chair. It was donated through the FSU Foundation Inc. as a gift in kind.

The production switcher allows all the video sources, such as cameras, VCRs, graphics, etc., all to be sent through this equipment so it determines what source or combination of sources is output to air or tape. It is also used to determine the transition between sources, such as cutting, dissolving, wipes, etc. "It's the single most expensive piece of equipment in a production facility," Pack said.

The Grass Valley switcher has double the number of inputs and effects of the previous production switcher.

"Grass Valley is like Rolls Royce – top of the line," Pack said. "If [the students] can run this, they will be in the proper position to run a similar system in a television station. Not many students have that kind of opportunity."

The donation was the idea of Ken Norris, of the Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Education System, which is based in the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center. They're responsible for the training, supported by a video and satellite system, of the VA's 230,000 employees nationwide.

They have upgraded to a digital switcher, also from Grass Valley. Norris said that switchers like the one now at Frostburg would be found in TV stations in most medium-sized cities. Only major market stations would be using digital equipment at this point.

Since the VA is a government agency, getting rid of used equipment is a complex process. It can't be sold, and simply discarding it is surprisingly complicated, Norris said. Generally, smaller equipment goes to middle or high schools or is stored away.

With the production switcher, it's much too big to store and much too complex for a school. Norris and his colleagues decided it should be donated to a university.

It didn't take long for him to think of one. His daughter, Katie Norris, is a theatre major at FSU, and he is a regular visitor to the campus.

On one of his visits "I located Dr. Pack, and we heard the excitement from him and (Mass Communications Assistant Professor) John Lombardi. It was a no-brainer," Norris said.

"We walked around pinching ourselves," Pack said.

— LDM



## Professor's Latest Fiction Works Cover Familiar Territory

Two of Brad Barkley's most recent fiction works cover some familiar territory for the Frostburg area, both figuratively and literally.

The FSU English professor's latest novel, *Alison's Automotive Repair Manual*, is set in Wiley Ford, W.Va., just across the Potomac River from Cumberland. It's not a Wiley Ford that anyone who lives in the Mineral County town would recognize, however. And "The Way It's Lasted," Barkley's novella that was published recently on *USA Today's* Web site, features a version of Noah's Ark under construction, like the God's Ark of Safety that can be seen along Interstate 68 outside of Frostburg.

*Alison's Automotive Repair Manual*, his second novel, is about a woman mourning her husband, killed two years before in an accident. She has been avoiding getting on with her life and chooses to restore a nearly terminal 1979 Corvette as a way of working through her grief.

Barkley's Wiley Ford contains many familiar location names – Cumberland, Sacred Heart Hospital, Discount Beverage Center, Midlothian Road – but they've been creatively relocated to fit the narrative needs of the book.

"I mostly like the name Wiley Ford. It sounded like a good name for a small town, which is what I wanted to write about," Barkley said. "A lot of books about small towns sentimentalize them."

It's a topic he addresses in his

new novel: "The worst thing about a small town was also the best thing: Everywhere you went, you saw the same people. Every church gathering or bar or ball game or parade, you would turn around and see the same ten people you'd just seen that morning, or yesterday ... It was comforting, this familiarity, and claustrophobic, all at once."

Barkley grew up in a larger city, Greensboro, N.C., but has lived in a number of small – and very small – towns. "I think I have a feel for the texture of living in a small town and living in big cities," he said.

The Wiley Ford of the novel "has a little bit of all the small towns I've lived in," said Barkley, a Frostburg resident. In the process of writing a novel, "it's easier to live in my mind in an imaginary small town than a real one," he said.

*Alison's Automotive Repair Manual* has met a positive response in its first few months out. BookSense 76, a list of recommendations by independent booksellers, made it a pick for March and April. It's been reviewed in

*The Boston Herald, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Jackson Clarion-Ledger* and the *Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette-Mail*, among others.

*Alison's Automotive Repair Manual* may also have a life beyond the page. It has been optioned for film by Fancy Wilder

Productions, a new production company headed by three women, two of whom had worked at major Hollywood studios and one who is



Barkley

the daughter of the former president of the Nickelodeon cable television network and one of the founders of the Oxygen network with Oprah Winfrey.

Barkley's second novel has also just been produced as an audio book by Books on Tape, and the paperback version is due out sometime in 2004.

Acclaim for Barkley's fiction hasn't slowed since his first novel, *Money, Love*, was named a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection in 2000.

USATODAY.com contacted Barkley to write for its Open Book series, which features original works of fiction published in weekly installments. Barkley's book was featured for seven weeks beginning in late March.

Barkley was prepared to write a new story to fit their parameters – segments of 1,000 to 1,500 words – but realized that a story he had already written would work well. "The Way It's Lasted" was the 16th USATODAY.com Open Book.

"The Way It's Lasted" is

about Billy Kesler, a depressed college professor struggling to overcome a recent separation, and Tommy Kesler, Billy's father who may or may not be dying of cancer. To read "The Way It's Lasted," log on to [www.usatoday.com/life/books/openbooks/the-way-its-lasted.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/openbooks/the-way-its-lasted.htm). "The Way It's Lasted" will eventually be included in Barkley's new collection of stories, *Another Perfect Catastrophe*, due out in March 2004.

Barkley says he's also in the early stages of a third novel, tentatively titled *AmericaLand*.

— LDM

## Summer Campers Translate into Fall Students

Since 1988, the FSU Office of Conferences and Events has hosted diverse summer camps, retreats and seminars for regional high school students which expose the young men and women to the FSU campus. Their experiences have been so life-changing that some visiting students decide to stay for four years.

According to Dave Treber, director of Conferences and Events, recruiting summer campers to attend Frostburg is a bonus to his office's overall goals. "The values and success of our office has brought in revenue, public relations and new students to FSU."



St. Martin's Press



Conference Quilt

## and all that jazz...

This past academic year, students decided to attend FSU as a result of their successful experience at a basketball camp founded by renowned Coach Morgan Wootten and the Maryland Girls State, a summer program whose purpose is to educate the young women of America in the fundamental aspects of citizenship.

Gregory Scott Elkins, a freshman majoring in accounting, attended Coach Wootten's Basketball Camp in 2000. He was privileged to meet NBA star Joseph Forte, who showed the students his daily work-out routines and warm-ups. Elkins decided to attend FSU because of the location along with the atmosphere. Also, his grandfather and father are FSU alumni. "I wanted to continue the family tradition," he says.

Julia Sterling participated in the Maryland Girls State program. She enjoyed meeting people from different areas in the state of Maryland and the various debates dealing with issues concerning both politics and education. As a result of being familiar with the campus, she decided to attend FSU.

Stefani Moon also participated in the Maryland Girls State program. She is a freshman majoring in mass communications. Her long-term goal is becoming a newscaster for a television station. According to Moon, "The atmosphere of the University as a whole was the main reason I decided to come to FSU."

The Office of Conferences and Events has a unique way of advertising each summer event held at FSU. Apart from brochures, word of mouth and FSU's Web site, they created the quilt. The quilt is made out of squares representing the different camps and organizations participating in these summer events.

— Leatrice Burphy

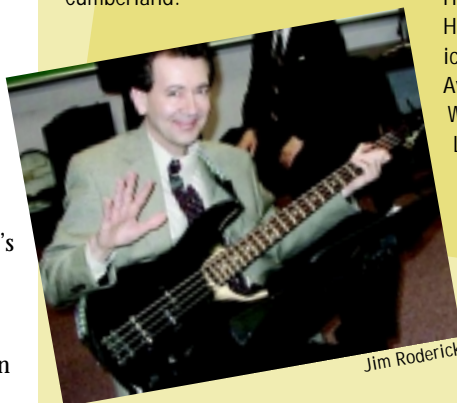


The alumni musicians

### Alumni Recital Grooves Campus

This past April, the FSU Department of Music, directed by Dr. Jon Bauman, hosted its first-ever Alumni Jazz Ensemble. Pounding out tunes by Gershwin, Ellington, Herman, Bishop and others (plus an original piece by Bauman), 35 alumni and special guests (including former Frostburg State President Nelson Guild) from across the United States, raised the roof off the Performing Arts Center.

Alumni participating included:  
Saxophones – Brian Bassett, Ellicott City; Vanessa Candraeva, Pittsburgh; Dave Coccia, Mansfield, Mass.; Peter Redyk, Baltimore; Teresa Owen Sutherland, Annapolis; Steve Beale, Boerne, Texas; Richard Frush, Keyser, W.Va.; Doug Hart, Severna Park; Will Vogtman, Scott Heavner and David Kauffman, all of Cumberland.



Jim Roderick

Trumpets — Bill Dunty, Chapel Hill, N.C.; Jim Fox, Laurel; Fred Kesner, Keyser, W.Va.; Kurt Lemmert, Frostburg; Cameron Pinkney, Clements; Steve Sell, LaVale; Doug Robinson, Springboro, Ohio; and Teresa Wilhelm-Cook, Meyersdale, Pa.

Trombones — Kendra Bizer, Burlington, W.Va.; Joe Comer,



Former Frostburg President Nelson Guild (right) and Dr. Jon Bauman

Havre De Grace; Dave Motter, Hanover, Pa.; Steve Pearl, Frederick; Brian Plitnik, Avilton; Channel Williams, Baltimore; and Lynn Zeller, Cumberland.

Rhythm — Tom Harrison, piano, LaVale; Mike Gellar, guitar, Williamsport; Terry McManus,



Kurt Lemmert, Teresa Owen Sutherland, Jim Fox and Doug Robinson



Bill Schreiber, Mike Gellar and Emerson Miller

guitar, Frostburg; Jim McIntyre, bass, Germantown; Jim Roderick, bass, Cumberland; Nelson Guild, bongos, Frostburg; Emerson Miller, drums, Cumberland; Duwane Sandlin, drums, Magnolia, Del.; and Bill Schreiber, drums, Ojai, Calif.



## Handmade Books Feature a "Day in the Life of Frostburg"

Michael Lease, an instructor of photography at FSU, donated two handmade photo books featuring scenes of Frostburg as gifts to the people of Frostburg. One copy resides in the Frostburg Public Library and another is housed in FSU's Lewis J. Ort Library.

In May 2002, after six semesters of teaching photography at FSU, Lease approached two of his students with the idea of creating a book of photos to capture the character of Frostburg. One was Greg Auldridge, a senior accounting major with an intense interest in photography who was preparing to graduate in December. The other was Kim Wolfe, a junior pursuing major in fine arts with a concentration in photography. Both were available for the summer project.

"It was something I'd always wanted to do," Lease said. "It was a way to document my home by taking these images before I leave. And it was time to give a gift to Frostburg as a way to thank the people of the city for accepting me into their citizenry."

After living about 10 years in Frostburg, he will move on next fall to pursue a master's degree in photography and film at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.

Entitled "Frostburg: Document 2002," the 15.5-inch by 22.5-inch books are bound by hand, with watercolor pages displaying 70 photographs



FSU's photography instructor and his students captured these images at the Princess Restaurant on Main Street.

· speak for themselves as testimonials  
· to small-town life. The only text is  
· found in a brief afterward. A total  
· of five books were created, with  
· one for each photographer in addition  
· to the two donated copies.

· "It looks like a day spent walking  
· through Frostburg," Lease said.

· The "day" begins early on Grant  
· Street and comes full circle to end  
· there after dark, lit by a full moon.  
· This final shot won First Place  
· Black & White Photo in the Alle-  
· gany Arts Council's 10th Annual  
· Photography Exhibition. Along the  
· way, the viewer can spot such local  
· landmarks as Main Street Books,  
· the Princess Restaurant, Frostburg  
· U-Save, the former A & K Con-  
· signment Shop, Failinger's Hotel  
· Gunter, the summer Farmer's Mar-  
· ket, Alley #50 and Gandalf's.

· "We see the book as fitting in  
· with the tradition of documentary  
· photography that was done decades  
· ago by Dorothea Lange, Walker  
· Evans and Leo Beachy, who comes  
· from Grantsville," Lease said.

· Each photograph is a personal  
· statement that captures the  
· photographer's individual  
· perspective on the signifi-  
· cance of a given scene. Lease,  
· Auldridge and Wolfe used  
· controlled lighting, artful  
· composition and technical  
· wizardry, plus attentive devel-  
· oping by hand, to create each  
· image. The three photogra-  
· phers intentionally remain  
· equal in their representation  
· and anonymity throughout  
· the book, which effectively  
· increases the collective impact  
· of the photos.

· The Frostburg Public Li-  
· brary will keep its copy on a  
· table for public viewing. The  
· copy in FSU's Ort Library  
· will be available in Special  
· Collections by appointment .

· — SM

## New Secondary Master of Arts in Teaching Serves Career-Changers

In 1999, Frostburg State University instituted its Master of Arts in Teaching program at the FSU Hagerstown Center to address the growing statewide teacher shortage in the elementary schools. Now the University has launched its Master of Arts in Teaching for secondary schools, which will be based at FSU's Frostburg campus.

"We have a tremendous shortage of secondary teachers, especially in math and science," said Dr. Susan Arisman, dean of FSU's College of Education.

The new program serves both recent graduates and career changers, Arisman said. "It's very difficult for students to get content courses, field experience and education courses in four years."

To become secondary teachers, candidates are required to major in their fields; education courses and field experience must fit in around those requirements. The Secondary MAT allows students to concentrate on their subject areas during undergraduate study, then complete education courses and field experience in just 15 months.

"The program also allows people to decide to become teachers at a later date," the Dean said.

A unique feature of the program is its strong research component, allowing a student to develop a proposal to study a classroom technique or curriculum, perform the research and background study and evaluate the results, all in the course of the program. Providing research proving the effectiveness of curricula and teaching methods is also a provision of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Dr. Alice Alexander, a professor in Educational Professions, was

inspired to build in the research component after watching classroom teachers become discouraged at seeing the same problems year after year and not be able to address them.

"This allows us to look for solutions to problems rather than just talking about them," Alexander said.

MAT students will attend methods classes in their specific areas – such as math, English or science – with the rest of the day-time undergraduate students. That combination with current FSU classes will also save money. Because of Maryland's budget crunch, FSU was required to launch the program without hiring additional staff or any other increased cost.

The full-time program, eventually designed to handle between 20 and 22 students a year, started in June. Students will work through the fall semester, the intersession between semesters, the spring semester and finish in the June summer session. Once students successfully complete the program, they will be certified to teach secondary school in Maryland and states with a certification agreement with Maryland.

The members of the first class range in age from 22 to 50, en-

compassing brand-new college graduates to people looking at a second – or third – career. Eight of the 14 candidates hold bachelor's degrees in critical need areas such as science, math and Spanish. "The applicant pool was phenomenal," said Dr. Bill Childs, coordinator of the secondary program. "It's a real plus."

For more information about the program, contact the Graduate Services Office at 301/687-7053.

—LDM



### Information Technology Collaboration Announced

FSU, Allegany College of Maryland and the Allegany County Board of Education are collaborating to increase the area's number of skilled information technology workers and give those already in the work force a chance to enhance their skills and credentials.

The program starts in local high schools, where students can study basic computer science courses and earn ACM credits.

"The advantages are numerous, including the opportunity to save time and money as students pursue post-secondary training," said Darlene Bacon, Career Connections and Tech Prep coordinator for Allegany County.

The program continues at ACM, where students pursue an

Associate in Applied Science Degree in Computer Science and Technology.

The courses from that curriculum are designed to transfer seamlessly to FSU for its new major in information technology management, earning a Bachelor of Technical and Professional Studies degree. The interdisciplinary major is a joint effort of FSU's departments of Computer Science and Business Administration.

The 2+2+2 program is also designed to accommodate those who had earned computer science degrees from ACM in the past, joined the work force, and now want to further their education, said Mohsen Chitsaz, an FSU computer science professor and coordinator of the Information Technology Management program at FSU.

"We want to give a chance for people who earned an associate's degree — who previously couldn't go back to college — a chance to complete a four-year degree without taking courses over again," Chitsaz said.

The full program is designed to prepare students to be managers of information technology resources with a combination of advanced courses in computer science and business administration. Students then may decide to specialize more toward business or toward computer science.

"The goal in Information Technology is never to stop learning," said Kristi Smith, ACM assistant professor and Computer Science Department Chair.

For more information on the program, visit the Web site at <http://www.cs.frostburg.edu/2+2+2>.

—LDM



(ABC/JASON BELL)

Debra Monk as Mrs. Paroo in Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man," co-starring Matthew Broderick.

## Monk and Mickey

Tony and Emmy-award winner **Debra Monk** (Class of '73) seems to be spending many Sunday evenings with a mouse named Mickey. Monk has performed featured roles in two recent "Wonderful World of Disney" productions for the ABC-TV Network.

Monk was the unflappable Mrs. Paroo in Meredith's Wilson's "The Music Man," starring Matthew Broderick and Victor Garber. A few months later, she was back on the small screen as Maggie, the "Irish-Brooklyn" hansom cab driver in Disney's latest adaptation "Eloise at the Plaza." Those close to Monk say she is taking some time away from the limelight and spending a sabbatical in France.

## Songs of Freedom

FSU professor of Philosophy and English **Norma Blacke Bourdeau** was featured in the Ontario newspaper *The Record* in February as part of Black History Month. Blacke Bourdeau, an expert on African American songs, told of the spirituals of "woe, hope and longing" that black men and women sang in the days of slavery. She noted how the songs were sung rhythmically to help long hours of work pass and how some lyrics were changed to contain



Norma Blacke Bourdeau

"codes" for those

planning escapes to the North. "They were there to comfort. To console. To vent their emotions. Ultimately to praise. To herald a better day to come," she said.

## Stage Combat Hits Big

**Darrell Scott Rushton**, FSU Performing Arts Center, published an article in the Fall/Winter, 2002, issue of *The Fight Master* magazine, the journal of the Society of American Fight Directors. Rushton's piece, "Jumpin' in at Frostburg," details his fight choreography for the FSU production of "Breath, Boom," written by Cumberland native (and former FSU student) Kia Corthron. The play about girl gangs was performed in March of 2002. Rushton explains how he took the playwright's simple stage directions of "They fight" and executed elaborate combat sequences, based on research of girl gangs, the history of the characters and overall tone of the work. Rushton is currently seeking his M.F.A. in Theatre Pedagogy, with an emphasis on movement and stage combat, at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has written a second article for *The Fight Master*, due to appear in the upcoming Fall/Winter issue.



"Breath Boom"

## Kudos: Regional Math/Science Center

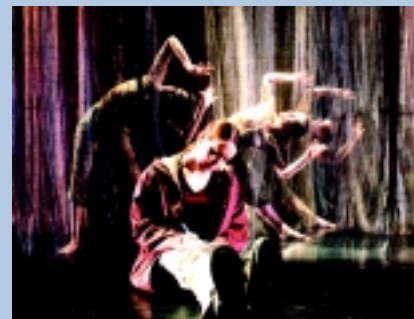
The *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* newspaper published a story on FSU's **Regional Math/Science Center**, a federally funded, Department of Education, Upward Bound program designed to prepare high school students for post-secondary degrees in Mathematics and/or Science.

The story focused on Pittsburgh-area student Zachary Donehue, a high school junior who once struggled academically and

then turned his academic career around to have a 4.0 grade point average and goals of a pharmaceutical career. Donehue attributed his transformation to the FSU program. "Before I went there, I had no idea what I wanted to do, and now I have more direction," he said.

## A "Stirring" Premiere

Following a year of research, creative residencies and scientific exploration, FSU Cultural Events Series presented the premiere of "Stirrings" by Pittsburgh's Dance Alloy this past spring. Commissioned by FSU and supported by a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour (PennPAT), "Stirrings" is a bold collaboration linking artists from the diverse fields



Sarah Higgins/Dance Alloy

Dance Alloy's "Stirrings" wowed audiences this past April.

of creative writing, dance, music and the environment.

The project draws inspiration from the book *Stirring the Mud: On Swamps, Bogs, and Human Imagination*, a critically acclaimed collection of essays written by FSU English professor and NEA Literature Fellowship recipient **Dr. Barbara Hurd**.

The event received national coverage through the Associated Press with stories running in newspapers as far away as Miami, Fla.

## FSU Volunteerism "Makes a Difference"

The efforts of FSU's **Center for Volunteerism and National Service** at Homecoming weekend for national "Make A Difference Day" were recognized in the April 27 edition of *USA Weekend Magazine* (a weekly tabloid inserted into many Sunday newspapers.)



Jan P. Alderton, managing editor of *The Cumberland Times-News* (right), presents the recognition award to Dr. Catherine Gira, FSU president, and Cherie Krug, director, FSU Center for Volunteerism and National Service.

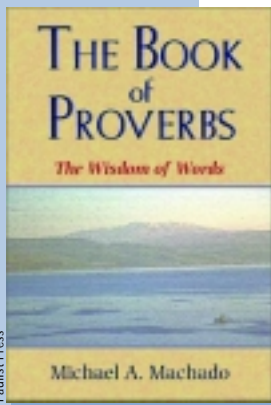
FSU won a regional award for its volunteer program, one of 529 winners nationally. Volunteers, including country star Collin Raye who was on campus for the Homecoming concert, packaged more than 500 bags of overnight essentials for the Dove Center in Oakland, Md., a place that helps victims of domestic and sexual violence.

## American Organist

*The American Organist Magazine* has added **Joan DeVee Dixon**, pianist/organist and recording artist from FSU's Music Department, to its international roster of soloists, ensembles, lecturers and recording artists. The announcement appeared in the May 2003 issue.

## Words of Wisdom from Former Prof.

**Dr. Michael Machado**, professor emeritus of the FSU Philosophy Department, has written *The Book of Proverbs, The Wisdom of Words*. He says that Proverbs are "delightfully provocative and unashamedly forthright, they please, they tease, they humor, they scorn; but are never indifferent." The book is available through several outlets online, including amazon.com.



## Residential Scholarship Honors "Coney Couple"

A native daughter and son of the George's Creek area of Allegany County have combined their loves of teaching and hunting to give a unique scholarship opportunity to students at Frostburg State University.

The William M. and Verna (Miller) Ternent Endowed Scholarship grants annual awards of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for FSU students who are residents of the George's Creek area. Undergraduates must be studying early childhood/elementary education or biology, earth science, environmental analysis and planning, geography or wildlife and fisheries. The criteria for the scholarship combine the personal passions of both William and Verna.

Verna Miller, born in Lonaconing, graduated from Frostburg in 1931. For over 40 years, she taught in Allegany County and spent the majority of her career at the "Creek" elementary schools of Midlothian, Moscow, Detmold and Central.

"She was a wonderful teacher. Everyone knew her," says James Green, Verna's nephew.

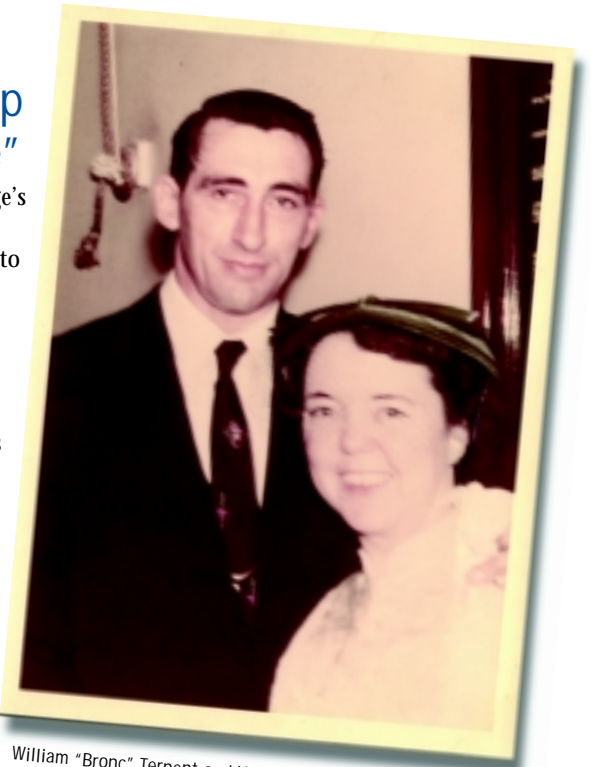
While in her 40s, she fell in love and married Central Elementary custodian William "Bronc" Ternent. "Bronc" was also known for his second career – hunting and fishing.

"He knew Garrett County like the back of his hand," says Green, who would often accompany Uncle "Bronc" on his excursions.

On a call to the Ternent household by FSU to verify an alumni mailing address, Verna casually mentioned that she might send money

to her alma mater. When she died in November of 2001, at age 90, she left instructions with her husband to make good on her promise to Frostburg. "Bronc" started the process to fulfill his wife's pledge, but died six months after Verna. He was age 87. Nephew Green, executor of his aunt and uncle's estate, made certain the scholarship was established to honor the legacies of both his aunt and uncle.

"This scholarship will be around forever," Green says.



William "Bronc" Ternent and Verna Miller Ternent on their wedding day.

For more information on the William M. and Verna (Miller) Ternent Endowed Scholarship, call the FSU Foundation at 301/687-4161.

— Ty DeMartino

## University Advancement Office Undergoes Changes

FSU's Office of University Advancement has been reorganized, with Associate Vice President for Alumni and Development **Colleen Peterson** assuming the position of Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Programs, and current Vice President of University Advancement **Dr. Gary Horowitz** becoming the University's Coordinator of Government Relations.

Peterson will oversee and lead the operations of the FSU Foundation Inc., Alumni Programs, News and Media Services, Publications and WFWM, the campus radio station.

Peterson served as interim vice president for

continued ▶

University Advancement at Frostburg in the early 1990s. She has been with FSU since 1985. Previously, she held positions with the Human Resources Development Commission of Allegany County and the Head Start program in Woonsocket, R.I.

Horowitz's responsibilities will include government relations at the state, county and local level. He is FSU's official liaison with the USM legislative relations staff and will work directly with members of the General Assembly as appropriate. He will also coordinate the efforts of the Alumni Association Advocacy Committee. He is FSU's designated representative on the legislative committee of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Frostburg Business and Professional Association, the Frostburg Main Street Committee, and he is the University's official liaison with the Mayor and City Council of Frostburg. He is also responsible for coordinating major events sponsored by the president's office involving external visitors, such as the upcoming ribbon-cuttings for Compton Science Center and Edgewood Commons, and meetings of the Board of Regents. He will report directly to FSU President Catherine Gira.

### **\$140,000 Unrestricted Gifts Goal Met by Annual Fund**

The 2002-2003 FSU Annual Fund Campaign has reached its initial goal of \$140,000 in gifts and payments of pledges, according to Chris Harmon, director of annual giving. Overall annual giving, including restricted and endowed gifts for the FSU Foundation Inc., reached over \$866,000. The ambitious 2003

fiscal year campaign had to overcome many fund-raising obstacles due to the aftermath of 9/11 and the Iraq War.

The Annual Fund Campaign, a targeted appeal to raise unrestricted gifts, begins in early fall and is directed to alumni, parents, businesses, faculty, staff and friends of FSU. Major efforts include direct mail, two phonathon campaigns, parents' campaign, faculty-staff campaign and the Senior Appeal.

Contacts were made to over 19,000 constituents, which resulted in over 2,800 pledges and gifts. A special campaign was developed to allow contributors of \$1,000 or more to have a named unrestricted scholarship to incoming freshman. This first-year effort has generated 26 new, named Annual Fund scholarships.

Proceeds from the Annual Fund are used to support a variety of FSU programs, including the Alumni Association; scholarships; Faculty/Staff/Alumni Achievement Awards; faculty, staff and student development; student leadership programs; student work programs; Homecoming; reunions; and the Golden Anniversary Program.

For more information on contributing to the Annual Fund, please contact Harmon at 301/687-4161 or [fsufoundation@frostburg.edu](mailto:fsufoundation@frostburg.edu)



## The Good, Gray Poet... of Frostburg

### Professor Tours as Walt Whitman

It's one thing to write an English dissertation on an ode. It's quite another to go on the road to dramatize its author, a celebrated American poet. But to Dr. Keith Schlegel, an English professor and published poet with an academic focus in American literature, it seems like a natural thing to do.

Schlegel, chair of FSU's Department of English, sees it as "performance as scholarship. I want to help address the perception that the liberal arts aren't important," he says.



Schlegel

During his fall 2002 sabbatical, Schlegel devoted himself primarily to researching and writing a dramatic monologue, "The Good, Gray Poet: A Reading by Walt Whitman." His debut as Whitman took place last fall at Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Fla. Last March, he presented his show at FSU and Potomac

State College, and he also took his one-man show to Howard Community College. Future monologues are slated at Garrett Community College, Allegany College of Maryland, Hagerstown Community College and, possibly, the University of Baltimore. Armed with recruiting materials from FSU, Schlegel takes advantage of his appearances as recruiting opportunities for English majors.

His familiarity with Whitman resulted from doctoral study in American literature at West Virginia University, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1979. As the topic of his dissertation, he chose Whitman's "Dejection Ode: As I Ebb'd with the Ocean of Life," a work he describes as an "overlooked masterpiece."

The inspiration for Schlegel's monologue came from "The Good Gray Poet: A Vindication" after the title of a 46-page polemic by author and journalist William Douglas O'Connor, written in Whitman's defense. The poet was fired from his job with the U.S. Department of the Interior when an official took offense at the "moral character" of



“Leaves of Grass.” Ironically, the “Good Gray Poet” sobriquet actually attracted many readers to Whitman’s work.

Schlegel’s project began to take shape about five years ago, after he attended Douglas Boulter’s portrayal of “Edgar Allen Poe in Person and Myth” at Garrett Community College. Schlegel had been asked to write a review as required by the Maryland Humanities Council, a funding source for the show. Pleased with the review, Boulter contacted Schlegel, an e-mail friendship developed and Schlegel arranged for Boulter to appear as Poe at FSU in during the spring 1998 semester.

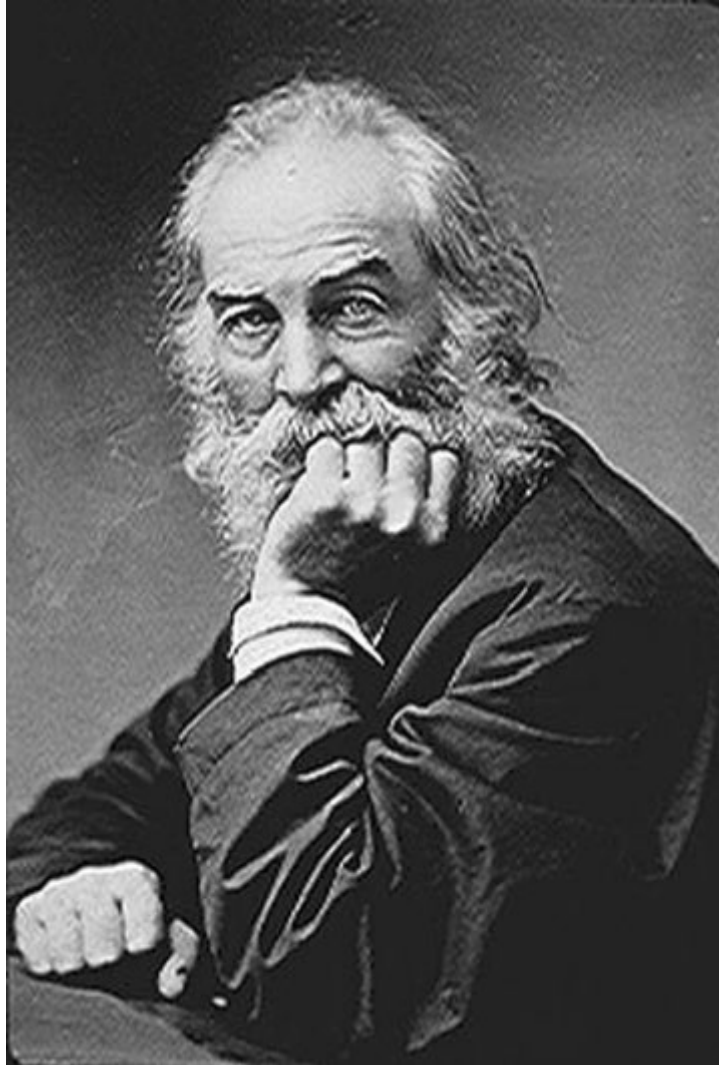
“It looked like a lot of fun,” Schlegel says, reflecting upon Boulter’s performance. “I liked the idea of popularizing an educational theme and bringing a poet to life.”

What Schlegel is describing fits nicely into the Chautauqua tradition, a concept of lifelong learning that flourished in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A Chautauqua, as such an event was known, was designed to improve the mind, body and spirit through the arts, education, religion and recreation.

“The Good, Gray Poet” follows the Chautauqua formal structure as well, with a 40-minute monologue in character, followed by questions from the

“ I liked the idea of popularizing an educational theme and bringing a poet to life.”

— Keith Schlegel



Walt Whitman

audience answered by the presenter while in character and, finally, out of character.

“You never know what people will ask,” Schlegel says.

His sabbatical gave him a chance to “catch up on my scholarship and research on Whitman. I did lots of reading, reading, reading.” Because Whitman was a very prolific writer, Schlegel had plenty of primary source material available.

In “The Good, Gray Poet,” Schlegel portrays Whitman as he was, partially paralyzed, during America’s Centennial. He includes passages from the poet’s more familiar works, arranged in chronological order and conclud-

ing with Whitman’s elegy to Abraham Lincoln, “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d.”

“About everything is in Whitman’s own words,” Schlegel says. “The script is pieced like a jigsaw puzzle. Transitions are especially challenging.”

Another type of transition Schlegel chose was the decision to grow his hair and beard to better resemble Whitman, whose appearance reflected his passion for freedom and individual expression, regardless of convention.

In the process of learning to be Whitman, Schlegel discovered aspects of the poet both appealing and distasteful. He admires Whitman’s spirit of rebelliousness,

lack of inhibitions and literary innovations, notably the development of free verse and exploration of sexuality. On the negative side, he found Whitman to be “virtually without humor,” an aspect that presented a challenge for Schlegel’s Chautauqua style of presentation. As Whitman grew older, he tended to be “pompous” and “redundant.”

In 1857, Whitman outlined his thoughts on becoming a “wander-speaker” to “hold the ear of the people.” In his later years, he did speak publicly, but not to promote the works for which he is most celebrate. Instead, he took a more conservative approach by reading from his most popular work, “O Captain, My Captain,” and commemorating the life of Abraham Lincoln.

“To Whitman, Lincoln embodied the spirit of the nation,” Schlegel says.

In the course of his research, Schlegel was intrigued to discover that Whitman once traveled by stagecoach along the National Road through Frostburg back in 1848. The following passage from “Leaves of Grass” perhaps best explains the connection between Whitman and Schlegel, now a legacy Schlegel passes on to his audience:

“I celebrate myself, / And what I assume you shall assume;/ For every atom belonging to me, as good belongs to you.”

— Sara Mullins



# compton hall:

**Editor's Note:** *When we decided to send out a call for "Compton Hall Recollections," we had no idea how overwhelming the response would be.*

*I have to admit, my interest in Compton is somewhat biased. I was a lost freshman of only three days at FSU in 1986 when a high school friend dragged me with her to open auditions for the University Theatre play "The Foreigner." I ended up reading for the lead role, which I surprisingly landed. A few days into my college career, I was thrown into the center of rehearsals with upper-classmen, meeting with theatre faculty and staff and rehearsing late into the night within those yellow-bricked walls of Compton. It was my baptism by fire into college life. Sitting on that cold tile floor waiting for my cues, I made many friends – many of whom I still cherish today. Thank you, Dr. David Press, for taking a chance on casting an unknown in the lead and thank you, dear Compton, for providing a "home away from home" for this insecure freshman. Here's a befitting tribute to a building of history and character from those who knew her best.*

**Ty DeMartino**  
Class of '90  
Frostburg, Md.

## **My Wonder Years**

...Let me tell you about Compton Hall and me. We go back a long way, back to a time when we were both young and in tip-top form.

I entered Frostburg State Teachers College in 1954. Our class had the distinction of being the first to top the 500-enrollment mark (small potatoes compared to today's numbers). Virtually all of the freshmen were traditional students, with the exception of some ex-servicemen who were attending under the G.I. Bill.

Compton Hall arose at the farthest end of the upper quad, all by itself. Around it was mud, mud and more mud. When it opened in the spring of '55, sidewalks were incomplete, no grass yet, but the building itself was a gem, even if it was at the end of a very long walk.

The first play presented in Compton Hall auditorium was "Jane Eyre." I auditioned and was given the role of Grace Poole. I was over the moon. The director was Dorothy Stone White. She had taught at WVU and was proud that Don Knotts had been one of her students. She was one of a kind. She wore high-heeled sandals all year round. Her hair was

white, and she was secretly referred to as "Snow White." She knew her business, though, and opening night brought it all together.

Classes also met in Compton Hall. Does anyone remember Mr. Fisher? He taught World Lit. When he critiqued my work, he would say, "You see, Ducks, it would be better to..." I don't think he knew anyone's name. He called us all "Ducks," singular and plural.

It was he who, one rainy day, played the soundtrack from "West Side Story." I was enchanted. Such beautiful, poignant, haunting songs, and a few that were uproariously funny. This was my introduction to the great musicals of Broadway. Thank you, Mr. Fisher.

French with Miss Irene Kirkeby, Music Appreciation with Mr. Sager, Modern Dance with Miss Charlotte Fearer – all of these and more were part of my education in Compton Hall.

When I read that the building I had known so well was slated for demolition, I knew a feeling of loss. All the hours spent there, the courses I studied, the friends I made, the teachers who stretched my mind – soon to be erased. Not so, I argued. In my mind, Compton Hall remains as it was in the '50s. Time and machines cannot erase the memories that were created there. Nearly five decades later, I can say with certainty those were "wonder years."

**Sally Cutter Butler**  
Class of '59  
Midland, Md.

## **My Favorite Building**

...Compton Hall became my hangout shortly after I arrived in 1958. Working with music and theater, here is one of my fondest memories:

Vocal director Charles Sager, instrumental director Ward Cole and theatre director Dorothy Stone White were beacons of learning. I remember accompanying "Damn Yankees," "The Boyfriend," "Where's Charley," "Manhattan Tower," to name a few. We spent many hours working with Mr. Sager and choreographer Peggy Mackert to perfect those plays. Compton Hall became our school home. It has always been my favorite building on campus for that reason and I will miss seeing it.

**Carole Bean Bodnar**  
Class of '62  
Frostburg, Md.



# thanks for the memories

## Global Impact

...Compton Hall, albeit the hall of least use for my major, brings back many memories of positive FSC experiences. My first introduction to Compton was during 1971 summer orientation where we took the English writing placement essay under the direction of Dr. Fleishauer. Needless to say, I ended up, as many others, in the famed "English 3200" class!

In the gym, there was a basketball game with a visiting team from Cold War-vintage Czechoslovakia. It appeared controversial to many to have such a team come to a relatively rural and very conservative part of the U.S. Dr. Guild and Dr. Cordts were visionary leaders – this was only one of many events that would put FSC "on the map." One night we watched Linda Ronstadt perform at then bargain prices. Being an open-minded and seemingly liberal institution of the day, we also had controversial, but direct, Christine Jorgensen address the student body in the auditorium one evening.

We registered for classes each year there, and it was better managed each successive running. The drama folks put on great plays. Compton was also where I had to take a warm shower on one winter occasion when the hot water ran out in Allen Hall. It was where my Sowers Hall roommate and physiology student, Tony Coley, put me through the Harvard Step Test; I still have a great pulse because of it and the conditioning he encouraged.

Compton was many things to many people. You often have to wait until you are approaching my age to appreciate the great life and education you were afforded by so many caring staff and professors.

I will miss Old Compton, just as I miss my days at FSC.

**Richard J. Titi**

Class of '75

Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Chesapeake, Va.

## "Painful" Memories

...As a physical education major beginning in 1962, I spent many hours in Compton Gym. Some of them were pretty painful. Hours of pounding the floor playing varsity basketball led to several years of painful shin splints. However, my most significant memory is being in Janet Thomas' skills class my sophomore year, and hearing about the

shooting of President Kennedy. Everyone was sitting on the floor and someone brought in a radio. We all listened as Walter Cronkite announced his death. Class was dismissed and the college was closed. That was one of the saddest weekends of my life.

**Virginia Rogers Salitrik**

Class of '66

Gaithersburg, Md.

## Thank you, Dr. Cordts

...Compton Hall in the middle 1960s was the hub of activity for all of the health and physical education major students. Compton Hall had it all – classrooms, workout rooms and a gymnasium where afternoon varsity practices and nighttime intramural activities happened. Most importantly, Dr. Harold Cordts' tiny office was just inside the front entrance of Compton Hall. By being so conveniently located, it provided me and many of my peers the opportunity to stop by the master teacher's office with a quick question or two to help clarify his morning's lecture or just to chat. Wonderfully, often these quick questions developed into 20-plus minute conversations that proved to be most beneficial to me in my future professional and personal life. Thank you, Dr. Cordts, for answering all those questions and providing me with such valuable guidance that has been so beneficial to me throughout my life.

**Robert Stauffer**

Class of '66

U.S. Military Academy  
Distinguished Professor (Retired)  
Auburn, Ala.

## People and Ghosts

...I lived most of my college life in Compton as a theatre major. I was also a work study assistant for the secretary of the Theatre Department, Joan Holliday. I saw the inner workings of the building and the teachers.

I have so many good memories of Compton:

♦ Working very long nights in the auditorium with Dr. David Press while we worked on "The Glass Menagerie." I played Amanda Winfield, and to this date, that has been one of my best theatre experiences. We didn't care how late it was (well, sometimes we cared) – we knew the end result

was going to be a fabulous show.

- ♦ Coming in the back door downstairs, the cold wind whipping the door shut and approaching the bulletin board to discover that I got the part I wanted. It doesn't get any better than that!
- ♦ Hanging out in the props and costume shops, pulling stuff for shows, carrying on with the current "gang" and then going out for breakfast at 4 a.m.

However, my most vivid memory of Compton is when we were rehearsing "Othello" with Dr. Jack Vrieze (God rest his soul) as the director. We were rehearsing in the "old gym" part of the building, late in the evening, when all of a sudden, we heard loud, continuous banging coming down from the ceiling over the gym. It lasted for about 10 seconds, but seemed longer. Then it just stopped. We all agreed that the ghost of Lillian Compton was giving her blessing to the show (either that, or objecting to it!)

It was the people of Compton that made the place – the teachers and the students. Now I have a Compton brick on my bookshelf to remind me of those sweet, simple days.

**Judy Fair Lewis**

Class of '83

Arlington, Va.

continued ▶

1. "The Foreigner" cast, 1986
2. Placement exams in Compton Gym, 1969
3. Women's basketball game, 1966
4. From the 1958 *Nemacolin*: Freshmen Helen Heavner, William Ravenscroft, Mary Altice, Ralph Nelson, Mary Shuhart, Jack Chappell, Ross Selby in front of Compton





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### The Compton Duo

...Any recollection of Compton Hall would be incomplete without a tribute to the two teachers who made the Compton Hall gymnasium and theatre the hubs of activity on the Frostburg campus in the 1950s and 1960s.

The gymnasium side of the complex was the domain of Ken Babcock who taught physical education and health and coached many sports. He was a role model for what a man and a gentleman should be. Many Frostburg alumni are, or have been, distinguished coaches and athletes all over the country and owe their preparation and inspiration to Coach Babcock.

On the theatre side of Compton Hall was Dorothy Stone White, an institution at Frostburg. Miss White, referred to by some as "Dottie Rock," taught the required "dreaded" speech class, but every one of her students who stand before audiences today, in the classroom or elsewhere, owe that confidence in public speaking to her. Miss White's first love was the theatre - from classic to contemporary - and the shows directed by her and performed by students in Compton Hall were always high level, professional-like productions. Many of Miss White's students have gone on to successful careers in the theatre, from Broadway to schools and community theatres all over the country, and, undoubtedly their performances and productions are better because of Miss White.

Having played on the soccer teams of Coach Babcock, I have the greatest respect for his coaching talents and his individual interest in all of his students and players, regardless of their

athletic ability. Miss White "adopted" me at my first Little Theatre Club meeting, and I became involved in all of the productions, including "All My Sons" and "Othello." Miss White was also the sponsor of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre fraternity, and under her tutelage my knowledge of various theatre crafts expanded, affording me opportunities to work successfully in the professional theatre and to produce and direct in the schools where I taught. Miss White was the "First Lady of the Theatre," at least at Frostburg and in the hearts of many of us.

**Bob Hyde**  
Class of '65  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### Auditorium vs. Gym

- ...My memories of Compton Hall Auditorium:
- ♦ Sam Huffer (Class of '62) tap dancing up the side walls of the stage
- ♦ Old movies which some enjoyed
- ♦ Tamburitzans
- ♦ Judith Anderson
- ♦ "Othello" with friend Pat Berlinger Goodrich (Class of '65) as Desdemona, and friend and roommate JoAnn Blickenstaff Schaeffer (Class of '65) as Emilia
- Compton Hall Gym:
- ♦ Class registration
- EJ Meglis (Elizabeth [Betty] Jane Powell)  
Class of '65  
Felton, Del.

### Fear, Excitement, Inspiration

#### Fear

- ♦ August 1966 - a freshman arrives for pre-season football practice with Dr. Ron Van Ryswick and his staff. Don't know any of the other players. Some of the upperclassmen are HUGE!
- ♦ Speech class with Miss Dorothy White in the auditorium. All of those eyes on you standing at center stage. "Do I have anything worthwhile to say? When I open my mouth will anything come out? Legs — stop shaking."

#### Excitement

- ♦ Watching the Bobcat basketball team play. The seats are right on the edge of the court. You could hear the players and coaches talking and the shoes squeaking. The thrill of watching Bob Maddox controlling the court with his size and watching him dunk the ball.

- ♦ Running from the house that I stayed in on Center Street behind Sowers Hall, jumping over a snow drift in front of Compton and having the wind push me in the air for about 20 feet before landing.
- ♦ Wrestling matches and rooting for my roommate Henry Danver.

### Inspiration

- ♦ Sitting in classes with Dr. Harold Cordts and Dr. Robert McFarland learning about the administrative side of physical education and how the body parts work to let the body move.
- ♦ Listening to Mike Davis teach statistics, as an instructor, and remembering him as a teammate on the football team four years earlier.
- ♦ Listening to the New York Jazz sextet, the college chorus and the plays in the auditorium.

**John Mulvihill**  
Class of '74  
Oviedo, Fla.

### The Final Bow

...I worked on the very last production that was performed in Compton Hall Auditorium - "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia." (I thought it was kind of ironic that this was "the last production" at Compton Hall too.) Since I worked with an all-male cast, I knew that all the gentlemen involved were truly saddened by this, as I was. I also remember taking many theatre classes in the old Studio Theatre. If those walls could have talked - the stories I bet they could've told about all the wonderful, creative and talented people that were a part of Compton Hall.

**Ann Dusterhoff Ketter**  
Class of '95  
Olney, Md.

### Goodbye, "Old Friend"

...I spent a lot of my time at Compton Hall when I attended Frostburg State. Although I was a business administration major, I took a work-study position in the Speech and Theatre Department. Part of my job included working in the box office during the main stage productions. While attending Dr. Gary Cook's Introduction to Speech class, I not only took on a second major, speech communication, but also volunteered to work in the costume shop. Compton became my "home" during the production weeks and I always felt lost the week after the play closed. I, along with the other "techies,"



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felt the excitement of the theatre just like the actors did. I made many friends in Compton and learned more about the theater business than I ever thought I would. When I was asked to help with costumes for "Prague Spring" in the mid-90s, I felt as though I was coming home.

I had a chance to walk through the theatre side of Compton right before it was torn down. That afternoon, loads of memories flooded back to me. As I stood on the stage and looked toward the back of the theater, I remembered the productions that we all worked on – "Here Love," "Hotel Universe," and "Close Ties," to name a few. I felt like I was losing an old friend.

**Rebecca Brown-McCusker**

Class of '85  
Mt. Savage, Md.

### "It Was Our Home"

...In a nutshell, Compton Hall is where I grew up. When I first came to Frostburg State in 1982 as a transfer student, Compton was the first classroom building I'd stepped foot into. At that time, Compton Gym was used for class registration. During my stay at FSC, the old gym was mostly used for set construction for shows within the auditorium. In fact, the old shower/locker rooms were also used for set construction and storage.

If I had to choose a few memories to highlight, I'd have to choose the following:

The Compton Fire Scare – Due to a short circuit in the lighting being used for an upcoming show, we had a minor fire. Actually it was more smoke than anything. It was an event because when the fire department showed up, Peter Lucas and I had to guide the firemen (and their gear) up the ladder into the catwalks. Later in the year, Peter and I received letters of commendation and appreciation from Dr. Gary Cook, department head. I guess if there was an amusing side, the fire happened right after the dress rehearsal and the name of the show was "Light Up The Sky." We almost did.

"Purlie" – I can still remember how much fun we had doing that show. Jennifer Jolly and I were the electricians. What made it such a joy was that every time there was a song in this musical, you could hear the entire backstage crew singing along.

"A Flea In Her Ear" – This show was my first exposure to theatre. I have to thank a very dear friend of mine, Stephon Walker, for that. I can still see Morris T. Barton working on the costumes and

Steve Bouchard playing a character with a cleft palette – absolutely hysterical.

Lastly, "The Day They Brought 'Ol Compton Down." One of the true benefits to being on the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association is being privy to information not yet released to the public, plus, gaining access to places on behalf of all alumni. This really came true in the days before the auditorium came down. It's no secret to anyone, the demolition of Compton Hall was something that I hated to see happen and had to come to grips that it was for the best. It was like saying good-bye to a very dear friend. Everyday, on my way home from work in Cumberland, I'd make my pilgrimage to the site and watch the progression of the demolition. I was also glued to Comptoncam on the Web at the times I wasn't actually in Frostburg. On one particular day though, Becky Brown (Class of '85) and I happened upon the manager of the construction company, Greg Dunkle. We were escorted, for one last time, into the auditorium portion of the building. The lobby was already gone and the old gym was pretty much down to its steel skeleton. He was kind enough to let us walk up on stage, up in the balcony and pretty much throughout the auditorium portion, including the dressing rooms downstairs.

I guess I can take great pride that Becky and I were the last two people (outside of the contractors) to set foot in Compton Hall. We were able to say good-bye to a large contributor of incredible memories that helped to shape our lives. I still, to this day, receive a few "jabs" every once in a while about desire to preserve the memory of the original Compton. Some of the best days of my life were spent with my theatre friends in Compton Hall. It was our building. It was our home.

**Mark Greenwald**

Class of '85  
Lonaconing, Md.

5. Dorothy Stone White, center, 1969
6. *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*, the last stage production in Compton, 1993
7. *Kicks & Co.*, 1981
8. Harold Cordts in his Compton office, 1966
9. The first basketball game in Compton, 1956
10. Waiting to register, 1970



# SHEDDING LIGHT ON

FSU Student Helps with Documentary and Spends Memorable Summer with Legendary Ship

by Sara L. Mullins



For many students, a memorable summer job is almost as much a part of the college experience as taking classes. During the summer of 2001, Steven Birchfield, a Frostburg State University sophomore, got especially lucky and found himself aboard ship with a rather unusual job involving an international company, a device named “Medusa,” actor Bill Paxton, Oscar-winning director James Cameron and the legendary shipwreck, the Titanic. ►

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# TITANIC



A view from inside the Titanic's hull

Birchfield, along with this offbeat cast of players, participated in Cameron's latest Titanic effort, "Ghosts of the Abyss," a 3-D documentary chronicling the filmmaker's return trip to the wrecked vessel. The film opened on April 11 and is now playing in IMAX cinemas and specially equipped theaters.

As an employee of Phoenix International, Birchfield helped construct a sophisticated luminary device capable of shedding light through the Atlantic's inky depths to the graveyard of the doomed ship, which sank near Newfoundland, Canada, on April 15, 1912. Phoenix International, a marine services company that conducts complex manned and unmanned underwater operations worldwide, had been contracted by Cameron's production team to construct the device.

## TITANIC REVISITED

The lure of the doomed ship prompted Cameron to embark on a three-year odyssey to explore her mysteries with state-of-the-art technology and a spirit of reverence.

"The Titanic is a tragedy of mythic quality in the collective unconscious, the final resting place of a legend and of 1,500 souls," Cameron commented in the film's production notes. "What creates the mystery and awe and romanticism of a shipwreck is really our own consciousness ... imagining what it was like to be on board when it was sinking."

"My goal was to do the most beautiful imaging we could so moviegoers can experience the ship as part of the crew and see sights not seen for over 90 years," he said. "It was our sacred goal to honor the facts without compromise."

Diving two-and-one-half miles to the ocean floor for what Cameron called a "Hollywood deep-diving expedition" was a dangerous enterprise. The director said, "We were completely dependent on the successful operation of countless technological systems in order to reach and photograph the ultimate symbol of technological failure, the Titanic."

In "Ghosts of the Abyss," Paxton, who played the modern-day pirate Brock Lovett in the movie "Titanic," abandons his previous silver screen quest for the blue diamond known as the "Heart of the Ocean" for a new prize, the chance to experience this daring dive with the audience as "Everyman." No script was used, to allow spontaneous reactions from Paxton and the crew.

"Sometimes it was like 'Real World goes to the Titanic,'" Paxton said of the film. "And it was a little eerie, given the fate of what was explored."

Ironically, that great ship, built to be unsinkable, will eventually perish, like its unfortunate passengers. Icicle-like structures called "rusticles," draped throughout the wreck, continually form as mineral-loving bac-



James Cameron (left) and Bill Paxton

teria consume the minerals within the ship's steel. Some experts believe that in less than a century, the wreck will no longer be recognizable as a ship.





A chandelier still dangles in the grand staircase of Titanic.

## ENTER BIRCHFIELD

How Birchfield, a sophomore majoring in music management, became a part of this cinematic coup is a story in itself, in which FSU played a small but critical part. Ridge Albaugh, an employee of Phoenix International and friend of the Birchfield family, offered Birchfield a two-week summer job after Phoenix was awarded a Navy contract. However, like many another student, Birchfield was already committed to another summer work assignment — a pizza shop. So he declined the offer.

But when he missed work one Saturday to audition for a music scholarship at FSU, Birchfield discovered the next day that he had been fired from his pizza job by an unsympathetic manager. That night, he called

Albaugh to see if the job was still open. He was told to report to the corporate headquarters of Phoenix International in Landover, Md., the next morning at 7 a.m.

“I walked in the first day, and my jaw dropped,” Birchfield said after seeing his new quarters in a 40,000-square-foot facility that houses Phoenix. He found himself in a workshop outfitted with tools and materials for the creation of highly technical equipment. When he was required to sign papers of confidentiality to protect the company’s proprietary information, he knew he was in new job territory.

For the next two weeks, Birchfield trained with Phoenix to become an operations technician as part of the team constructing Medusa, the remote operated vehicle (ROV) that serves as a mobile lighting platform (MLP) for filming “Ghosts of the Abyss.” One of his responsibilities was the fabrication of the hydraulic lines needed for varying the positions of the cameras and lights. ▶



FSU student Steven Birchfield



The Medusa lighting chandelier

## MEET MEDUSA

Weighing about four tons, Medusa is equipped with 10 lights, each providing 12,000 watts of illumination, along with a color video Super SeaCam, black and white video Multi-SeaCam, fiber optic multiplex system, sonar, compass, altimeter, depth sensor, pan and tilt unit, remote Ocean Systems 250-watt lights, axial/lateral and vertical thrusters, hydraulic power pack, hydraulic load release and rotary actuators for the cameras and sonar. The fiber optic system enables Medusa's sonar system.

This ROV is essentially a bifurcated cube topped with a foam block painted in a shade of yellow reminiscent of a school bus (it even has similar black stripes) that bears the company logo. Measuring 2.4 meters long, 1.8 meters wide and 1.8 meters high, she's a beast of a machine that's slow and steady, built to cruise at .25 knots and withstand pressure of over 6,000 pounds per square inch. Dry, she weighs about 3,000 kilograms and, like some fantastic toy, is maneuvered into position with a joystick.

"Nothing is more aptly named," was Paxton's comment on the Medusa, referring to the tangle of hydraulic hoses and wires located in the lower half of the device, much like Greek mythology's Medusa, a hideous creature with intertwined snakes around her head.

After Medusa was constructed, she, Birchfield and the rest of the mates embarked from Solomon



MEDUSA and her crew: Birchfield is second from left.

Island's Ship's Point aboard IOS, a four-ton ship commissioned as the ROV's home at sea. She was so big that she needed her own ship. IOS accompanied the Russian mother ship, Akademik Mstislav Keldysh, the world's largest research ship and home of the film's production studio. Albaugh, the project's lead technical supervisor, had invited Birchfield to continue working with Phoenix after his initial two weeks of work.

Once they arrived at the Titanic dive site, Medusa became part of the starring cast of incredible gizmos that had to maneuver in strong, unpredictable currents and avoid the hazardous steel cables draped over the ship:

- ♦ The Mir 1 and Mir 2, two of only four battery-powered submersibles capable of reaching the

depths required without being crushed, were used. The word “Mir” means “peace.”

- ◆ Jake and Elwood, two ROVs equipped with lights and cameras, were launched from the Mir submersibles to explore the nooks and crannies of the Titanic. Created by Mike Cameron, they move like ghosts through the shipwreck.
- ◆ The Reality Camera System™ uses two cameras like eyes to capture 3-D images. Another Cameron creation, this is the first high-definition camera created to not only film in 3-D, but also to fit into a special housing allowing it to reach the depths of the sea.
- ◆ The UQC underwater telephone, actually a radio, allowed communication among the two submersibles and the mother ship.

And last, but not least, Medusa herself, was lowered 2.5 miles to the shipwreck. “It hung above the wreck like a chandelier,” Birchfield said. The name stuck; the Medusa was henceforth dubbed “The Chandelier” by the crew.

Things didn’t always go smoothly, according to Birchfield. “We often encountered problems,” he said. “We called it ‘surgery’ when we had to take everything apart.”

Then there was the hurricane wake, with swells up to 20 feet, through which the Keldysh and IOS passed, to add excitement - or seasickness. The waves tossed in an unexpected element of danger for the Mir crew attempting to return to the ships.

Besides providing Birchfield with a memorable experience, a Phoenix T-shirt and some spending money, his summer job yielded some more lasting benefits. When he returned to Frostburg and his truck overheated, he was able to make repairs with his new soldering skills.

As of mid-June, Birchfield hasn’t had time to see the final cut of “Oceans of the Abyss,” but, he says, “I think it will be a great film. I have very high expectations of how it turned out. I would say everyone should see go see it.”

Since then, he remains a Phoenix employee, with a job waiting after graduation. Despite his pursuit of a music degree, this young man couldn’t be happier.

“I play a multi-million dollar video game I don’t want to lose,” Birchfield says. “This is so much fun.”



## GHOSTS OF THE ABYSS

Academy Award®-winning director and master storyteller James Cameron travels back to the site of his greatest inspiration – the legendary wreck of the Titanic. Using state-of-the-art technology developed expressly for this expedition, Cameron and his crew explore virtually the entire ship, inside and out, as never before. The advanced 3-D technology allows audiences to experience the journey as if they are part of the dive team, traveling deep below the surface of the ocean and far inside the ghostly shipwreck.

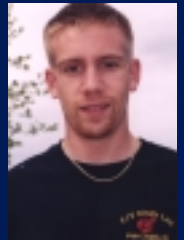
Walt Disney Pictures presents “Ghosts of the Abyss” in association with Walden Media, an Earthship Production, produced and directed by James Cameron. Ed W. Marsh is creative producer. Chuck Comisky, Gig Rackauskas, and Janace Tashjian produce. Buena Vista Pictures distributes.

To find the IMAX Theatre nearest to you showing “Ghosts of the Abyss,” visit online at <http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/ghosts/>

## Memorable Summer Jobs

Another FSU student spent his summer job on the ocean, when he found himself in a “pinch” – both figuratively and literally.

Josh McAlister, a junior from St. Mary’s County, dons a rubber apron and gloves and climbs aboard a 40 ft. lobster boat headed off the coast of Rhode Island. “I was in a bit of financial bind and this pays really well.”



McAlister

For about \$1,000 a week, McAlister is up at 4 a.m. to load 50-pound trolls with bait and cast them into the ocean, and then check and unload previously released lobster traps. His biggest catch? A whopping six-pounder.

At the end of summer, he comes ashore with a few scars, but it’s all part of the job.

“When a lobster clamps down, you’re more worried about not hurting the lobster than about yourself,” he says. “Besides, they’re not that mean. They’re ugly, but they’re not quick or smart.”



McAlister’s summertime home – the Cindy Lou

The mechanical engineering student has been tempted to find a more resumé-building job for the summer months. However, he admits he’ll miss the “claw” of the sea.

“It was nice being out on a boat in the water.”

And knowing what you’re having for dinner.

— Ty DeMartino

**Did you have an interesting or unique summer job while you were attending Frostburg State? Let us know. Send your memories to [tdemartino@frostburg.edu](mailto:tdemartino@frostburg.edu) or Profile Editor, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, Md., 21532-1099. We’ll publish your letters in our next issue.**

Catch of the day



## 1963

**Jack Bridner** recently had an article entitled "Maryland Free Soilers and the Presidential Election of 1848" published by the Maryland Historical Society.

## 1966

**Martin Ellis Dodd** and **Cheryl Whippo Dodd** (Class of '66) are still happily married since Aug. 6, 1966. Must have been the mountain air!

## 1968



**Jacqueline Mixer Fischer** (above) was retired after teaching English and journalism for 32 years in Washington County and substitute teaching for two years. She was elected to serve on the Washington County Board of Education in November 2002.

## 1972

**Sharon Brown Lindsay** and her husband, **Bob**, announce the graduation of their children from the University of Maryland College Park in May 2003. **Stephen** and **Heather** are both honor students. **Stephen's** major was civil engineering, and **Heather** was an anthropology major.

## 1973

**Arlone Kriss**, **Yvonne Grimm** and **Beth Edrington Andryszak** (all Class of '73) and **Ann Hofmann Thompson** and **Jane Farver** (both Class of '72) continue to have mini-reunions every year. They usually meet in the Baltimore area for a meal, conversation, memories and a session of "wonder what happened to." They would love to include other classmates and Annapolis Hall friends. Please drop a line to [arloneris@aol.com](mailto:arloneris@aol.com).

## 1974

**Fran LoPresti** is director of database services at Magellan Health. She earned her master's degree in computer science in 1981. Her sons are both in college.



**Susan Snyder Schadt**, **Lynn Appeltoft Kochis**, **Randy Kenyon** and **Beverly Poblowski Bloom** (above) are all 1974 art major graduates. **Lynn** and her husband, **Andy**, (Class of '70) have a daughter, **Stephanie**. Let's hear from the Class of '74!

## 1975

**Peggy Hanselman** was named High School Counselor of the Year on April 4, 2003, for the state of Pennsylvania. She has been a counselor since 1980.

**Sandra Cones** has retired and is living in Florida. Boating is still a large part of her life.

## 1976

**David Hankinson** and his wife, **Donna**, have recently returned to Western Maryland after three and a half years in San Diego. He transferred with Goodrich Aerospace as HR manager, after closure of the Hagerstown plant.

## 1977

**Kenneth Coffey** was appointed to the Association of HealthCare Philanthropy Mid-Atlantic Region Cabinet and was named chapter director of Ford's Special Vehicle Team Owners Association for Maryland ([www.freestatesvtoa.com](http://www.freestatesvtoa.com)). He teamed up with **Don Fry** (Class of '77) to win the Alumni Golf Tournament at Beaver Creek in Nov. 2002.

**Terri Moser Harne** lives near Lynchburg, Va., with her husband, **Richard**, and son, **Ryan**. Her daughter, **Kellan**, and son, **Garren**, were each married recently. She is a pri-

mary specialist, mentor teacher and gifted coordinator for the Amherst County Public Schools at Madison Heights Elementary School.

## 1978

**Catherine Pope** received the *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* award for the year 2002-2003. She has been teaching 24 years in Montgomery County.

**Kevin R. Fitzgerald** has been a teacher and administrator in Maryland and Delaware. Now principal of Caesar Rodney High School in Camden, Del., he was chosen as Delaware's 2002-2003 Secondary School Principal of the Year. He's a doctoral candidate at the University of Delaware and is married with three daughters.

## 1979

**Candace Murray Bryant** has been married to **Jeff** for 21 years. She has a master's in Early Childhood Special Education and works for Montgomery County Public Schools with the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program. She and her husband enjoy going to Ocean City, Md., and fishing on the "Reel Sweet" for the BIG one!

**Lowell Bender** was recently elected to the board of The Maryland Salem Children's Trust Inc. for a three-year term.

## 1982

**Diana "Dee" Bacque-Wolfe** can't believe that she has been away from FSC for 21 years! She has earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling and has been a special education teacher for 21 years at Leonardtown Middle School in St. Mary's County. Teaching has been so inspirational to her and thanks to FSC, she came aboard with the right staff!

**James Coulter** is living among the pine trees of gorgeous Missoula, Mont. Working in radio advertising since 1989, he is general sales man-

ager for six Clear Channel radio stations in Western Montana. One of just a handful of alumni in Montana, he would love to hear from his FSU buddies. Frequent trips back east never seem to include enough time for visiting old friends. He can be reached by e-mail at [jimcoulter@clearchannel.com](mailto:jimcoulter@clearchannel.com).

**Kendal Bryant Blaser** and **Tom Blaser** (Class of '79) are enjoying an "awesome" life with their two sons, **Sam** (15) and **Tyler** (13), in beautiful Nokesville, Va. **Tom** is chief of transportation for Prince William County and **Kendal** owns a private outpatient physical therapy practice in Warrenton, Va.

**Paul McCardell** and his wife, **Genevieve McGough McCardell** (Class of '82), announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, **Molly Kristine**, born July 15, 2001. **Molly** joins her brother, **Patrick Michael**, who turned 14 in June of this year. **Paul** is still working in the library of *The Baltimore Sun* as a news researcher and is celebrating his 20th year with the company. **Genevieve** continues to work for the Department of Juvenile Services in Howard County and is in her 18th year as a juvenile counselor senior. She is also the coordinator for the Special Olympics Howard County Equestrian Program, which keeps her busy each spring. They are still living on Lake Elkhorn in Columbia, Md. If you'd like to e-mail **Genevieve**, you can do so at [mccardg@djj.state.me.us](mailto:mccardg@djj.state.me.us) or **Paul** at [paul.mccardell@baltsun.com](mailto:paul.mccardell@baltsun.com)

**Richard Dunn** has joined the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission as a driver for the Adult Care Program.

## 1984

**Jeffre Spaner** is employed by Intergraph Corp., supporting government database systems at the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Bethesda, Md. He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.



## Hutchinson and Fry Honored

University System of Maryland Chancellor **William "Brit" Kirwan** (left) welcomes President of the Greater Baltimore Committee **Don Fry** (Class of '77) and President of SunTrust Bank **Don Hutchinson** (Class of '67) to a gathering held in at Kirwan's residence at Hidden Waters. The reception, honoring the professional accomplishments of both Fry and Hutchinson, was attended by over 100 FSU supporters.



**Class Act** — W. Dennis Thomas (Class of '65) accepts a commemorative FSU ring at a reception held in his honor during commencement weekend, as Dr. Alice Manicur, vice president for Student and Educational Services, looks on. Thomas, former aide to President Ronald Reagan, spoke at the University's 122nd commencement programs in May.

## 1985

Susan Pettus Cottrell recently chatted with FSU friend Tracey Cabral Cogliano for the first time since 1986. It was great to catch up! Any other BSU or music friends who want to get in touch, Susan would love to hear from you at scottrell2@aol.com.

## 1989

Amy Burgan Everett and her husband, P.J. Everett, announce the birth of their second child, Emily Elizabeth, born Aug. 10, 2002. She arrived home from Seoul, Korea, on Jan. 17, 2003. They also have a 5-year-old son, Colin. Amy is a math teacher at Smithsburg High in Washington County and also teaches at Hagerstown Community College. P.J. is the production supervisor for Expoechange in Frederick, Md.

Jason Brode and Michelle Parks Brode (Class of '88) have been married since 1994. They have two children, Raina (7) and Elyjah (3). They reside in Carlisle, Pa.

Jeffrey Rutledge and his wife, Jen, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Tyler William, born Nov. 9, 2002.



Timothy Nichols (above, left) of Mineral County, W.Va., has reached an agreement to publish a new Civil War/historical novel.

Christopher Chambers married Courtney Anne Maddox on Oct. 26, 2002 in Vienna, Va. Maj. Russell Bodine (Class of '87) was best man; Stuart J. Borris (Class of '91) was one of the groomsmen. Chris is an account executive for a major telecommunications firm in Alexandria, Va.

## 1990

Cindy Franke passed the July 2002 Pennsylvania Bar Exam after her May 2002 graduation from Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pa. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar on Oct. 21, 2002, and is now practicing law with special interest in trust and estate law and business law.

## 1991

Deborah Baker Miller is the executive director of the Volunteer Center of Allegany County. She will earn her master's in education from FSU in December 2003.

Douglas "D.C." Cathro (also Class of '94) is doing freelance graphic design work and acting, most recently in "5th of July" and an original musical featuring music by the B-52s. He is also a company member of the Maryland Ensemble Theatre in Frederick, Md., where he lives.

Kevin McDorman completed his dissertation in toxicology at UNC-Chapel Hill in June 2002 and began working at Amgen in July. Amgen is the largest biotechnology company in existence and is focused on developing novel approaches for the treatment and general health of cancer patients.

continued ►

## classnotes close-up

### Grad Knows How to "Push Buttons"

40 Years of Activism Captured in Poster

When **Al Feldstein** (Class of '78) was a political science major at the University of Maryland in the politically charged 1960s, causes were everywhere: Vietnam, civil rights, the women's movement, the environment.

He said there was always someone in the Student Union with books and signs and buttons. And Al always picked up the buttons, whatever the cause, whatever the position.

He was attracted to the colors, graphics and slogans on the buttons, but he had a historical interest as well. "I knew the historical value from the beginning. Regardless of how you felt about an issue, this is contemporary history," said the unofficial local historian who has published a number of books on western Maryland history.

Now he is sharing his button collection in the form of a color poster, available for purchase, featuring 370 buttons showing a variety of points of view on many of the major issues of the past four decades. The collection covers such issues as varied as animal rights, workers rights, Africa, Ireland, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, globalization, nuclear disarmament, the American Indian movement and gay and lesbian rights.

Feldstein was interested in showing both sides of as many issues as possible in the poster. For example, anti-Vietnam War buttons are juxtaposed with buttons protesting Jane Fonda's infamous visit to Hanoi. A narrative at the bottom of the poster offers some basic details on the pertinent events surrounding each issue.

"The poster is not meant to be an ideological or political statement as such of one side or the other. ... Rather, I see this poster as an educational item," said Feldstein, who holds a master's in education from FSU. After nearly 40 years, there is now some historical context to the issues, even as they continue to be relevant.

Feldstein has teamed up with a couple of FSU entities, the student group Hillel and the Ort Library's J. Glenn Beall Archives. Feldstein gave Hillel 100 posters to sell on campus, a fund-raiser that will continue in the fall. *Profile* readers who want to benefit the Archives can designate \$2 of the \$14 cost of the poster (plus shipping and handling) towards the Archives in one of two ways: by writing "FSU Profile" in the memo line of their payment check, or, by ordering through the Web site, [www.buttonsofthecause.com](http://www.buttonsofthecause.com), inserting "FSU Profile" under "other" when prompted to say where they learned about the poster.

—Liz Douglas Medcalf



Al Feldstein



Feldstein shows his then growing button display at Heritage Days in Cumberland, 1975.

# CLOSE-UP



The Cause • The People • The Organizations • The Issues • 1960 - 2000

keep your eyes on.....

Saturday, Aug. 9  
**Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Quarterly Meeting**

10 a.m.; FSU Center in Hagerstown  
Open to all FSU Alumni

Sunday, Aug. 17  
**Concert in the Park**

Hagerstown City Park Island Pavilion  
6 p.m. Picnic (catering by Kerch's Southern BBQ)  
8 p.m. Municipal Band Concert  
\$5 adults, children under 12 FREE

Wednesday, Sept. 10  
**Shades of Ireland Tour Preview Night**

6:30 p.m.; President's Conference Room, second floor, Hitchins Bldg., FSU campus; Collette Vacations representative to preview the Ireland trip scheduled for March 22-31, 2004

Saturday, Sept. 13  
**Bobcat Soccer (Men's) & Pre-Game Picnic**

Picnic at noon; 1 p.m. game  
McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

Thursday, Sept. 18  
**Baltimore Orioles Outing**

vs. New York Yankees  
5:30 p.m. Pre-game party on the Garden Terrace  
7:05 p.m. Game  
\$29 per person, includes meal and ticket

Thursday, Sept. 25  
**Frostburg with Pride in Frederick**

An opportunity for University staff to provide updates on Frostburg State University  
6-8 p.m.; site TBA

Friday, Sept. 26 & Sunday, Sept. 28  
**Campus Concert, featuring Patchwork:**

Greg Latta, Joan DeeVee Dixon & Suzi Mills  
Sept. 26, 8 p.m. & Sept. 28, 2 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center, FSU Campus

Wednesday, Oct. 7  
**Autumn in Atlanta**

A gathering for Frostburg alumni who live or work in the Atlanta area; time and site TBA

Oct. 16 - 19  
**Homecoming: A Blast from the Past**

FSU Campus (for additional information, see back page, or visit [www.frostburg.edu](http://www.frostburg.edu) and click on alumni & Homecoming)

Oct. 20- Dec. 3  
**Fall Phonathon**

Saturday, Nov. 15  
**Regents Cup Football Game**

FSU Bobcats vs. Salisbury University Seagulls  
Time TBA  
Towson University Stadium, Towson, Md.

For more information on any of these events, contact Becky Coleman or Colleen Peterson at 301/687-4068 or e-mail [alumni@frostburg.edu](mailto:alumni@frostburg.edu).

## ▶ classnotes

His wife finished her Ph.D. and also works at Amgen. They live and work in Southern California, or "paradise," as they call it.

## 1992

**Andrew Austin Rowe** married Susanne Marie Reidle on Sept. 21, 2002. He is an estimator and project manager with Hagerstown Paint and Glass in Hagerstown, Md.

**Beth Stallings** married Marc D. Michael Sept. 29, 2001. They both are employed at FSU.

**Susan Giuffre Chenoweth** and her husband, Robert, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Aiden, born Nov. 23, 2002, 8 pounds 6.7 ounces, 21 1/4 inches long. Susan is enjoying being a full-time, stay-at-home mom and part-time, freelance production artist/graphic designer. She has found true happiness!

## 1993

**Bonnie Burkland** is a project manager for The Midland Group in Hays, Kan., which assists hospitals and their patients in nine states with the financial burdens that occur when patients have no health insurance. She is engaged to Darren Rubottom.

**Kelley Ann Pershing** married Jason Andrew Miller on Aug. 10, 2002. She is a mathematics teacher at Sykesville Middle School in Sykesville, Md.

**Phaedra Nickl Harris and James J. Harris** (Class of '94) announce the birth of their daughter, Margaret Phae Harris, born Aug. 4, 2002. Sgt. James Harris is stationed at Fort Benning and assigned to 988th Military Police Company. Phaedra is working for Columbus State University in the Office of Continuing Education.

**Shawn Mills** married Benjamin Michael Gusciora Aug. 31, 2002. She is employed by State Farm Insurance Co. in Frederick, Md.

## 1994

**Brian Cullum** received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of



## Aloha, Seniors!

Four friends decided to add a Hawaiian theme to FSU's sixth annual Senior Sendoff at Gandalf's Pub on Main Street, sponsored by the FSU Foundation, Inc., FSU Alumni Association and the Office of Annual Giving. Graduating seniors were treated to giveaways, trivia games and food and drink.

## 1995

South Carolina, pursuing research in optical spectroscopy and remote optical sensing for environmental monitoring. He then accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he worked on three areas of research: fiber optic nanosensors for single cell analyses, non-invasive biomedical diagnostics and development of detection technology for homeland defense. One of the portable detection devices designed there was purchased by the Army for deployment in Iraq to help find chemical and biological agents and explosives. Since he arrived at University of Maryland Baltimore County in August, researchers have started focusing on the development of novel, non-invasive optical diagnostic techniques for the detection of malignant tumor tissues. His research group has also been working on developing implantable nanosensors to track biochemical reactions on the single cell level to understand disease progressions.

**Cynthia Bosley McCallam and Trevor McCallam** (Class of '93) welcomed their first child, Bria Abigail, born Oct. 17, 2002.

**Sarah Erny Moyer and Cary James Moyer** (Class of '95) announce the birth of their daughter, Jillian Noelle, born Feb. 2, 2003. Her big brother, Noah, is just thrilled with her! Cary is branch manager for Harrisburg TD Waterhouse, and Sarah stays home with the children.

**Shannon Porter** is a customer service manager for ADP-Rockville, Md. She is pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at FSU's Frederick Center. In her spare time she volunteers as a mentor for the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission.

**Jonathan Alloy** graduated with his MBA from the University of Michigan in April 2003, after which he traveled west to join Siebel Systems Inc. as an alliance manager. Siebel is a software company in San Mateo, Calif., just south of San Francisco in Silicon Valley. Folks can reach him at [jalloy@umich.edu](mailto:jalloy@umich.edu). Any other FSU alumni in the Bay Area?

**Melissa Davis Clark** and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of their second son, Jacob Franklin Clark, on Sept. 29, 2002. Big brother Cullen is 6 years old. Melissa is working for March of Dimes as a community director for Washington and Frederick counties in Maryland.

**Richard Carter and Jennifer Horton Carter** (Class of '96) announce the birth of their first child, Julia Claire Carter, born Dec. 19, 2002.

**Steven Nelson and Kara Reed Nelson** (Class of '98) have a beautiful son named Jaron, who turned 1 on Jan. 19, 2003. Steve is a juvenile probation officer in Washington County, Md. Kara is in her fifth year of teaching at Middletown High School in Frederick County.

**Andrew J. Bensimon** received his master's degree in security management from the George Washington University. He has since advanced within Science Applications International Corp. to the position of senior security systems engineer, working with local, state and federal agencies in designing, integrating and implementing advanced security technologies such as biometrics and smart cards for physical and logical access.

## 1996



Lindsay Elizabeth Pirchio

**John Pirchio** and his wife, **Karen Van Ryswick Pirchio** (Class of '96), announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Lindsay Elizabeth, born Aug. 13, 2002.



Alexandra Leigh Schofield

**Renee Schofield** (also Class of '00) and **Rich Schofield** (Class of '96 and '02) announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Leigh, born Oct. 20, 2002. They live in Binghamton, N.Y., where Rich works as a resident director for Binghamton University.

**Brandi Payne Taponnier** and her husband, Jerry, announce the birth of their daughter, Nataleigh, born March 10, 2003. She weighed in at 9 pounds 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Nataleigh has one sister, Winter, who is 20 months old.

## 1997



Kasia Lee Bokinsky

**Stacy Whitfield Bokinsky** and her husband, Eric, announce the birth of their first child, a girl, Kasia Lee Bokinsky, born March 9, 2003. Eric is a teacher in Frederick County. Three weeks after Kasia was born, Eric left to serve his country in the

Middle East. Kasia's grandfather is **Melvin Whitfield** (Class of '67).

**Caryn Hill McGraw** was recently promoted as a contract specialist to the U.S. Coast Guard. She is relocating to Elizabeth City, N.C.

## 1998

**Nicole Goodfellow Horsch** and **Nathaniel Horsch** (Class of '98) reside in Loudoun County, Va. They have a beautiful daughter, Emily, born Oct. 26, 2001. Nat is a senior system engineer at SI International in Rosslyn, Va. Nicole is a corporate concierge at America Online in Dulles, Va.

## 1999

**Cherish McMahon** married Chris Harvey Jan. 22, 2003, at Couples Resort in Negril, Jamaica. She is the owner of The Lockhouse Restaurant in Hancock, Md.

**Deanna Rock** joined the law firm of Trozzo, Lowery and Weston in Cumberland as an associate attorney.

**Kimberly Butler Roche** and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Catherine Roche, born in August 2002.

**Raquel Perry Shutt** owns her own business, Wedding Savvy Inc., based in Annapolis, Md..

**Regina Pancake** celebrated her fifth wedding anniversary June 20, 2003. She is the mother of a daughter, Emma, born Feb. 23, 2000, and a son, Reuben, born Sept. 25, 2002. They reside near Elk Garden, W.Va.

## 2000

**Cori Zinner** attended grad school at Towson University and graduated in May 2002 with a Master of Arts in Teaching. She is now a third-grade teacher with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

continued ►

## classnotes close-up

### Alum "Survives" West Point

When *National Geographic Magazine* was looking for a team to create the "ultimate" obstacle course, their search ended with **Robert Stauffer** (Class of '66) and his wife, Bonnie.



Robert Stauffer '66

The couple, who have 40 years of combined experience at the United States Military Academy at West Point, was selected by National Geographic to help launch its new television network in the New York City area. To coincide with the channel's 16-part series on the Academy, organizers wanted to offer a special West Point obstacle course to the public. Enter Bob and Bonnie, who were hired to design and implement the challenge.

"It was very strenuous. Very military. Very challenging," says Bob, who had two weeks to create the course at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan.

National Geographic contacted the Stauffers for the task. (Bonnie's nickname at West Point was "Dr. Death" because of an extremely grueling aerobic dance class she initiated in the '80s. Bob taught physiology/human performance and designed West Point's Warrior Competition Course.)

National Geographic publicized their event with the dare, "Can You Survive West Point?" Bob and Bonnie set up the obstacles and oversaw the event, offering warm-up and cool-down exercises in between the physical course. Over 500 New Yorkers – many of whom waited in line for up to an hour – took the challenge over a weekend in January and received a T-shirt at the end. Almost all participants finished. Even some mentally and physically challenged individuals completed a special, modified course.

"One man had tears in his eyes at the end. We will never forget it."

The Stauffers were thrust into the spotlight. The media, including the major TV news networks, were out in force to cover the network launch and the public challenge. All wanted to interview the creators of the course.

Bob and Bonnie coped with the limelight. However, when Bob was interviewed on an NBC morning show, he admits that his heart leapt when he heard the announcer say, "Now, from Rockefeller Center..."

"We had a great time," he adds.

At the end of the event, National Geographic staff said they wished they had Bob and Bonnie for the earlier city launches of the channel.

"Unfortunately, the launching of the National Geographic Channel in New York was the final city. Had the National Geographic Channel known of us earlier, they would have hired us for a year to go from city to city and set up this course," says Bob. "That would have been a difficult challenge because it takes a good two weeks to fully recover from an event like this."

—Ty DeMartino

# close-up

The FSU Alumni Association, in partnership with Collette Vacations, presents:

## Shades of Ireland

March 22-31, 2004

10 Days/15 Meals



### Highlights include:

- Limerick
- Medieval Banquet
- Cliffs of Moher
- Galway
- Killarney
- Ring of Kerry
- Blarney Castle
- Kilkeeny Castle
- Dublin
- Waterford Crystal visit

### Accommodations include:

- Castletroy Park Hotel (Limerick)
- Great Southern Hotel (Killarney)
- Granville Hotel (Waterford)
- Kinnitty or Cabra Castle (Birr)
- Radisson SAS St. Helen's Hotel (Dublin)

Price includes round trip airfare from Baltimore. For more information, phone 301/687-4068 or e-mail: alumni@frostburg.edu.



**Kristi Lynn Weaver** married Christopher E. Bachtell Sept. 21, 2002. She is employed by the Washington County Board of Education as assistant principal of Williamsport Elementary School.

**Tara Parker** has accepted a job with Whitfield Russell Associates as a research assistant. She is engaged to Jason Johnson.

**Jeffrey M. Stouffer** married Diane Marie Puma. He is a financial analyst for the regulatory division of the American Stock Exchange in Manhattan.

erick County Public Schools in Frederick, Md.

**Katie James** has accepted a teaching position with the Washington County Board of Education as a seventh-grade science teacher.

**Marissa Terrano** will be returning to FSU to receive her Master of Education in School Counseling, beginning in the summer of '03.

**1956 Charles Lance Statler** Jan. 24, 2003

**1968 Charles A. Cantone** March 2, 2003

**1970 Quentin Griffey** March 15, 2003

**1971 Larry Roger Tyssens** May 3, 2002

**1972 John Jay Fignar** Feb. 13, 2003

**1976 Eugene M. Flinn II** April 3, 2002

**1976 Lawrence T. Murphy** April 26, 2003

**1989 Tracye D. Clark** Jan. 5, 2003

**1990 Marlene H. Weimer** Jan. 30, 2003

**In Memoriam**

**Alumni**

**1926 Norma L. Lantz** March 15, 2003

**1927 Helen M. Parker** Sept. 21, 2002

**Mary W. Straw** Feb. 7, 2003

**1928 Loretta P. Alderton** Feb. 1, 2003

**1935 Erma R. Leese** Feb. 27, 2003

**1941 Joseph Wagner** Feb. 26, 2003

**1944 Kathleen E. Barnard Rider** April 16, 2002

**1950 Rose Marie Stakem Webster** Jan. 3, 2002

**1951 Wanda L. DeHart** Feb. 25, 2003

**1952 Betty L. Hinzman** March 7, 2003

**1953 Edward Glyn Geis** May 24, 2003

**Staff and Friends of the University**

**Helene Baldwin** Jan. 16, 3003

**Herman E. Behling** May 13, 2003

**Joseph F Divico** March 20, 2003

**Helen K. Pawlowski** March 26, 2003

**Jackson T. Richardson** March 26, 2003

**Ruth S. Richardson** March 1, 2003

**George Wyckoff** Jan. 10, 2003

Send us some sunny news....we're desperate!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date/Major \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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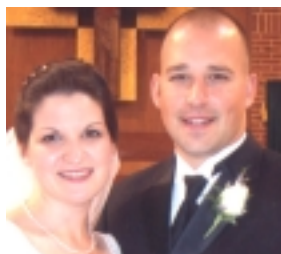
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**Lisa Fish and Nicholas Shockney** (Class of '00), above, were married on Oct. 12, 2002. Nicholas is a first-grade teacher and Lisa is a high school special education teacher, both in Carroll County.

**2001**

**Ian Kelly** taught for a year at Oceanview Elementary in Norfolk, Va., and a year at Harvard-Kent Elementary in Boston, Mass.

**Kristy Kay Turner** married Jared Timothy Rohr on June 15, 2002. She is employed by FKI Logistex in Frederick, Md.

**Takiyah Green** recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

**2002**

**Chad Easterday** married Catherine Annette Clise on Nov. 30, 2002. He is employed at Thompson's Gas and Electric.

**Denise Guessford** married George Michael Gouin on Sept. 28, 2002. She is a teacher with Fred-

News and photos should be addressed to: *Profile*, 228 Hitchins, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532-1099. You can e-mail to alumni@frostburg.edu or FAX us at 301/687-4069. You can also send us your info via our Web site: www.frostburg.edu/ (click on "Alumni").



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## Alumni Achievement Awards Restructured Martin Recognized for Service

**Estelle Martin** (Class of '77) was honored as the second recipient of the Service to Alma Mater Award during the University's Service Recognition Program in April. Martin has been an active member of the FSU Alumni Association for well over a decade, serving in a number of leadership capacities, including as its president, treasurer and on the Board of Directors. In addition, Martin has consistently supported and been involved with many of the activities sponsored by the Alumni Association and has encouraged other Frostburg alumni to become actively involved in their alma mater.

In recognizing Martin with the Service to Alma Mater Award, Jessica Morgenstern (Class of '78), chair of the association's Awards and Recognition Committee noted, "Estelle Martin is the example for all of us to follow. She epitomizes the ideal and serves as a mentor to other alumni who choose to become involved with Frostburg State University."

The Alumni Achievement Award program, which has recognized nearly 70 alumni since its inception in 1983, started an evolution in 2001 with the designation of two distinct award categories—the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and the Service to Alma Mater Award. The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is designed to recognize FSU alumni whose professional accomplishments are particularly noteworthy.

The Service to Alma Mater Award recognizes alumni whose continuing contributions and service to the University are extraordinary.

While the Service to Alma Mater Award has now found a good home in the University's Service Recognition Program in the spring, the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award is moving to a new location, as well. Once a traditional part of Homecoming and, specifically the Alumni Expo/Career Day Luncheon program, the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award will find new ownership within the University's College structure. Each of the three colleges (the College of Education, the College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) will help, through their respective academic departments,

to identify outstanding alumni and to recognize them in meaningful ways. This new approach will provide for greater involvement with the faculty, who are most knowledgeable regarding the successes of our alumni. It is expected that during the 2003-2004 academic year, each of the three colleges will create an appropriate forum to recognize

Frostburg State alumni through the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award program.

If you would like additional information or wish to nominate someone for this award, please contact Colleen T. Peterson in the Office of Alumni Programs at 301/687-4161 or [cpeterson@frostburg.edu](mailto:cpeterson@frostburg.edu).



Jessica Morgenstern, right, (Class of '78), chair of the Alumni Association's Awards & Recognition Committee, presents Estelle Martin (Class of '77) with the Service to Alma Mater Award.



## Directors Retreat Album

Above: Alumni Association Board member, **Ward Orem** (Class of '75), receives assistance from FSU student **Erica Montgomery**. As part of the Alumni Association Annual Strategic Planning Retreat, Board members partnered with students to build birdhouses for the University arboretum. Involvement in a University service program has become a traditional part of the Board's planning weekend. Left: Board member, **Ronald Mills** (Class of '88) takes a break during the retreat to review photographs taken at the Student Leadership Conference in which he participated as an alumni mentor.

## Alumni Association Elects New Officers and Directors

The FSU Alumni Association elected its new officers and directors for the 2003-2004 year at its meeting in April. Joining as new directors are **Dennis Baker** (Class of '66) and **Mark Greenwald** (Class of '85). Currently, the Board of Directors of the FSU Alumni Association is comprised of five officers and 20 directors. For additional information about the Association or to express an interest in serving on the Board, please contact Colleen T. Peterson in the Office of Alumni Programs at 301/687-4161 or [cpeterson@frostburg.edu](mailto:cpeterson@frostburg.edu).

### Officers

Royal Hines (Class of '94)  
*President*  
Mary Beth Pirolozzi (Class of '90 & '95)  
*President-Elect*  
Michele Midgett (Class of '98)  
*Secretary*  
James Mason (Class of '75 & '87)  
*Treasurer*  
Al Martin (Class of '75)  
*Treasurer-Elect*  
Jessica Morgenstern (Class of '78)  
*Immediate Past President*

### Directors

Dennis Baker (Class of '66)  
Rebecca Brown McCusker (Class of '85 & '88)  
Lisa Byrd (Class of '94)

Marcie Clagett (Class of '90)  
Sandra Day (Class of '67)  
Gladys Faherty (Class of '55)  
Dawn Fike (Class of '90)  
Kenneth Garrison (Class of '67)  
William Graves (Class of '65)  
Mark Greenwald (Class of '85)  
Keith Hinnant (Class of '94)  
Mellicent Malchenson (Class of '81, '93 & '94)  
Estelle Martin (Class of '77)  
Craig McKee (Class of '00)  
Ronald Mills (Class of '88)  
Ward Orem (Class of '75)  
Jack Patterson (Class of '64)  
Ed Ragan (Class of '74)  
Tom Slater (Class of '66)  
Richard Warner (Class of '75)

# Five Inducted into Hall of Fame

Tickets Available to Induction Ceremony on Oct. 17

Frostburg State University will add five members to the Bobcat Athletics Hall of Fame at its annual induction dinner Friday, Oct. 17, as part of the Homecoming Weekend activities. The evening will begin with a social starting at 5:30 p.m., with the dinner and induction ceremonies to follow. Cross country and track and field great **Matt Cline** (Class of '78), baseball standouts **Larry Sporer** (Class of '85) and **Mark Liller** (Class of '92), basketball star **Nicole Bashaw** (Class of '93) and lacrosse standout **Maggie Murphy** (Class of '92) represent the 33rd class to be inducted. The additions bring the total number of members in the Bobcat Athletics Hall of Fame to 133.

Cline established himself as FSU's all-time best middle-distance runner, earning three letters in three seasons of both cross country and track and field from 1974-78. He set a school record of 3:49.2 in the 1,500-meters in 1978, a mark that still stands. He won numerous NAIA District 18 and Mason-Dixon Conference titles during his career and set district and conference records on several occasions.

Cline was equally impressive on the track, establishing FSU records at 1,000 yards, one mile, two miles and 1,500-meters in both the NAIA and NCAA Division III National Championships.

Sporer enjoyed an outstanding career on the baseball diamond from 1982-1985. Known as one of FSU's best defensive catchers with a rifle arm, he also played in the outfield and hit second and third in the order. He was one of the team's fastest runners, stealing 22 bases in 1984 and finishing with 36 for his career.

After seeing limited action in his first two seasons, Sporer became a regular behind the plate in his final two years and helped lead the Bobcats to a 52-21 mark, including a 29-5 finish and a berth in the NCAA Tournament

as a junior. As a senior, Sporer earned NCAA Division III South Regional All-America honors after hitting .410, setting a single-season school record with 55 hits (a mark that now ranks third) and striking out just twice in 150 plate appearances, a record that still stands.

Liller was a four-year letterwinner with the Bobcat baseball team from 1989-92. Playing most of his career at third base, he compiled a .386 batting average, 136 hits (including 28 doubles), 81 RBI and a .559 slugging percentage. He posted batting averages of .427 and .426 over his final two seasons, making him just the fourth Bobcat to hit over .400 twice.

Liller was named Team Most Valuable Player, Eastern States Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player, All-ESAC, NCAA All-South Region and NCAA All-America honorable mention in both his junior and senior seasons. He helped FSU to an 84-42 overall record, two ECAC South Tournament titles and an ECAC South Tournament runner-up finish in his career.

Bashaw turned in one of the top careers of any Bobcat women's basketball player. A four-year

letterwinner from 1989-93, she started 110 of FSU's 111 games during her career and helped FSU to an 88-22 overall record, the 1991 Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship, a bid to the 1991 NCAA Division III Tournament and Eastern States Athletic Conference crowns in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

As a senior, she was named the ESAC Player of the Year as well as the Bobcat Female Athlete of the Year. She graduated as FSU's second-leading scorer with 1,675 points and also ranked third with 1,103 rebounds. She is one of just four Bobcat women to record 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

Murphy was the most prolific player in Bobcat women's lacrosse history during a record-setting career that spanned 1989-92. A four-time Brine South Regional All-America selection, Murphy set all-time FSU marks with 182 goals, 150 assists and 332 points.

Murphy earned regional All-America honorable mention accolades in both her freshman and sophomore seasons and propelled the Bobcats to great success her final two years. As a junior, she scored 39 goals and added a then-school-record 56 assists as FSU finished 15-1 and won both the Maryland College Tournament and the ECAC Mid-East Championship.

As a senior, Murphy led the Bobcats to a 14-3 mark and the program's first-ever NCAA Division III Tournament berth, scoring a career-high 52 goals and adding a school-record 70 assists, a mark that still stands. Murphy took home a variety of honors and was also selected to play in the IWLCA North/South Senior All-Star Game.

*Tickets to the Bobcat Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony are \$18 per person. For more information, contact Jack Aylor, 301/687-4161.*

## Hall of Fame Now Online

Now you can search the FSU Bobcat Hall of Fame online. Visit <http://sports.frostburg.edu/> and click on the "Bobcat Hall of Fame" bar at the left. Inductees are sorted by both alphabetical order and year of induction. Each award recipient has his or her own bio of athletic career highlights.

## Nominate a Worthy Bobcat

To nominate someone for the Bobcat Hall of Fame, you can request a nomination form by e-mailing [cstarke@frostburg.edu](mailto:cstarke@frostburg.edu) or writing FSU Sports Information Office, 101 Braddock Rd., Frostburg, MD 21532-1099.



# Best Friends Lend Assets to Basketball Squad

The 2002-03 Frostburg State women's basketball team has added an element of local talent to its ranks with the duo of sophomore **Tracey Little** and freshman **Jessica Smith**. They both hail from nearby Allegany High in Cumberland. They are best friends. Both shared the excitement of winning the state basketball tournament in 2000. Sitting down with both of them, it is evident that they carry a mutual respect and adoration of each other. They look at one another with a grin than communicates total agreement.

"The state championship game was definitely the highlight of my basketball career so far," said Smith.

Tracey nods her head and adds, "Definitely."

Smith, a 5-4 point guard who looked at Potomac State and Allegany College of Maryland before landing on the Bobcat squad, is studying business administration. She attributes her fundamentals to her father.

"My dad coached me and now that I'm in college, he's coaching my sister," says Smith. "He gives me pep talks and my mother never misses a home game."

Bobcat Head Coach Jody Pepple, who is in her ninth year in the FSU program, defines Smith as "scrappy" and one of the best players to coach.

"It helps coaching Jessica because she's a coach's daughter. She came here and didn't expect to play. She just learned the system here and did it. She doesn't expect to be the superstar of the team, and when she's out there she plays great defense and plays to the open person."

Pepple says the squad brought in a lot of bigger players this year, which she calls "horses." The team, in an effort to give these physically stronger players the ball at game time, came up with the phrase "feed the horses."

Pepple remembers a practice where Smith, hitting every single shot, looked at Pepple and said, "Feed the Pony."

"So now she's our little pony," said Pepple. Little is a 5-11 forward/guard who is study-



Tracey Little and Jess Smith

ing wildlife at FSU. She passed up multiple opportunities in order to play close to home with the Bobcats. Little went to West Virginia University her freshman year and didn't play basketball, a fact that coach Pepple thinks reignited her natural desire, drive and talent.

"She only got to play a few games here at the end of the season last year after transferring," said Pepple. "It was like a tease for the conference."

Little has come through in a big way this season, leading FSU in points (16.3), rebounds (19.4) and free-throws (2.9 per game). Little is very versatile, able to play all over the court and, according to Pepple, "is feisty on the floor."

"Tracey is consistent. We can always count on her to get 10-plus points and eight rebounds. She has really improved on defense, and I don't think there is a better player in the conference for offense and defense." Pepple says Little also leads by example.

"She works hard, doesn't say a lot and just goes at it. She really sets a great example for the freshmen and helps them step up their game. She's very supportive."

Little and Smith both really enjoy their teammates. They concur that when they are not on the court, they are hanging out with their fellow players.

The teammates, who come from more metropolitan areas, like to refer to the duo as "LaVale." Pepple says it has been awhile since there has been a local element on the team.

Smith and Little are both very happy to be close to home and are really excited to be play-

## Brewer Named Permanent Athletic Director

Ralph L. Brewer has been named FSU's athletic director, following a national search.

Brewer has served as FSU's interim athletic director since 2000. Since that time, Brewer has worked closely with the FSU coaching staff to monitor and encourage strong academic performance. As a result, the overall GPA of the student athletes has risen, as well as retention rates. Fund-raising for athletics has also climbed during Brewer's tenure.



Ralph Brewer

"Mr. Brewer has consistently affirmed the Division III philosophy that student-athletes are not bought through expensive scholarship programs, but that they are expected to do well in class, as well as develop their skills as athletes," says FSU President Catherine R. Gira. "I am pleased that the selection committee has chosen Mr. Brewer to fill this position."

Brewer started his career at Frostburg State in 1969 as a member of the FSU English Department, where he served as chair. He has been a strong supporter of Bobcat athletics, chair of the FSU Athletic Advisory Committee and the university's faculty representative for the steering committee of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

ing on the same college team.

"When we found out Jessica made the team at FSU, we were both dancing and jumping around," said Little. They not only practice together and workout at the YMCA together, but they both work in the summer at the LaVale Swim Club.

In addition to incredible work ethic and leadership, it's obvious that the two local players respect and embrace their differences.

"I'm big; she's little," said Little. "She's the happy, goofy one; I'm serious. We keep each other in check."

When asked if they play one-on-one together they both nod yes. Smith laughed, looked at Little and added, "Yeah, you're better."

—Thomas Gable

## Tennis Star Takes His Game to the Next Level

Junior Justin Stephens continues to mature his game through a turbulent program that has finally steadied itself at Frostburg State University. With the hire of new head coach Stuart Swink in the summer of 2002, Stephens is playing for his third coach in three years. However, Swink plans to be the first returning coach Stephens has worked with, and work is what Stephens is all about.

Things continued to improve for Stephens the following season; however the team did not. The program went through a rough spot as they lost head coach Lonnie Athey, who coached for 13 seasons at FSU, and three of its best young players for various reasons; junior Gene Cutter (who became the team's head coach) and sophomores Gary Lyst and Jacob Cook.

Stephens knew he could not control any of the changes, but that he had to go out and compete in every match. He did just that. The team

# The Making of a Champion

"Justin leads the team through 100 percent effort 100 percent of the time," said Swink. "He loves to compete no matter how tired he gets. He will always play to the top of his game and push himself to compete at his highest level."

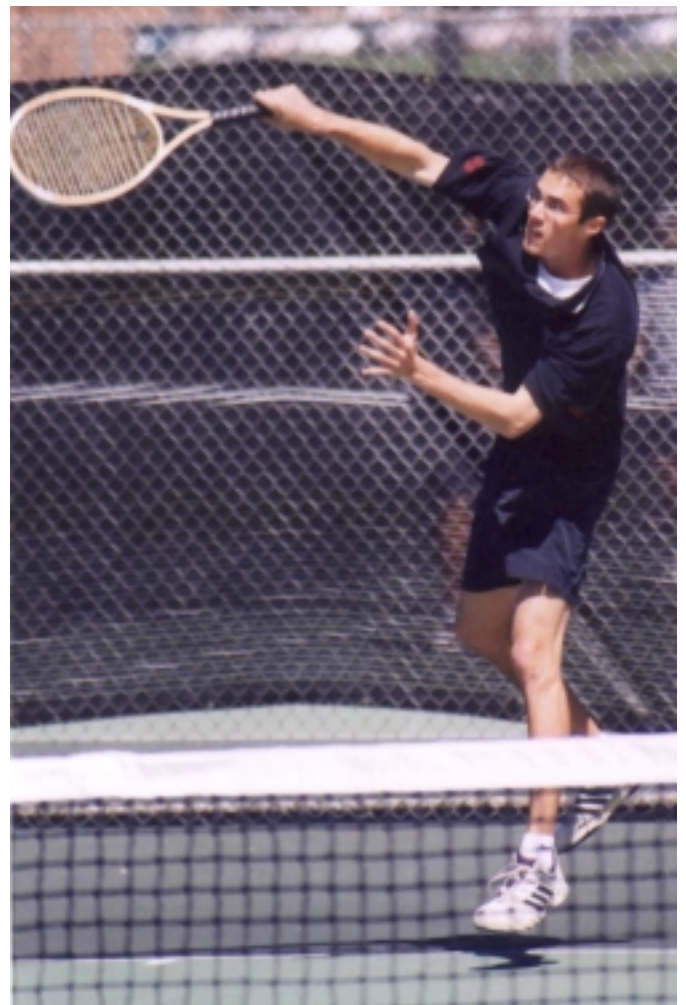
As a high school player at Southern Garrett in Oakland, Stephens excelled in golf, track and field and basketball, as well as tennis. In his senior year, he gained recognition as a tennis player, winning regional championships in both singles and doubles at the number one flight.

Following high school, Stephens was recruited by some top Division II schools to play tennis. Eventually he decided to stay near home. Choosing FSU was an educational decision rather than an athletic one, and it's a decision Stephens is glad to have made.

A computer science major, Stephens plans to pursue a coaching career in tennis. For the past two summers, he has worked at the Nemaquin Woodlands Resort and Spa, teaching tennis to players of all ages and skill levels.

In his first season at Frostburg State, Stephens was a key member of a team that went a perfect 15-0 and captured the school's first Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championship. After beginning the season at the number four position in singles, he eventually moved up to the number three spot and did not drop a match on the season, going 17-0 and winning the number three flight at the AMCC Championship.

He also competed as a member of the second doubles team that dropped only two matches all season, one of which was the in finals of the AMCC Tournament. Overall, Stephens went 29-2 in his freshman season.



Justin Stephens shows his winning form.

## 2003 Spring Sports Recaps

### Baseball

The Bobcats posted one of their most successful seasons in school history, finishing 31-12-1 overall and 9-3 in the AMCC. FSU recorded its sixth 30-win season, and the 31 wins ties for the third-highest single-season total in the program's 39 years. The Bobcats advanced to the AMCC Championship game for the third time in four years.

Among the highlights of the season were a 13-game winning streak and a No. 29 national ranking. The Bobcats were also among the national leaders in batting average, earned run average and winning percentage.

### Women's Lacrosse

The Bobcats posted another respectable season under head coach Eric Day, as a roster filled with 10 freshmen and sophomores compiled a 6-8 record against some of the toughest teams in the nation. Four losses came by three goals or less, including a hard-fought 11-10 overtime defeat to Goucher.

Highlights include a four-game winning streak, including a thrilling 10-9 victory at Roanoke. The youthful and thin squad (just 15 players) ran out of gas down the stretch, closing out the season with a 2-6 run.

While the Bobcats lose three key players to graduation, 12 members return to give FSU a strong foundation for the future.

### Softball

The Frostburg State softball team began a new chapter under first-year head coach Chris Starke, posting a 13-12 overall record, including a 7-5 mark in the AMCC and advancing to the AMCC Tournament. Five Bobcats were named to the all-conference team, while Starke was voted the AMCC Coach of the Year.

The Bobcats, who made a drastic turnaround from their 8-15-1 mark in 2002, posted a school-record seven straight wins before dropping their final four contests of the year. Among FSU's biggest wins was an 11-3 triumph over eventual AMCC Tournament champion Pitt-Bradford.

### Men's Tennis

The Bobcat men's tennis team enjoyed a strong season under first-year head coach Stuart Swink. FSU posted an 11-6 overall record, including a 4-2 mark in the AMCC, and fell just shy of winning its second straight AMCC Tournament title. The Bobcats were edged out by Penn State Altoona, 11-9, in a thrilling league championship that wasn't decided until the final match.

All three Bobcat doubles tandems garnered second-team All-AMCC accolades after falling in their respective title matches.

### Men's and Women's Track & Field

Both the Bobcat men's and women's outdoor track and field teams posted strong seasons under second-year head coach Felix Moreno.

At the Mason-Dixon Conference Championships, the Bobcat women finished second, while the FSU men placed fourth.

was able to find success, finishing the season 13-3 overall, 6-2 in the AMCC, and third in the AMCC Tournament.

Stephens, playing at the number one flight, continued to lead the way as he finished the season 15-4, including a stellar 7-1 mark in the AMCC. His only loss in his AMCC career came in a difficult tiebreak defeat to David Bruno. Stephens did get his revenge later in the season, defeating Bruno in straight sets. They battled one final time on the season, with Bruno ending up the victor at the AMCC Tournament first singles match.

Stephens also moved up to number one doubles, and like his freshman year he finished runner-up in the AMCC Tournament with an overall record of 11-5. His two-year record now stood at 32-4 in singles and 25-7 in doubles for an amazing overall record of 57-11.

Entering this past season, Stephens decided he needed to set some personal goals that he added to his already difficult career goal of becoming the all-time leader in both singles and doubles wins and winning another AMCC team championship.

While he wanted to help the Bobcats win another AMCC team championship, he also sought his first title at the number one flight. Second, he wanted to add the AMCC Player of the Year title to a championship season. Lastly, he wanted to improve his doubles game and find a partner that he could spend the season training with in an effort to make a solid run at a championship next season. He dedicated himself to accomplishing these goals from the first day of practice.

"I think the guys look to me as a leader, so I try to set an example on and off the court and I think it shows in the way we play," said Stephens. "I definitely see us growing as a team. This is about as close to a team as you can have in the game of tennis that is based upon individual performances. With another year of stability from Coach Swink, I think we can continue to improve and start making some noise in the AMCC and even nationally."

As the season came to a close, Stephens was finally able to examine his success on the court and came to a realization that he had accomplished all three of his major individual goals. He won his first AMCC singles championship at the number one flight, finished the season 16-2 (6-0 in the AMCC) and was voted the AMCC Men's Tennis Player of the Year.

His top finish helped the Bobcats finish a close second in the AMCC Tournament, and Stephens and junior Gary Lyst finished runner-up at the number one doubles flight at the AMCC Tournament, his third straight runner-up finish in doubles. His season was highlighted by a 13-match winning streak.

"This year was my best by far," said Stephens. "The big difference in my game from previous years was my dedication to weight training and the mental aspect of my game. Instead of trying to just beat my opponents, I thought more on the court when making my shots and took the time to evaluate the

strengths and weaknesses of my opponent before making a game plan."

With another amazing year and another title, Stephens moves even closer to reaching his goal of career wins as his tally now ranks second in the 49-year team history with an 81-19 record.

"Justin's improvement this season was important because he learned to play with intelligence rather than just physical ability," said Swink. "It is important for him to concentrate on consistency and repeating his game match-to-match. If he continues to improve his all-around game, he will become the player he envisions."

— Kevin Alcox

## Golden Anniversary

June 6 and 7, 2003

### Old Grad at Golden Homecoming

*I went to school here long ago.  
The school was small; the fees were low;  
And I was young back then, you know.  
The buildings then were not as grand.  
Far fewer students were on hand.  
But it is true beyond dispute,  
That even then the girls were cute.  
Professors' jokes were just as old,  
And winters then were just as cold.  
As June abated winter's freeze,  
Our seniors left us by "degrees."  
I left in nineteen forty-three,  
But much of Frostburg stays with me.*

*Through all these years, I have been true,  
To my old school—now FSU.*

By T. Conway Matthews, Class of '43  
written June 1, 1996



Dr. Joe Hoffman, interim dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (center), guided the tour through the new Compton Science Center.



Friendships were re-kindled after 50 years at Friday's welcome reception.



Members of the Class of 1953 pose for a group photo prior to Saturday's luncheon.



A highlight of the Golden Anniversary Reunion was a tour of the nearly completed Compton Science Center. The pendulum, located in the main hall, is one of the building's unique features.



Dorothy Brown Neff (Class of '53) and Mary Jane Ralston look at archival photos.

Frostburg State University alumni from the classes of 1953 and earlier came back to campus as part of the annual Golden Anniversary Reunion.

The weekend began with a welcome reception and tour of the Performing Arts Center on Friday. A Saturday packed with events started with a breakfast registration in Old Main. A luncheon featured comments by FSU President Dr. Catherine Gira and a presentation on the new Compton Science Center by Dr. Joseph Hoffman, acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A weekend highlight was a special preview of the Compton Science Center (which will have its official dedication on Oct. 16, 2003).

According to Colleen Peterson, vice president for University Advancement, the 2003 Golden Anniversary program attracted the largest attendance in the event's history, bringing alumni from New Hampshire, South Carolina, Michigan, Florida and California. The members of the Class of 1953 are significant supporters of their alma mater, as demonstrated by the percentage who have contributed to the FSU Annual Fund. While the average alumni giving statistic during the past decade is 17.4 percent (percentage of all alumni who make a financial contribution to the FSU Foundation, Inc.), the giving percentage for the Class of 1953 is 50 percent, Peterson noted.

The 2004 program is scheduled for June 4 and 5. For additional information, contact Becky Coleman, Alumni Programs, at 301/687-4068 or [rcoleman@frostburg.edu](mailto:rcoleman@frostburg.edu).

# The Shot Seen Around the World



Photo: John A. Bone - Cumberland Times-News

When former Frostburg State University professor **William Nizinski** took care of “snow business” at his Frostburg residence, he didn’t realize his winter chore would be seen around the world.

As Nizinski was using a snow blower on his driveway during one of the many winter snowstorms of 2003, a photographer from *The Cumberland Times-News* was hunting for the perfect feature shot. Nizinski’s image was captured and printed in the local daily, but then also was picked up the Associated Press wire service and distributed around the world.

The phone at the Nizinski home started ringing with calls from family and friends who saw the photo in newspapers as far away as Kansas, San Francisco, Florida and even Honolulu. There were even reports that the photo was printed in the South China *Morning Post*, an English newspaper out of Hong Kong. According to the geography professor, he enjoyed the globe trotting.

“It’s been great fun,” he told *The Cumberland Times-News*. “This thing just seemed to get better and better every day.”

— Ty DeMartino