



Bobcats Make the University Go

More Than 200 Alumni Employed by FSU



profile

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Two '60s-era Bobcats have made names for themselves on the competitive international "plein air" art scene. To win these uniquely adventurous competitions, artists must overcome inquisitive onlookers, Mother Nature and occasionally even law enforcement officers.



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FSU's nursing programs are among the fastest-growing majors on campus. Now students in these online programs designed for working professionals have some help in the form of new nursing scholarships. (Pictured: Richard and Muriel Sturtevant.)



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In his 1915 general theory of relativity, Albert Einstein predicted gravitational waves, yet he never successfully proved their existence. Last year, a team of scientists at LIGO, including **Dr. Amber Stuver '99**, successfully observed Einstein's elusive gravitational waves for the first time in history.



22 A TALE OF TWO FROSTBURGS

From the beginning, Frostburg State University has owed its existence to residents in and around the city of Frostburg. Today, new and improved campus-community partnerships are helping both 'Burgs grow even stronger than either could alone.

28 FITZGERALD'S MIRACLE BOBCATS

In 2014, following a dismal 1-9 season, **DeLane Fitzgerald** became head coach of Bobcat Football and promised to make his players champions. Players doubted his sanity. Last fall, all doubt vanished when the 2016 Bobcats steamrolled the competition, tying the greatest season in FSU history!



From the President:

I Hope You Are as Proud as I Am

I am pleased to share this issue of *Profile* with you. I hope you are as proud as I am of Frostburg State University as you read about the many accomplishments of your fellow alumni, students, faculty and staff. We are an institution on the move, whether it be through the professional accomplishments of our alums (see the contributions of alumna **Amber Stuver '99**, p. 18), through community engagement of staff, faculty and students, or through student-athlete success.

As many of you know, we are in the process of updating our Strategic Plan, which will take us through our 125th anniversary celebration in 2023. This fall, a 56-member strategic planning task force reached out to all constituencies, including alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, friends, legislators and



A series of open listening sessions on campus, including this one in February, have provided a venue for students, faculty and staff to air concerns.

community and business leaders, for their thoughts on what shape our next strategic plan should take. Our consultant, Dr. Pat Sanaghan, was overwhelmed by the level of engagement. We received well over 1,000 responses through surveys, focus groups and interviews. We learned so much about what makes Frostburg State a special place in your hearts and minds and, as important, what your hopes are for the future.

This engagement speaks to the commitment and dedication of so many toward FSU. You will find similar engagement in the feature about FSU alumni who also work for

FSU, who shared their experiences and their commitment to their alma mater.

In the coming months, the strategic planning task force will develop “themes” based on the input we have received. These themes will guide our planning and budgeting over the next six years. I anticipate a theme focusing on academics, our primary reason for being here. How will we evolve to address the changing needs of our students and the world? For instance, three years ago we had 16 students who earned their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees through our RN-to-BSN program. This past year, Frostburg State was third among University System of Maryland institutions with 97 BSN degrees awarded.

While the process is still under way, other themes will likely address the student experience at FSU, how we tell our story, campus facilities and engagement in the region. As you can tell, Frostburg State University has a complex mission in serving our students and the citizens of Maryland. Your continued input, interest and assistance are essential for Frostburg State’s success. My commitment to you is to keep you informed, invite your engagement and ensure you continue as a valued member of the Bobcat family.

Thanks for all you do for Frostburg State University and enjoy reading this issue.

Cordially,

Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk
President



Dr. Ron Nowaczyk

CAMPUS NEWS



Astronaut **Ricky Arnold '85** reconnected with two of his biology professors, **Dr. Wayne Yoder**, left, and **Dr. Robert Riley**, right.

Astronaut Reconnects

NASA astronaut **Ricky Arnold '85** returned to his alma mater this fall to speak about his journey to the International Space Station and the space program.

Arnold discussed his time at FSU and how it led him to where he is today. While he was an accounting major, an interest in biology led him to take numerous classes in the department taught by **Dr. Wayne Yoder** and **Dr. Robert Riley**. Both were present for the discussion.

Arnold said that his varied background has suited him well in life, and FSU gave him room to explore his passions.

"FSU is not interested in cranking out degrees but in growing the people who get them," a quality he appreciates.

Arnold currently serves as the branch chief responsible for the planning and safe execution of spacewalks and space station robotic operations.

"FSU is not interested in cranking out degrees but in growing the people who get them."

— **Ricky Arnold '85**



Representing Frostburg at the awards ceremony at the National Press Club were, from left, senior **Emily Michael**; **Amy Shimko '90**, director of Student Development; and **Dr. Jeff Graham D'15**, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

Public University of the Year: Largest U.S. Academic Internship Organization Honors FSU

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) named FSU the 2016 Public Institution of the Year. TWC is America's largest academic internship program.

The Washington Center helps Frostburg arrange summer internships with high-profile organizations in the nation's capital, and Maryland students are eligible for a scholarship that covers most expenses.

FSU received praise for the engagement of faculty and staff and the growing number of student participants. TWC also highlighted the diverse academic interests represented among Frostburg's interns. Nine FSU students participated in 2016.

"I could have worked the typical summer job and made more money, but it wouldn't have pushed me to grow," said **April Kinyua**, a senior majoring in political science and international studies. "I wanted to grow as a person, as a professional, as a human."

Kinyua found a natural fit with the outreach coordinator for the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI). She performed voter outreach, worked events, communicated with CHLI alumni, performed research and drafted memos and correspondences.

Emily Michael, a senior majoring in English with a concentration in professional writing and minor in public relations, landed an internship with the Sierra Club, the nation's largest environmental advocacy organization. She worked on digital strategies, drafting emails and text alerts, figuring how best to reach their audience.

"I got to draft an email that went out to 2.4 million people! That was really cool," Michael said. "And my internship site, they were really encouraging. If there was anything going on in the Capitol, they wanted us to go out and do it. ... They always wanted us to be engaged."

Senior **Brandon Holmes**, an exercise and sports science major, interned with Project Fitness, which promotes healthy lifestyles to build stronger communities. Holmes worked on social media promotion, helping integrate Project Fitness' social media pages into a cohesive digital presence. Holmes found a new mentor in the CEO of Project Fitness. They still text regularly, trading advice and ideas, and Holmes was invited to apply after graduation.

"I feel like I know my professional self a lot better and have a lot more direction," he said. ■

Gira Joins Board of Beall Institute for Public Affairs at Important Moment in U.S. History



Dr. Catherine Gira

Before retiring as president of FSU in 2006, **Dr. Catherine Gira** signed two agreements between the FSU Foundation and former U.S. Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr. The first, in 2001, established the J. Glenn Beall Archives in the Lewis J. Ort Library.

The second, in 2003, created the J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Institute for Public Affairs, which has become increasingly relevant during the historically unprecedented 2016 presidential election.

Gira, who recently joined the Institute's Board of Directors, received a summary of a decade of efforts to fulfill Beall's vision of inspiring citizen participation and exposing students to public service.

"The institute has accomplished a great deal, even beyond what any of us could have imagined," Gira said. "When I look at the people who have been brought in as speakers, the opportunities that the interns have had to be placed on Capitol Hill as well as in Annapolis, with both Democratic and Republican party representatives, all of it has been very exciting."

Without Gira, the Institute might not exist. Beall originally proposed a scholarship to get young people involved in government and public service. Gira suggested instead a nonpartisan institute for public affairs, using Beall's contacts in Washington and Annapolis to create a student internship program, outreach programs and more.

Since its 2005 dedication, the institute has hosted elected officials at campus event and has placed nearly 50 students with Maryland and U.S. lawmakers as "Beall Interns." Placements are divided as evenly as possible between Republican and Democratic representatives – a nonpartisan balance Gira said was intentional from the start.

"It's an opportunity to engage in civil discussions. ... To foster listening to each other and exchanging those ideas in a civil way, a mature way, will be a wonderful learning experience."

— **Dr. Catherine Gira**

before Maryland's primary, where students experienced an Iowa-style caucus, debating candidates' merits before grouping themselves by candidate preference. It included a Mock Election Night on Nov. 1. The institute also co-sponsored a Debate Viewing series, where students gather to watch and discuss each presidential debate with political science faculty, and an Election Night viewing event.

"It's an opportunity to engage in civil discussions," Gira said. "... To foster listening to each other and exchanging those ideas in a civil way, a mature way, will be a wonderful learning experience."

To support the Beall Institute, visit www.frostburg.edu/foundation/ways-to-give or call 301.687.4161.

— **Robert Spahr '13**

Nowaczyk Represents FSU at White House

President Nowaczyk was among about 40 college and university presidents invited to the White House last fall for the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, an invitation extended because of FSU's commitment to and success in community service and civic engagement.

The presidents represented schools of all sizes, public and private, and from across the United States, Nowaczyk said.

"The discussion focused on community engagement and how universities can harness the energy they have among their students and faculty to help address issues in their communities, build understanding and serve people in need," Nowaczyk said.

FSU has a long history of community service and civic engagement initiatives, including being among the first universities nationwide to commit to hosting AmeriCorps programs and receiving the first-ever Higher Education Award for Leadership in National Service from the Corporation for National and Community Service.



FSU Community Collects 100 Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Students **Mouna Mawolo** and **Brandi Hawkins**, standing, from left, and AmeriCorps volunteer **Erin Lewis**, seated, hold a small fraction of the 100 baskets of food collected by FSU student organizations, athletic teams, campus departments and individuals to be distributed to area families in time for Thanksgiving. Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Sigma Tau and the ECHOSTARS members delivered baskets, with five vans ferrying the deliveries for more than six hours to families and the Western Maryland Food Bank. The Office of Civic Engagement organizes the annual collection.



Alexa Bashaw, left, and Shefali Shah wait outside the office of U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin.

Students Advocate for Music Education in Nation's Capital

Music Education students **Alexa Bashaw** and **Shefali Shah** spent a day on Capitol Hill advocating for the importance of music education for every student at the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) annual Capitol Hill Day. Bashaw and Shah were the only two college students representing Maryland at the event.

"Congressmen and -women are much more likely to listen to college students who are dedicating their lives to music education," Shah said. "We are firsthand examples of why it is important to have music in our schools."

The president of FSU's NAfME chapter, Bashaw thought the Collegiate Advocacy Summit looked like a good way to meet people and learn more about her profession. "Little did I know then how much of an impact it would have on me!" she said.

"Almost all of our meetings were positive, and we even got to speak with a congressional staffer who is a Frostburg graduate and who sang with the University Chorale and Chamber Choir under **Dr. Karen Soderberg**," she said.

Bashaw and Shah traveled with **Dr. Rebecca Birnie**, a lecturer in the Department of Music.

Performing Arts to Highlight Gender Equity Programming

A robust series of arts-centered programs focusing on unity, respect and equal rights kicked off in the fall semester, part of an initiative of the FSU Office of Gender Equity.

"Students want to have more of a voice in learning how to be effective allies in gender-based violence and harassment. We felt the arts is an effective vehicle to do so," said **April Baer**, deputy Title IX coordinator.

The programming is made possible through a \$10,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene's Center for Injury and Sexual Assault Prevention.

For **Music With a Bystander Message** more than 50 students joined with recording artists The Billies to write and produce an original song focused on the importance of bystander intervention in sexual assault or discrimination situations. Students were taught how to have confidence so they can successfully intervene to prevent or stop sexual assault and harassment.

The song will be broadcast on FSU-TV3 and WFWM, and will be shared with other media outlets.

The Department of Theatre and Dance will host a series of interactive productions exploring topics related to gender-based harassment and violence through theatre.

Students will choose topics and interpret how the different people in the scenarios would react and feel by acting it out. The productions are based on Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed, which provides a framework on using improvisational games to give power to people who are at a disadvantage – whether perceived or real – in society.

"We will use improv games to help students explore these issues from an objective standpoint," said Costume Shop supervisor Michele Labar, who will lead Social Justice Theatre.

First-year students are being trained annually in **Introduction to Higher Education** orientation classes on what healthy relationships are and what defines consent to sexual activity.

Relating, Dating and Communicating workshops are led by trained facilitators to help them grow their understanding of verbal and non-verbal consent.

Sophomores Learn Sustainability Leadership at Sierra Club Camp

A good leader starts with a vision. Getting a team to execute that vision is a learned skill, as sophomores **Michala Garrison** and **Brady Moon** found out after attending Sierra Club Summer Grassroots Training.



Brady Moon and Michala Garrison

The weeklong training gave the two tools on how to better organize and execute campaigns. While the Sierra Club's camp focused on environmental activism for college students, the skills could be used on an array of issues, they found.

The FSU President's Advisory Council on Sustainability selected them to attend.

One of the greatest lessons was working on being inclusive, Garrison said, through word choices and interactions.

"Every day, you sat with different people. ... There weren't cliques formed," Garrison said.

Moon appreciated learning how to frame conversations and providing an emotional element to a conversation built around facts.

"And always put it in a positive way instead of negative, trying to work together and understand whom you're talking to," he said.

The two are members of the FSU student organization, Sustainability Awareness Society.



Sandra Rohrbaugh



Lynn Ketterman



Jay Howard

Campus Accolades

Staff Awards for Excellence

Sandra Rohrbaugh, executive administrative assistant in the President's Office, has worked at FSU for 44 years and five presidents. The friendly face who greets each visitor to the President's Office, she ensures each person feels welcome – whether an important state representative, a student or just someone lost in the building. She is always busy behind the scenes and completely devoted to FSU.

Lynn Ketterman, a prospect research analyst for University Advancement, has developed relationships with alumni to turn them not only into donors but also into mentors. She provides students with alumni networking opportunities that help to open doors to potential employment and internships. A mother away from home for the students of Phi Mu Delta, she offers advice, career assistance, resume critiques, home-cooked meals and a sympathetic ear.

Carpenter **Jason "Jay" Howard** provides the highest level of craftsmanship, with a keen eye for detail as well as a commitment to fiscal responsibility in his campus projects. Howard brings a willingness to communicate and work through the details. He volunteers countless hours coaching Pee Wee football, which he has done for 12 years. He also does repairs and builds props for services at his church.

Staff Awards for Excellence, which recognize exceptional service to the University, are funded by the FSU Foundation's Annual Fund.

Lewis Named Outstanding Mentor

By Emily Michael '17

"As in all relationships, trust and respect take a bit of time, but it wasn't long before I realized the type of man I was lucky to have as my coach," said **Rich Hiegel '80**. Hiegel nominated **Dr. Robert Lewis**, the legendary former track and field and cross country coach, as the 2016 Outstanding Mentor Award recipient.



Dr. Bob Lewis and Rich Hiegel '80

"His sense of humor and analytic nature went well together," Hiegel said. "Bob expected you to work hard, I mean really hard, and in return he would help you achieve your dreams."

Lewis taught Hiegel to have resolve, put in the necessary work, stay positive and have faith in the process. "Those tools helped me with probably the greatest challenges of my life," Hiegel said.

Lewis coached from 1970 to 2001 and continues to influence students as a professor. Guiding teams to championships and providing students with tools and techniques for their futures, Lewis created an important, lasting impression.

When Hiegel joined the track team in 1975, "Bob Lewis was just starting to build something great." Team members were "drawn in by this coach who had a quirky nature but seemed to know how to build you into the best runner you could possibly be."

Lewis was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015. He is also in the Bobcat Hall of Fame.

His coaching accomplishments include leading FSU to national championships for track and field in 1986 and 1987, being selected three times as the NCAA Division III National Track and Field Coach of the Year and being named NCAA Division III South/Southeast Region Cross Country Coach of the Year three times as well. His teams produced 12 top-10 Division III finishes and his final team in 2001 finished third nationally. They captured Mason-Dixon Conference Championship titles 29 times and won 22 invitational meets. Sixty-eight of his athletes received All-American honors. Lewis also coached Olympian and FSU Hall of Famer Carl Schuler during his career.

To nominate a faculty member who has made a significant contribution to your academic, personal or professional development, send a letter describing the person's mentorship to Dr. Robbie Cordle at rcordle@frostburg.edu or 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, Md. 21532 before July 1, 2017. For more information, call 301.687.4404.

Lemaire Awarded National BACCHUS Award

Robert Lemaire, president of BURG Peer Education Network, was awarded the national 2016 BACCHUS Outstanding Student Award



Robert Lemaire

for his involvement with BURG's numerous influential activities on campus to promote a healthy and safe environment.

"It's rewarding, even though you don't get to see it right away," Lemaire said when asked why he puts his efforts into BURG. "It's kind of like running a marathon. As you go along, you just keep building up, and you get to the end, and you get to see that you finished, but you don't always get to see all the lives you touched along the way."

Lemaire understands "that being a leader is not in a position or title, but the person's character, integrity and honor," said **Don Swogger M'01**, BURG's advisor.

Lemaire, who joined BURG as a freshman, is a senior physics major with plans to pursue a career in aerospace.

A L U M N I NEWS

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Greetings from the FSU Alumni Association! As president of this organization, I am eager to find more ways for alumni to remain engaged with their alma mater. Like many of you, I have wonderful memories of my time at Frostburg, where I met some of my closest friends. You can see some of them in a photo from my wedding here.

However, these days not all students come from the same experience. We have students who earned degrees in Hagerstown, Arundel Mills or other sites; students whose first degrees were master's degrees or doctorates; and even a growing number of online graduates.

Alumni are different, but we are all still Bobcats. What FSU alumni do have in common is the value of the education we all received. There are many ways that we as alumni can be part of the educational experience of today's students.

I know I benefited from my interactions with alumni at the Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership, and plenty of alumni return every year to speak at the Career Expo or in the classroom. Your gifts to support scholarships, Opportunity Grants and other Foundation initiatives can make a huge difference in students' lives. We are especially grateful to those of you who offer internships and other experiences to students at your places of business, and to those who encourage prospective students to consider Frostburg.

We want to hear from you about other ways you would like to engage with your University. Please send your ideas to alumni@frostburg.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 301.687.4068. GO BOBCATS!

Sincerely,

Ashley Wisner Vascik '08/M'09



Lasting friendships are a hallmark of Bobcat alumni, and the gathering at our wedding was just one indication. They include those pictured, from left, **Sarah Garcia Dawson '07**, **Joshua Dawson '07/M'08**, **Adelaide White '14**, **me**, **Lydia White '15**, **Stephanie Carney Jones '11** and **Matthew Jones '11**, and those who were there but not pictured, **Julie Schibblehut Rando '04/M'00**, **Rick Rando '00**, **Brittany McMahon Richards '08** and **Christa Kucharczyk '08/M'09**.



50 Years of Sisterhood

The sisters of Lambda Phi Delta and the national sorority that group became, Alpha Sigma Tau's Gamma Zeta Chapter, celebrated 50 years of sisterhood in November in Columbia, Md. Ninety sisters attended, including a number of charter sisters of Lambda Phi Delta and founding sisters of Alpha Sigma Tau.



Alpha Sigma Tau founding sisters in attendance include, from left, **Dale Maselli '87**, **Stacy Murphy '88**, **Denise Kampmann Chase '88**, **Karen Topping Sullivan**, **Christina Jimenez '89**, **Cynthia Kramer '90** and **Sharon Roberts Mola '90**.



Lambda Phi Delta charter sisters in attendance include, from left, **Nancy Howell Heinritz**, **Doris Gaston Glotzbach '68**, **Judith Stein Curry '68**, **Patricia Klarman Kellner '68** and **Bonnie Otto Lantz '71**, who was an early president of the sorority.

Meet Your New Alumni Board Members

ANTHONY CARLISI '86

Deputy Director, Acquisition Management & Analytics, Naval Medical Logistics Command, Fort Detrick

Accomplishments/Activities: While at

Frostburg, I was the president of Sigma Tau Gamma Beta Pi Chapter in 1986. I've spent almost 30 years working for the federal government and the private sector in acquisitions, procurement and contracting. I'm the VP/treasurer of the National Contract Management Association, Washington, D.C., Chapter, and the president of the Sigma Tau Gamma Beta Pi Alumni Association. I enjoy mentoring individuals in professional development.

What is your favorite FSU memory? The personal engagement of FSU faculty and being a Sig Tau.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I want to promote the welfare and advance the interests of the alumni and FSU.



CAROL HARRISON '89

Registrar, College of Southern Maryland

Accomplishments/Activities: Worked in higher education for 28 years. Earned a master's from McDaniel College; currently a doctoral student

at Morgan State University. Married 26 years to fellow alum **Bryan Harrison '89** and have three children. Spent 17 years as an adult Girl Scout volunteer, which included serving as a troop leader, trainer, service unit manager and area training manager, and am honored to have received the "Thanks Badge" for my service last year.

What is your favorite FSU memory? Founding sister of Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority. FSU was such a great experience that I never left higher education!

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? Have alumni more involved in helping current and prospective FSU students.



ERIC MANNS, JR. '10

Enrollment Advisor, Walden University

Accomplishments/Activities: Being active and involved on campus with various clubs and organizations such as SGA, was an RA, hosted my own radio show, was a SafeRide driver and worked for FSU-TV3.

What is your favorite FSU memory? Every day for about two years, my friends and I would gather for lunch in Chesapeake with the late **Bernard "Bernie" Wynder '78/M'84**, who was the assistant VP for Student and Educational Services. Bernie would sit with us, engage us in conversation, give us advice and help guide us through the next steps of life after college. Many of us were juniors and seniors.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? Increase outreach to recent graduates or graduates within the past 10 years. Engage with more alums who may feel disconnected or those who are not actively involved. Host more region-based events and support the University's marketing efforts.



MELANIE ROWE PARTRIDGE '11

Hearing Officer, Department of Human Resources, State of Maryland

Accomplishments/Activities: I enjoy traveling, listening to live music and volunteering, as well as spending time with family and friends. I also volunteer as an advisor for two Delta Zeta collegiate chapters, including Frostburg's own Omicron Pi chapter.

What is your favorite FSU memory? My favorite memories will always be Greek Week, when the students of Greek Life would get the chance to have fun, compete and get to know each other.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a board member? I hope to create more opportunities for current students to network with alumni to create relationships, share our histories and experiences and work to create new traditions.



Books by Alumni

The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter By **Kia Corthron**

Already a celebrated playwright, Corthron in her debut novel explores American history from 1941 through the early 21st century, weaving the perspectives of two white brothers from rural Alabama and two black brothers from small-town Maryland.

Lauded for its evocative language and thought-provoking narrative, *Castle Cross* won the Center for Fiction's 2016 First Novel Prize and was named a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice.



Lorelei Asks, "What Happens Next?"

By **Carol A. Frazee '94/M'02**

In this work of historical fiction, a sequel to Frazee's debut novel *Elizabeth's Journey*, Lorelei struggles to overcome the burdens of her abusive husband and discover her hopes and dreams. With the help of friends, Lorelei escapes her husband's torment and seeks to make her way in a man's world.



Snakes

By **Jeannette Hunt '12**

Hunt is an award-winning photographer whose debut children's book entertains and informs young readers about the slithering serpents and the places they inhabit. Featuring full-page color photos, the book challenges children to spot snakes hiding in their natural habitats and informs them about species, diets and habits.



My Journey, His Plan

By **Sharon Shymansky Roberts '71**

In her memoir, Roberts chronicles the struggles and joys of her life's journey in a series of short essays. From childhood to a career as an English teacher, from the classroom to an alpaca ranch and on to an island retirement, from first loves to the heartbreak of untimely death, Roberts finds the touch of God's plan in the best and worst life has to offer.



Artists Are Anything But “Plein” and Simple

By Charles Schelle

There must have been something in that Frostburg mountain air during the '60s to have produced two heralded plein air artists. **David Diaz '69** and **Ray Ewing '66** are internationally known artists who love painting in the elements.

“You don’t have anything to worry about – don’t have to cut grass or wash the windows,” said Ewing, a Frostburg native who taught art in Prince George’s County public schools for 34 years. “It’s kind of like you’re in a Zen state of being, trying to capture what you’re doing.”

The term “plein air” is French for “full air” and has been adapted to describe a style of painting done outdoors. Plein air also doubles to describe the competitiveness, too, as artists who want to make a good living frequently submit works for competitions where they will complete a painting on site.

That also means a plein air painter can serve as the public’s entertainment.

“Some people stand and watch you while others will approach you and ask questions. They’re always kind and have appropriate questions,” Diaz said. “They’ll even ask if they can look at your painting even though you’re standing in the middle of the sidewalk.”

Competitive? Certainly, but it’s also friendly. “It’s an adventure worth doing,” Ewing said. “It’s the camaraderie of the group. It’s almost like professional golfers. Even though we’re from all over the United States, we know each other.”

Sometimes your best opponent is yourself. “To some it sounds somewhat arrogant, but you’re always trying to do better and to improve yourself against yourself,” said Diaz, who is also the president of the Maryland Federation of Art. “Is it better than the last thing I did?”

Diaz and Ewing were not friends during their Frostburg State days but got to know



The Hook by David Diaz '69



David Diaz '69

each other much later in their plein air circles. The one connection they had at Frostburg State was the influence of art professor **John Weirdsma**.

Ewing recalled how Weirdsma would take art students around campus to work on drafting and sketching cobblestone roads, homes and other scenes. Diaz remembered how structured his drawing classes were, fitting in with Weirdsma’s avant-garde European flair, as students focused on how light and dark fell on a chair in the classroom.

“When you do it that way, you take that knowledge with you,” Diaz said. “Looking at shading, shapes, perspective – all of that very basic stuff. It was a very important class as a sophomore.”

Those skills certainly come into play with the accolades they received.

Diaz, an Annapolis resident, was awarded the top prize, the Mayoral Award, for his painting *The Hook* at the Art in the Open painting competition in Wexford, Ireland, in 2015. His works are in collections throughout the world, and he was featured in the 2014 book, *100 Plein Air Painters of the Mid-Atlantic*, by Gary Pendleton.

Ewing, who now lives in Swan Point, typically travels to competitions in locations he can drive to in a day, keeping him mainly along the East Coast. Ewing’s recent awards include one for *Wired* in a quick-draw competition



Early Spring by Ray Ewing '66



Ray Ewing '66

at Paint It! Ellicott City in 2016, Artists’ Choice for *The Last Caboose* in Plein Air Camp Hill (Pa.) Arts Festival in 2015 and Best in Show at Chestertown RiverArts’ 2014 Paint the Town. Ewing also participated in the U.S. Department of State Art in Embassies Program, with his work in private, corporate and public collections in the U.S. and around the globe.

Diaz uses dry pastels and oil paint and loves focusing on large, simple panoramic landscapes. He loves to paint from Maine all the way down to the Florida Keys while fitting in trips to Ireland and the red rocks of the West like those in Zion National Park.

“It’s almost not about the subject, but the way the light hits the subject at a particular time,” said Diaz, who taught art in Allegany and Anne Arundel counties. “Early when the sun is coming up, you get a certain whitewash across it. Later in the evening a little before dusk, you get that warm afternoon glow washing across fields or hitting the sides of buildings.”

Ewing likes the sense of adventure to find that perfect spot to paint on your feet, even if conditions are iffy.

“I did get chased out by police on Md. 495 at Deep Creek Lake once. I parked the car off the road, got right beside the guard rail and was painting,” Ewing said.

Out of concern for his safety, the trooper explained he was in a dangerous spot and placed a road flare at the guardrail. When the flare was out, he had to go.

“Usually, I wear a red coat so a farmer won’t shoot me,” Ewing quipped. ■

Greg Garcia has “Margaritaville” play on tap for ’17 to go with his “99 Problems” and “Guest Book”

Parrot Heads will soon flock to Broadway to hear Jimmy Buffet’s songs given a theatrical treatment by **Greg Garcia '92** and *Yes, Dear* star Mike O’Malley.

Escape to Margaritaville will have its world premiere in La Jolla, Calif., on May 9 before pre-Broadway tour stops in New Orleans, Houston and Chicago this year. The show, with its original book co-written by Garcia and O’Malley, then puts on its flip flops to head for Broadway in spring 2018.



place sounds familiar ...) featuring a different set of guests in each episode.

Garcia is also executive-producing *99 Problems* for CBS, a show about how three couples with children in the same first-grade class face the same problem each week and see different results. The show, written by Austen Earl, is under development and did not have an air date as of press time.

– Charles Schelle

Ms. Monk Does Her Thing as Mrs. Miller

You still have time to see **Debra Monk '73** on stage in the D.C. area before the curtain closes on *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing*.

The Tony winner is at the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Va., through March 26 starring as Elva Miller. Miller rose to fame, or infamy, in the '60s with her special brand of off-key singing. *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing* is written and directed by Pulitzer Prize-winner James Lapine. Visit www.sigtheatre.org for tickets.

Monk returned in her recurring role of veteran oboe player Betty in the popular Amazon series *Mozart in the Jungle* when the long-anticipated third season came online in December. The Emmy-winning actress appears in episodes “My Heart Opens to Your Voice” and “Symphony of Red Tape” this season. The show won the Golden Globe for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy in 2016 and was nominated in the same category this year.

Monk also wrapped up her leading role in *Visiting Edna* on Nov. 6 in Chicago, produced by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company. The lead character in the play by Tony-winning author David Rabe battled cancer and coped with losses as she aged and tried to reconcile her relationship with her son Andrew. Theatre critics gave Monk strong reviews for her performance.

– Charles Schelle



Christopher Miller



Lauren E. Banks

Keenan M. Scott II '09

Scott’s FSU-Debuted Play About Young African-American Men Gaining Attention

Keenan M. Scott II '09, who first produced his play *Thoughts of a COLORED MAN on a day when the sun set too early* while he was a student at FSU, has continued to attract interest for his creative blend of poetry, prose and vernacular born from the hip hop generation.

Most recently, actors Taye Diggs (*Rent, How Stella Got Her Groove Back, The Best Man*, etc.) and Jenny Parsinen choreographed a three-day benefit workshop.

Inspired by seeing Ntozake Shange’s play, *for colored girls who considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*, Scott decided to write a play about the lives of young African-American men. “The voice of the youth is often overlooked,” Scott said at the time. *Thoughts of a COLORED MAN on a day when the sun set too early* steps into the minds of young men who explore the complex realities of love, abuse, rape and growing up without a father. The monologue-based play goes beyond race and gender by incorporating music, film and dance.

It was performed to sold-out audiences at FSU in 2009 – his senior year – and then brought back by the Black Student Alliance in 2011. The next year, Scott’s play got into Howard University’s Playwright Festival hosted by the Howard Players. He has since formed a production company, Noisy Tenants, for theater, film and music with partners **Nick Mitchel '11** and **Chris Landrum '09**. Their first production was staged at Washington, D.C.’s GALA Hispanic Theatre.

Bobcats in Québec

FSU Students Scout Universities in French-Speaking Canada as Part of New Exchange Program Relationship

By Charles Schelle

To **Eden Biggs'** surprise, somehow Sherbrooke, Québec, was more French than Marseilles, France.

"Where I was living in France, if you went into a little store or boutique, everyone knows you're American," said the senior of her first study abroad experience. "They're almost excited to try to speak English, and if your French isn't that great, they would work with you."

But in Sherbrooke, where only about 4 percent of residents speak English, Biggs couldn't use being an American as a fallback. She didn't want to anyway because she wants to improve her French-speaking skills.

"I realized after a few days of being there, my brain switches back to French pretty quickly, and I'm pretty happy that it did," Biggs said proudly.

Biggs' visit was part of a study abroad scouting trip with FSU sophomore **Jessica Johnson-Clay** and **Dr. Richard**

Russo, coordinator of FSU's International Studies program, in which they visited Université de Sherbrooke and Bishop's University. The institutions

are part of the National Student Exchange, which FSU recently joined, providing opportunities for study abroad and exchange experiences in North America and U.S. territories.

Their travel, made possible through an **Opportunity Grant from the FSU Foundation**, will help provide a student

perspective on more accessible study abroad opportunities for first-generation college students. The students also provided that perspective in real time, taking over FSU's Snapchat (@FrostburgState) and Instagram (@FrostburgStateUniversity) accounts during their November trip.

Experiences in France are still more affordable than most expect, but distance is still an issue, which is why Biggs said she might have opted for the 10-hour car ride instead of the transatlantic flight if she had it to do over.

"I think I would have gotten a very similar experience and French language education and wouldn't have had the commitment of going 3,500 miles away," Biggs said.

Each university provides a unique experience for students wanting to practice French, even though the Canadian version of French – referred to as Québécois – has some differences.

"Sherbrooke is French language in terms of instruction, but they have a separate French-as-a-second-language immersion program that people come to from all over Canada and all over the world," Russo said about the university, which has more than 40,000 students.

Bishop's University is in a small neighboring village, Lennoxville, where about half of the residents speak English and the other half French. The college is just as tiny, with 2,738 undergraduate students.

"If a student wanted to take most of their courses in English but be in a French community," Russo said, "you could step off campus and then you could practice your French."

The trip was eye-opening for Johnson-Clay, who had never traveled internationally before.

"Hearing French on a continuous basis was a new experience," she said, but at the same time, this southern part of Québec just an hour from Vermont felt like America in many regards, such as with familiar fast-food options at the ready. Sherbrooke itself felt like a bigger version of Frostburg, being situated in the



Jessica Johnson-Clay, left, and **Eden Biggs** shared their experience on FSU's social media.

mountains. Experiences like these show students that they can lead a North American life in French, Russo said. You can speak French in cities like New Orleans or small towns like Madawaska, Maine, and some students with African heritage in Maryland speak French at home.

Maryland has more than 120,000 African-born residents, which is the fourth most in the U.S., according to a 2014 U.S.

Census report. Half of those African-born Marylanders are from West Africa, which is predominately a Francophone region. FSU is seeing a growth of students with heritage from West Africa, too. Those students with a fluent French background could select universities in Montreal.

"We do have students here who are Francophones, mostly from West Africa, so they speak French at home," Russo said

Since their return to campus, Biggs and Johnson-Clay have spoken to classes to help recruit students. They have found classmates eager to sign up.

Through NSE, Frostburg State students pay FSU tuition and the room and board for the visiting institution. The heavily subsidized education system in Québec means FSU students may save greatly on the room and board rates.

To make a gift to the FSU Foundation's Annual Fund, which supports Opportunity Grants, visit www.frostburg.edu/foundation/ways-to-give or call 301.687.4161.



THE FSU FOUNDATION, INC.

New Named Funds

(as of February 1, 2017)

Joseph Albert Hekimian Scholarship

LaVale Lions Club Scholarship

Phillip Charles Lee '01 Scholarship

Dr. Stephen Luzader
Physics Scholarship

Echoing Impact of an Intellectual Life:

The Dr. Stephen Luzader Physics Scholarship

By Robert Spahr '13

In physics, actions cause equal and opposite reactions, but interactions are less predictable with humans. People seldom realize their full impact on others. One of those people was professor emeritus **Dr. Stephen Luzader**, who lost his eight-year battle with cancer last June.

To preserve his legacy at FSU and support the physics program he loved so much, his widow, **Dr. Hang Deng-Luzader**, and former student and colleague **Dr. Eric Moore '00**, both faculty in the Department of Physics and Engineering, recently established the **Dr. Stephen Luzader Physics Scholarship**.

The Luzader Scholarship supports physics majors with a GPA of at least 3.0, with preference for juniors or seniors pursuing graduate school or teacher certifications as demonstrated through an essay.

Though her grief remains raw, Deng-Luzader has found some comfort through establishing the scholarship.

"There were things I did after he passed away to make me feel better, like physical exercise and going out with friends, but I think this scholarship was really the best thing I did," Deng-Luzader said.

She writes personal thank you letters to each contributor, some of whom knew her husband well. Some had never met him.

"I write everybody with tears," she said. "I cry because it warms my heart, and it's very comforting, very soothing to know that people appreciate his work and his life."

Beyond teaching, Luzader impacted many. He was an avid astronomer, leading stargazing parties and serving as secretary and treasurer for the Cumberland Astronomy Club. He was a gifted French horn player, performing with

the Potomac Concert Band and the Allegany County Symphony Orchestra.

Yet through physics, over 28 years across three universities, Luzader's impact was enormous.

He actively contributed to the American Association of Physics Teachers, serving as Appalachian Section leader and on multiple national committees, even years into retirement. The Appalachian Section awarded him a Distinguished Service Citation. In a memorial statement, AAPT said, "Steve's love of physics exuded all around him, unpretentious, unmistakable and inspiring."

At Frostburg, the couple established the Summer Center for the Physics of Solar and Wind Power for gifted middle school students. Luzader also collaborated on the Maryland Higher Education Commission's "Improving Teaching Quality Through Training Opportunities in Physics and Physical Science" workshops for middle and high school teachers.

He was a dedicated physics professor, and he expected a similar commitment from his students.

As a first-year FSU student, Moore had heard from upperclassmen that Steve was a good instructor, known as an academic stickler. In class, Moore quickly fell in love with the interactive, hands-on lessons – after adjusting to an 8 a.m. schedule.

"If you're going to be working, you're going to be getting up at least that early, so you might as well get used to it now," Luzader once said to Moore. The lesson, and the habit of rising early, stuck with him.

Until graduate school at University of Maryland Baltimore County, Moore didn't know what he wanted to do for a living – only that he did not want to teach. As a grad assistant, Moore realized he actually enjoyed teaching, and he recalled the hands-on lessons from FSU.



Dr. Stephen Luzader

"At UMBC, they actually started trying to incorporate more computer- and sensor-based lessons using the same Vernier software and sensors that we used when I was a student here at Frostburg!" Moore said. "They started using it at UMBC at least my second or maybe even the third year."

After returning to FSU as a professor, Moore found himself using many of the techniques and strategies Luzader employed on him as an undergraduate.

"Looking back, he definitely impacted my philosophy and approach to teaching now, that's for sure," Moore said.

Luzader's impact on physics continues through professors like Moore and still others who never met him.

"After he passed away, one Arundel Mills professor told me even though she never met Steve, she's using lab instructions with his name," Deng-Luzader said.

With the Luzader Scholarship, students can look to him for financial help as well.

"[Steve] would really be happy that physics students get this scholarship in his name, and I think his former students are happy to hear that," Deng-Luzader said.

To support the Dr. Stephen Luzader Physics Scholarship, visit www.frostburg.edu/foundation/ways-to-give or call 301.687.4161.

HEALTHY GROWTH

Health Care Programs Are Among FSU's Fastest-Growing Programs, With Need for Aid Growing, Too.

By Robert Spahr '13

Health care-related programs, especially nursing, are among the fastest growing at FSU, and with design funding approved for a new academic building, the Education and Health Sciences Building, as well as an employment market calling out for well-educated health professionals, there is still room for growth.

FSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program began in 2011 with just 32 students. Today, the program enrolls 445. In addition, some 130 students are already majoring in health science, a program approved only in 2015.

Just last fall, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredited FSU's two online nursing programs, giving continuing accreditation for the popular BSN program and granting initial accreditation for its new online Master of Science in Nursing program, which already had 31 students enrolled.

"It's quite an accomplishment – that seal of approval that we have a quality program," said **Dr. Heather Gable**, RN-BSN Program coordinator at FSU. "These programs are meeting important health care needs. The Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report called for 80 percent of nurses to have at least a bachelor's degree by 2020, which our BSN supports, and schools of nursing across the country are facing shortages of nursing faculty, which our MSN supports."

The MSN is designed for nurses who want to work in health care administration or become faculty at schools of nursing, and degree holders must graduate from accredited programs to sit for certification exams or earn admission to doctoral nursing programs.

These nursing programs offer ready pathways for existing RNs to complete their baccalaureate and advanced degrees without pausing their careers. Ease of access was important to Gable, a Western Maryland native.

"When I went for my graduate nursing degree, I drove to Baltimore every single week to get my degree, because that was the only option," Gable said. "It's just nice that we're creating affordable, accessible, quality programs within everybody's reach, and still meeting the needs that health care providers have for nurses with advanced education."

To date, five scholarships have been established specifically for nursing majors, the **Constance Spates Scholarship**, the **Roy and Gi Buckheit Scholarship**, the **Enid P. Kennedy Scholarship**, the **Muriel and Richard Sturtevant Memorial Nursing Scholarship** and the **Adele S. Bruchey, RN, Nursing Scholarship**. The inspiration for these last two are described on these pages.



Henry '75 and Donna Rae Smith

Sturtevant Nursing Scholarship Continues Family Calling to Help Others

Years ago, **Henry A. Smith III '75** and his wife, Donna Rae, decided to honor their parents with scholarships to help FSU students. For Henry's parents, both avid musicians and music lovers, they established two music scholarships in their honor.

For Donna Rae's parents, the Smiths thought long and hard before finding just the right scholarship. When they learned about the new nursing programs at FSU, that was what made up their minds.

The **Muriel and Richard Sturtevant Memorial Nursing Scholarship** is helping students in the nursing department.

"These programs are extremely important for nurses who work, have families and many other responsibilities," Donna Rae said. "We owe it to these professionals to provide them with a means of advancing their knowledge and careers in a way that is 'doable.' Frostburg is leading the way in this regard."

She knows that challenge firsthand. After earning her RN in 1974, Donna Rae enrolled in an RN to BSN program while working as a full-time nurse.

Helping others advance their nursing careers is a fitting tribute for an inspiring couple.

"A nursing scholarship is our way of continuing the beautiful, caring energy Muriel embodied," said Donna Rae.

Muriel Sturtevant worked at various times in surgical, psychiatric, maternal, pediatric and geriatric nursing. To friends of the Sturtevents, Muriel was a trusted resource.

"Neighbors would often come to our home for medical advice. She always gave them practical, sound advice, a good joke and lots of TLC," said Donna Rae. "In addition to that,

she often counseled young adults who just didn't know in which direction they wanted to take their careers."

All three daughters followed Muriel's professional footsteps.

"Our mother never expected us to choose nursing as a career," said Donna Rae. "When I was 12, I volunteered on the geriatric nursing unit where my mother worked. One day she asked me to take one of the blind residents outside to sit in the grass. It was something he had wanted to do for a long time. I realized that day what a creative and truly caring profession nursing could be."

For the Sturtevents, serving others was a calling. Richard had joined the Navy at 17 just a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, which he witnessed from the communications tower of the U.S.S. Dobbin. He served through the war and for decades afterward, eventually retiring as a lieutenant commander.

Henry said that, much as Muriel motivated her daughters to become nurses, "her career as a Navy wife inspired us all to remember our obligation to give back and perform public service."

Wife's Surprise Is Building Opportunities in Health Care

In 2011, **Wayne Bruchey '62** and his wife, Adele, attended a 50th anniversary banquet honoring the first Bobcat Football team, for which Wayne had played. While touring campus, the Brucheyes met a young woman who had just enrolled in FSU's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

"It was exciting to hear the enthusiasm this young person had for her chosen career," said Adele, who has been a registered nurse since 1976.

Wayne decided to honor his wife's dedication to nursing, laying the groundwork in secret to support the new programs at FSU. He then surprised his wife with the **Adele S. Bruchey, RN, Nursing Scholarship**.

Like his wife, Wayne worked in health care. They first met at Bryce Psychiatric Hospital in Alabama. He was a pastoral counselor. She was a psychiatric nurse. Over their careers, each advanced to roles in health care administration. They took an interest in the new health care degree options becoming available at FSU.

"When my husband, who has always been supportive of my career, told me he had established the Adele S. Bruchey, RN,



Adele and Wayne Bruchey '62

Nursing Scholarship at his alma mater, I was elated to know we would be a part of a student's career choice," Adele said.

Wayne says the scholarship is a way for them to give back to the health care industry and support the field's need for well-trained providers.

They developed a special understanding of that need when Adele had to exchange her role of nurse to that of patient when she was diagnosed with cancer.

"She responded in the same way that she always encouraged her patients to respond to their illness – don't let your illness define you," Wayne said. "She was a model of medicine rather than a model of madness throughout her treatment."

Now Adele can enjoy learning more about those planning to follow her into the nursing profession.

"It is always such a joy to receive a letter of acknowledgment from the recipients sharing their career plans," said Adele.

To establish a scholarship or support an existing one, visit www.frostburg.edu/foundation/ways-to-give or call the FSU Foundation at 301.687.4161.

Nursing Alumni Networking

FSU is planning two events in April for graduates of FSU's nursing program. These mixers will provide alumni with great networking opportunities and the chance to expand relationships developed in online classes.

APRIL 19

Nursing Alumni Mixer

8407 Kitchen Bar, Silver Spring, Md. ~ 6 p.m.

APRIL 20

Nursing Alumni Mixer

Dutch's Daughter, Frederick, Md. ~ 6 p.m.

To RSVP, call 301.687.4068 or email alumni@frostburg.edu.

From Alma Mater to Employer

When Alumni Come “Home” to Work, It’s More Than Just a Job

When it seemed like a large number of our colleagues here at Frostburg State University also had degrees from FSU, the Office of Alumni Relations decided to take a look. As it turns out, nearly a third of the people who work here also studied here, more than 200 out of the more than 600 full-time employees (29.6 percent, to be exact). What’s more, 60 members of the full-time faculty had FSU degrees; 50 of that number earned their bachelor’s degrees from Frostburg, earned at least one advanced degree from elsewhere, then came back to help those now in the places they had been in years before.

Many of the alumni who spoke of going off to pursue opportunities elsewhere saw their return not simply as taking a job, but as “coming home.” It sets a tone across the University.

FSU and its students benefit, too, according to **Kathy Barger Snyder ’75/M’85**, vice president of Human Resources. “You have a commitment there, a pride there, a loyalty there. It’s not just professional, it’s personal,” she said, “because it’s not just about the job. I think it’s part of what makes this place special.”

These alumni-employees agree that FSU is a special place, and that working at their alma mater is about much more than a job. Here are some of their stories.



Professors Kept Her From Selling Herself Short

Dr. Jennifer Bishoff ’00

Assistant Professor

Department of Educational Professions

I absolutely loved my years here at FSU, and have always wanted to come back. My professors in the Chemistry Department kept me going and kept me from selling myself short on so many occasions. I remember the day I decided to become a chemistry major: **Dr. (Fred) Senese** had written me a note on a general chemistry exam congratulating me on my 100%+. That’s when I knew I could do it. It wasn’t easy, however, and **Dr. (Mary) Mumper** helped to keep me afloat during organic, even when I wanted to give up and accept failure. **Dr. (Don) Weser, Dr. (Bob) Larivee** and **Dr. (James) Martin** were beyond patient with me ... they must have spent hours answering my questions and building not only my knowledge base, but also my self-confidence. There were so many professors here who showed care and concern, and I have always known that I wanted to be part of the campus community again.

I went on to get a master’s in chemistry from University of North Carolina at Wilmington and an Ed.D. from West Virginia University after entering the teaching profession.

Coming back to campus in the Educational Professions Department has been like a dream come true. There are hard days, as with any job, but I truly feel like I’m home again.

With Roots in the Nickels and Dimes Starting State Normal School No. 2

Dr. Amanda “Mandy” Martin Vandivier ’99/M’01

Adjunct Professor

Sociology and International Studies Departments

FSU is my family. I say that because it is my heritage and its presences in my life has carved out my life’s path. It started over 100 years ago when my great-great-

grandfather and his brothers, and later my great-grandfather, decided to start donating to the State Normal School Fund. They donated this money, nickels, dimes and quarters, from their own very sparse paychecks, knowing that they would never see the benefits of it, but hoping that their descendants would.

Moving up to 23 years ago, I was the first of my family to attend college, and as a result, I saw the different struggle that first-generation students faced. I didn’t know about financial aid, registering or, well, anything! With the kind help of my teachers and people working in various offices, I made it through the hurdles of paperwork and norms of college life that others were already aware of.

I lived on campus in Cambridge Hall, which is where I met my future husband, **Frank Vandivier ’96/M’01/M’03**. He lived on the first floor, and I was on the fifth. He was a brother in Alpha Phi Omega, and I was a pledge with the responsibility of interviewing all of the brothers. He seemed nice, but it took him two years to convince me to go on a date with him. But we’ve been together ever since that first date almost 21 years ago.

Near tragedy struck during my junior year when my dad became sick and nearly died (*spoiler alert* he’s doing awesome!). My FSU family stepped up and helped me to continue. My teachers were supportive and helped me to make up work that I missed when he was in the hospital. Because my dad was no longer able to work, we had little income at home, so the Frostburg Alumni Association actually helped me purchase my books. The people in Financial Aid worked to find me grants to cover the shortfall. I was able to take a year off school to help my family, and then return because of all of the help I received.

I (finally!) graduated and felt unsure about what the future held for me. I loved learning, and I wanted to continue, but I didn’t have self-esteem. My teachers actually encouraged me to continue on, which is why I NEVER miss the opportunity to encourage my students. If my teachers had not told me that I had the ability to go for a master’s degree, I would not have done so. Of course, my husband also encouraged me, but you know, he’s my hubby, he kind of has to.

Once I made it through my first master’s at FSU, I started to consider possibilities that I never had before because my FSU teachers continued to encourage me! So I kept going, and even though I have my Ph.D., I’m working on another! Because my FSU family encouraged me.

So now, I teach at the school my ancestors donated to build. I cannot convey in words how proud this makes me, to walk into Old

So now, I teach at the school my ancestors donated to build. I cannot convey in words how proud this makes me, to walk into Old Main and know my family was, in part, responsible for that building.

Dr. Amanda “Mandy” Martin Vandivier ’99/M’01

*Adjunct Professor
Sociology and International Studies Departments*



Main and know my family was, in part, responsible for that building. I'm filled with awe when I see the divots on the steps where thousands of feet have trod and knowing how happy that must make my ancestors. I wish I could thank them for the sacrifice they made so that I could be educated. I wish I could thank all of the people in the Financial Aid office and all the administrative offices that have helped me out along the way. I wish I could thank all of the teachers who had huge impacts on my life and my education. I have no way to hunt them all down, but I keep hoping that the students that I encourage are their sons and daughters, that my love for learning ignites theirs, that I can open the world to them just as FSU did for me. Because FSU is my family.

Coming Full Circle

Sarah O'Neal '04/M'05
Instructor
Department of Educational Professions

It is so special to be back here working full time for my alma mater because I made so many close connections with the professors in the Educational Professions Department when I was a student.

It is surreal now to be colleagues with those same professors. I feel my time at FSU from student to faculty has truly come full circle.

The joy of mentoring college writers is unlike any other, especially among such wonderful colleagues as I have been privileged to know.

Dr. Judy Jernigan Pula '74/M'75
Professor Emerita, Department of English



with two FSU degrees:

70

with more than two FSU degrees:

5



Coming Home: A Life at FSU

Dr. Gerry Snelson '65
Professor, Department of English

I first came to this school, then called Frostburg State Teachers' College, in 1949 as a first-grader in the laboratory school. I learned recently that my elementary teachers were associate professors. Later, I graduated from Frostburg State College in 1965, among the first to graduate in liberal arts, rather than in teacher education. I started as an art major and switched to English to study under **Dr. Dorothy Howard**, the best of all mentors. My intention was to go to theological seminary and study to be a hospital chaplain. A few weeks into classes there, a nearly fatal car crash changed my mind about what a chaplain actually does, and after partly recovering and working in two steel mills, I took a job teaching in the Baltimore City Public School System.

After a few years I went to graduate school in English at the University of Maryland, College Park, but I didn't complete the doctorate until some 18 years later, while I was teaching in the Garrett County Public School System.

I joined the English Department at Frostburg State, by then a university, in 1989. I have been the associate chair of the department for almost 25 years. For most

of my years here I have served on the Faculty Senate, Academic Affairs, CLAS Curriculum Committee, UUCR (University Undergraduate Curriculum Requirements Committee) and other committees too boring to mention. I am an active amateur photographer, an avid model railroader, a puppet builder (assisting with the fall Theatre and Dance production), a struggling fiddler and ukulele player, a husband, father and deacon in the First English Baptist Church.

I love my job. I could have retired years ago, but I like the place, the students and my colleagues. For me, coming here was coming home.

Frostburg Gets Him Back on Track

Robert Spahr '13
Public Relations Specialist
Communications and Media Relations

I came to Frostburg from New York about a decade ago as a non-traditional student. I had attended college back home, but those efforts hadn't panned out. In Frostburg's English Department, I developed my writing abilities under supportive, encouraging faculty members. After solving a particularly vexing problem during an internship experi-

It is a great experience working at a place that has had a great impact in your life and seeing the impact being made on current students.

Justin Keel '04 (Mathematics)
Instructional Designer, Department of Instructional Design and Delivery



ence with University Advancement, I was invited to apply for a full-time position, and I've worked for FSU ever since.

Frostburg helped me get my education back on track, prove myself as a leader, grow as a person and a professional and meet a remarkable woman whom I married in October (**Ruth LaCourse Spahr '14**). Basically, it turned my life around. While I never imagined living in Appalachia, moving to Frostburg was one of the best decisions of my life.

Today, I actually get to pay my bills by writing stories about the people and programs that make FSU so special. It is a remarkably satisfying gig for an English alumnus.

Helping Students See That It's a Small World After All

Victoria M. Gearhart '12/M'15
Associate Director
Center for International Education

I am a proud two-time graduate from Frostburg State University!

My story begins in the FSU Registrar's Office. I worked there from August 2005 to 2006, until an amazing opportunity opened up for me in the Center for International Education. Working in the CIE guided my pathway into International Education.

Frostburg State University really is "One University, A World of Experiences" – even

for its employees. There have been many opportunities for me to grow academically, professionally and personally through cultural experiences around the world.

One of the greatest rewards of working in the CIE is seeing how students grow and change through study abroad. It is truly an honor and a privilege to work with our international and study abroad students. They help the rest of us to understand just how small our world really is.

This year, I celebrated my 10th year of employment at FSU. I plan to continue encouraging students not just to learn about the world, but to experience it!

Campus Has Changed, but Classroom Dynamic Remains the Same

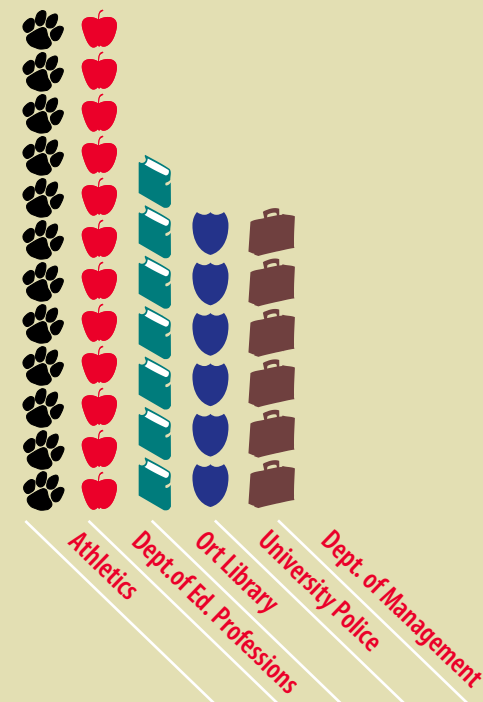
Dr. Martha Rowe Dolly '74
Professor of English

Circa 1970, when my friends and I were deciding what colleges to apply to, my best friend said, "If you go to Frostburg, you'll probably marry a teacher." That sounded fine to me.

I did come to Frostburg but did not marry a teacher; my husband, **Dr. Jim Dolly '72**, became an optometrist. We returned after grad school in Philadelphia, and in 1981, I began teaching at Frostburg State and will retire in 2017 after 36 years in the English Department.

Lately I've been considering whether Frostburg State University is more similar to, or more different from, the Frostburg State College I knew in the 1970s and

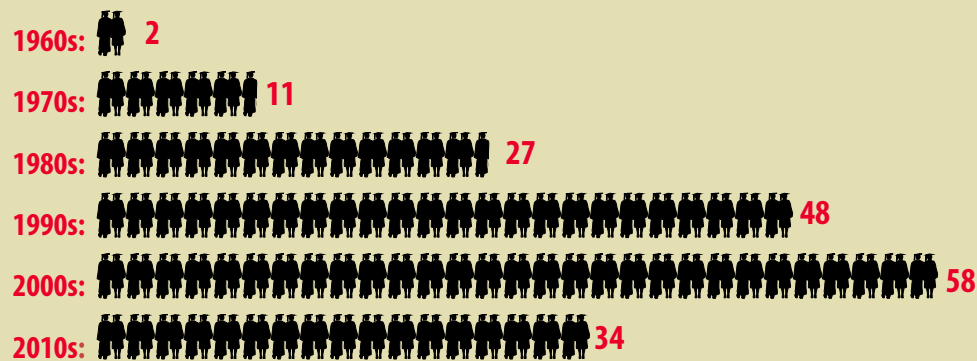
MOST DEGREES BY DEPARTMENT



1980s. Sitting by a window in Chesapeake Hall this year with a former student, that question came up as we looked out toward the residence halls where we had lived many years before. I recalled the campus building boom of that era: Chesapeake, Lane Center, Ort Library and others. So the campus has changed greatly since 1970, but in some ways Frostburg State has not changed much at all.

What remains much the same is the campus and classroom dynamic, the small classes and teacher-student relationships. In the 1970s, students would gather just off campus at professors' homes. Professors today rarely live as close to campus as their predecessors

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES BY DECADES:





A Career in Service of Education

Dr. Ed Root '62/M'65 retired at the beginning of 2017, so while he's not currently an employee, he taught graduate education courses full time for 30 years, then part time for another 17. He was dean of what was then FSU's School of Education from 1987 to 1995.

"I have really enjoyed the privilege to work with some fine people," he said in a newspaper interview upon his retirement.

Root provided leadership in educational circles throughout his career, including on the Maryland State Board of Education and the Allegany County Board of Education, serving terms as president of both boards. He was named Educational Leader of the Year by the University of Maryland and chaired the Athletics and Achievements in High School Commission for the National Association for State Boards of Education.

His career has garnered him recognition at the local, state and national levels, including FSU's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

did, but they still create opportunities to meet and work with students outside of class, often establishing strong personal and mentoring relationships.

Scrolling through photos taken at Frostburg over nearly 50 years, I see pictures of students, like Sarah, presenting their papers at the annual English Colloquium as well as photos of students, like Tricia, working with fifth-graders in our children's literacy learning community or, like Wendy, helping plan United Campus Ministry activities. I remain in touch with Tricia and Wendy, some years ago attending a professional conference with one and the wedding of the other. In 2012, fellow Frostburg grad and Professor Emerita **Dr. Judy Pula '74/M'75** and I helped Sarah publish her English Colloquium paper from linguistics class in an education journal.

Recently, former student and current employee **Carl Crowe '94** sent me a photo of our class from 1992. While changes have certainly come to campus architecture, classroom technology and everyone's hairstyles, the spirit of the community remains much the same. Then, as now, many students wore Frostburg sweatshirts (mine from the '70s was navy, size medium!), and many of the Dunkle Hall desks today are the same ones occupied by the students in Carl's 1992 snapshot and, indeed, the same that I sat in circa 1970.



Second Generation Connection

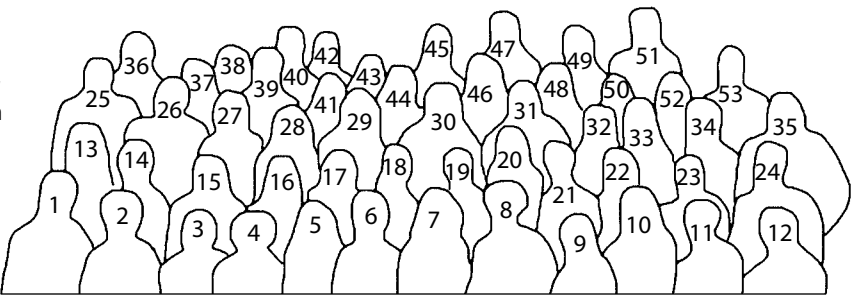
Jason Andrick '97
Major Gifts Officer, University Advancement

My mother, **Kay Roach Andrick '63** lived in Frost Hall for all four years and was an education major. Not only was I proud to graduate from Frostburg as a second generation Bobcat, but alumni I meet with on a daily basis are always very excited to not just learn that I am an alumnus, but that my mother is an alumna.

Nelson '98/M'01, worked here for more than 30 years while I was growing up.

I met so many great people on this campus that impacted my life, specifically staff members whose dedication and care drew me to working with students as my career. I aspire to have the same important impact on the lives of our current FSU students as those amazing staff members had on my young adult life. They were great role models and mentors to throughout my time as a student. And some of them continue to be the same to me in my career.

On a sunny day in November, alumni employees – those who could get away from work – gathered for a group photo on the steps leading to the Compton Science Center. Look for their names in the key.



Growing Up on Campus

Amy Lynn Robison Shimko '90
Director of Student Development, Career & Professional Development Center

I feel a strong connection to FSU and the people who work here. I sort of grew up on the campus because my mother, **Margie Robison-**

More Stories Online
We were able to print only a portion of the messages we received. Read more alumni-employee stories at www.frostburg.edu/news/profile-magazine.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Jay Hegeman '73/M'81 | 12. Lee Ann Nightingale '04/M'12 | 22. Melissa Russell Martz '95 | 33. Denise Ritchie Murphy '96/M'05 | 44. Shannon Gribble '98 |
| 2. Jodi Patton Ternent '98 | 13. Ann Townsell '87 | 23. Kathy Barger Snyder '75/M'85 | 34. Selina Smith '93 | 45. Robert Spahr '13 |
| 3. Beth Stallings '92 | 14. Rita Fowler Hegeman '87 | 24. Dr. Ben Norris '04 | 35. Sean Morton '93/M'13 | 46. Liz Burlas Nelson '01 |
| 4. Ann Parrish '87 | 15. Robin Vowels Wynder '80/M'87 | 25. Alex Williams '12 | 36. Carl Crowe '94 | 47. Jason Andrick '09 |
| 5. Sara Wilhelm '02 | 16. Ruth LaCourse Spahr '14 | 26. Justin Liller '15/M'16 | 37. Patrick O'Brien '07 | 48. Tara Strother '03 |
| 6. Tamara Elliott Lowry '91/M'01 | 17. Linda Alderton Steele '91/M'93 | 27. Ashley Daniels '11 | 38. Dr. Jeff Graham D'15 | 49. Eli Baker '10 |
| 7. Roxanne Baer Weighley '09 | 18. Abigail McCloud Shillingburg '16 | 28. Rachel Farris '09/M'12 | 39. Keith Davidson '14 | 50. Linda Burl '84 |
| 8. Dr. Martha Rowe Dolly '74 | 19. Abbey Burke '15 | 29. Jacqueline Tonsing Durst '06 | 40. Cpl. Thomas Bevan '07 | 51. Ken Emerick '98 |
| 9. Jamie Winters '92 | 20. Chelsea Wassell Schrader '10/M'11 | 30. William AuMiller Jr. '68 | 41. Dr. Peggy Biser '81 | 52. Sherri Clark Sheetz '89 |
| 10. Melanie Moore '05 | 21. Stefanie Boggs '00 | 31. Dr. Michael Monahan M'91 | 42. Brian Wilson '89/M'97/'16 | 53. Jeff Rosedale '02 |
| 11. Tracy Edwards '96 | | 32. Melanie Kastner Lombardi '98 | 43. Sarah Bittner O'Neal '04/M'05 | |

Good Vibrations

Alumna has Role in Groundbreaking Deep Space Discovery

By Charles Schelle

As her head was buried in electricity and magnetism homework at the Lane Center, **Amber Stuver '99** sensed a disturbance in the force.

The unmistakable squeaky shoes of physics professor **Dr. George Plitnik** pulsed into her atmosphere. Once he made his presence known, she looked up, hoping that the longtime physics professor could swing by like a comet, provide some light and leave.

Instead, his words hit her like the Big Bang.



Amber Stuver '99 gives a tour of the LIGO Livingston control room.

"He looked down, looked at the problem and he said, 'Amber, if you can't do this, you can't cut it in grad school,'" Stuver recalled.

Despite the harsh assessment, it was illuminating.

"The truth is, he was absolutely right," she said, recalling the most difficult course she took at FSU.

Today, she's Dr. Amber Stuver, with a doctorate in physics from Penn State University. She makes her living looking for disturbances in the space-time continuum that are so difficult to detect that even Albert Einstein wasn't sure how to go about it.

Stuver is part of a team of ground-breaking scientists who were the first to detect the existence of gravitational waves and black holes – a revolutionary feat that has puzzled the best of scientists since Einstein first predicted them in his general theory of relativity.

"This is the birth of gravitational wave astronomy and an entirely new way of observing the universe," Stuver said.

That work takes place mainly at one of two Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory Livingston laboratories. Stuver works at the Livingston, La., laboratory on a dual appointment as a data analyst and education and public outreach scientist.

At LIGO, Stuver writes computer programs that simulate gravitational waves and separate noise – such as an airplane flying overhead – from actual waves. That work helps other scientists working on the project determine if gravitational waves have really been detected. She also speaks to visiting groups to the science education center on site.

LIGO is operated by California Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and supported by the National Science Foundation. Stuver has worked with LIGO's research through a collaboration since June 1, 1999, a few weeks after her graduation from FSU as she prepared to start at Penn State.

"I like to say I'm the scientist they let people talk to," Stuver joked, "which is unfair to my colleagues. I like to specialize in communicat-

ing this complicated science into something that everybody can understand." She continues that outreach through her blog at www.LivingLIGO.org and on Twitter @livingligo.

Stuver is also an instructor of physics and astronomy at Louisiana State University, training future science teachers.

Making waves

Gravitational waves are ripples in space from massive objects, like stars or black holes, rotating so fast that they travel far throughout the universe, distorting the universe's space-time like choppy waves on the Chesapeake Bay. The waves provide different, new information about the universe.

The gravitational waves are believed to be from two massive black holes that were rotating around each other before they combined into one, an occurrence 1.3 billion light years away in deep space. Scientists are still unsure why these black holes orbited each other before combining, but there is some hope that discoveries like these can explain our universe's origin.

The discovery was first made on Sept. 14, 2015, and announced after scientists checked to make sure the data and graphs depicting gravitational waves were real.

"It's exciting!" she said. "There had been over 16 years of nothing. I had spent my entire career waiting for this moment."

The LIGO lab is a large building with sensitive detection equipment, including two vacuum chamber arms that form an L shape, extending about 2.5 miles in each direction. Another LIGO Laboratory in Hanford, Wash., picked up the same wave within 1.1 milliseconds, alerting scientists around the world working with LIGO data that this was the real deal.

"We all looked at this and said it's probably a gravitational wave. But at that point, our job was to prove it wasn't a gravitational wave," Stuver said, explaining the steps involved in double-checking results, which included standard inquiries to see if the researchers might have sabotaged or misinterpreted results.

Everything checked out and scientists went public with the results on Feb. 11, 2016. Another detection made Dec. 25, 2015, has since been made public, too.

While some scientists hope the discovery can answer questions about the universe's origins, by potentially finding relic gravita-



Aerial photo of the observatory in Louisiana, LIGO Livingston, where Stuver works.

tional waves from the Big Bang, Stuver is excited about the ongoing mystery of what is out there.

"Every time humans looked at the universe in a new way, we always looked with a motivation," she said. "But every time we look at the universe in a new way, we always find something we never expected to find."

Bobcat Inspiration

And it was an FSU connection that set Stuver on this path.

Her advanced placement physics teacher at Hempfield Area High School in Greensburg, Pa., was alumnus **Chuck Bowman '91**, who showed Stuver the possibilities that physics could unfold.

Stuver wanted to get to that point as soon as possible, so between taking community college courses and having AP credits in her pocket, she entered FSU as a sophomore in 1997, graduating two years later, ready for graduate school at Penn State.

"Amber was one of the best we ever had," Plitnik said. "She was very, very motivated."

She didn't slow down at FSU, loading up on a tough course schedule that included a 23-credit semester that her advisor **Dr. Greg Latta** signed off on. Latta encouraged her, but assured her it would be OK if she needed to drop a class.

Stuver is grateful that Latta was confident in her ability to take on such a demanding course load.

"What was really heartening for me was there was somebody looking out for my best interest, even though what I was doing, to some people, would be crazy," she said.

Latta, who keeps in touch with Stuver, says she is an example of how you really can go anywhere from Frostburg State.

"It's a tremendous inspiration," he said.

Her courses at FSU readied Stuver for the demands of learning the weird side of physics in graduate school.

"It was a little bit hard in that I wanted to go do this thing that was a lot more complicated, that says take everything you learned and throw it away, because things get weird now," Stuver said. "But you need a good foundation before you get to the weird, and Frostburg gave me that foundation." ■



Stuver with **Chuck Bowman '91**, the high school physics teacher whose lessons in relativity ultimately led her to her work on gravitational waves.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Campus-Community Partnership Events Enhance Frostburg's Vitality and Student Connections

The connection between Frostburg State University and the city of Frostburg dates back to the school's founding, and each has benefited from the other. Over the years, students' level of involvement with downtown and its businesses has waxed and waned, and with a modern emphasis on online shopping or national chains, it takes more effort for Frostburg's independent businesses to get noticed. Initiatives, some new and some long-established, are working to fight this trend. Longtime events held downtown like Storybook Holiday, the

children's festival spearheaded by the Children's Literature Centre, and the Independent Literature Festival – Indie Lit – have continued to grow, bringing in more visitors and benefitting from FSU volunteer efforts. And a new initiative begun last fall is ensuring that FSU's student population knows what is available those few blocks away in downtown Frostburg. All of that spells better business for the city of Frostburg and a more inviting university town for year-round residents and students alike.

Storybook Holiday Creates Magic for Frostburg Business Community

When Storybook Holiday is unwrapped each December in Frostburg, it's a gift that keeps on giving for downtown businesses.

The Children's Literature Centre event completed its 13th year where an event that inspires reading for children also inspires purchases in local shops and brings out a festive spirit from merchants to make the event successful.

"One of the biggest reasons that CLC Director **Bill Bingman** and I started this was to get people to come and see why we love this town so much," said **Dr. Barbara Ornstein**, associate director of the Children's Literature Centre. "It's such a great place for kids but we wanted them to see our little shops, good places and great restaurants."

Storybook Shopping

Main Street Books is one of the busiest businesses during the event, thanks to the literacy theme. Owner Fred Powell says children and their parents flood the store for a solid three hours, buying up children's books during the day. The day is his second busiest Saturday of the year behind Small Business Saturday.

"This is the benchmark for the holiday season in Frostburg," Powell said.

More than 2,000 people – about 700 children and their families – show up to the annual celebration that is tied in to a winter-themed book selected by the Children's Literature

Centre, and includes a visit to town from the author or illustrator. Powell credits the more than 250 student and alumni volunteers in making the event so large and successful.

"It wouldn't have happened without all of these people to do it," Powell added.

Ornstein and Bingman knew that part of the event's success means getting the kids to come into the stores with their parents, so they developed a bookmark to hold holiday stickers given out by participating businesses. After getting five stickers, children can show their bookmarks to Grammy's Attic, Lorenzo's Bakery and McFarland Candies to receive a free treat.

"Even if they don't buy anything then, they go, 'Oh, I didn't know this existed,'" Ornstein said.

This year, 22 businesses participated as sticker stops and at least 35 businesses donated space or supplies, FrostburgFirst Main Street Manager **Jessica Palumbo '09** said.

"It brings a whole new level to the meaning of community that they're so involved," Palumbo said.

Community Spirit

The day is not just about sales and exposure, as some businesses donate supplies or food or use their space to make the event successful. Armstrong Insurance Agency closes its office for the Saturday event so the building can serve as elf headquarters for the volunteers. Educational Professions instructor **Sarah O'Neal '04/M'05** coordinates with local elementary schools to decorate storefronts for the season. She has decorated Main Street Books' storefront for the last 11 years. Volunteer groups make wreaths for the city's lamp posts, too.

"Thousands of cars drive through here each week, and what a sight to drive through and what a statement to make to have pretty much every business you see as you come through town with their windows decorated," Palumbo said.

P.S. Hair Designs certainly makes a statement, transforming Peggy Atkinson's salon into Santa's House.

Atkinson works up until noon the day before the event, then takes all of



Lines form at Grammy's Attic on Broadway, where stickers collected at other businesses could be redeemed for treats.

her retail products off the shelves and shoves anything that looks like it belongs in a salon into her storage room. All Friday night, her family and friends transform her business into the North Pole. Outside, she has wooden panels painted like Santa's House, swallowing her storefront.

"I never dreamed when we started this that it would be this magical," said Atkinson, who goes by Momma Frost during Storybook Holiday. (Her son, **Rick Stevenson '04**, volunteered at Storybook Holiday when he was an education major at FSU and has been involved ever since, portraying Jack Frost for many years now.)

Atkinson knows she won't make a dime on Storybook Holiday, but every smile she sees on kids' faces is worth it.

"I don't even do it thinking somebody will come back," she said. "I do it because we love Storybook Holiday."

The sparkling atmosphere of Storybook Holiday continues inside City Place, where educational professions majors make snowflakes to hang from the ceiling and other student volunteers acting as Santa's helpers run activities. Back on Main Street, before the parade begins, students from Mountain City Center for the Arts sing holiday tunes to preview the troupe's annual Christmastime shows.

"Everywhere you look there's some reminder that it's winter and the holidays are coming," Ornstein said. "Storybook Holiday turns Frostburg into a little winter wonderland."

Tourist Elves

The love for the holiday event is turning into a driver for tourism, too. Dorothea Lay and her daughter Toni Lay, 14, of Bethesda

drove up to Frostburg with Toni's childhood friend Meredith Blanchard, 13, who came from Connecticut. Toni remembered how much she loved the event when they were 5 years old and invited her friend Meredith to help celebrate Toni's 14th birthday.

"Everyone in Frostburg is so into it, which I love," Toni said.

The girls fully embraced Storybook Holiday by dressing as elves, helping to hand out bookmarks while walking in the parade and winning the people's choice award for their lemon bar cookies (dubbed "So a Lemon Walked Into a Bar") in the cookie contest.

As much as Meredith and Toni enjoyed the event, they got a bigger thrill making the littler kids smile at their elf outfits.

"One little kid came up to me and asked me if I was a real elf," Toni said. "It was fun seeing all the little kids be so excited about everything."

It was as if they were keeping an eye on all the little ones for Santa.

"If you gave them a wink, they whispered to their parents, 'Oh my gosh, the elves just winked at me!'" Meredith said. "It was pretty neat to see them do what I would have done when I was really little."

Part of why Meredith and Toni could still enjoy Storybook Holiday is because the event has grown to a full-day festival that's great for all ages. Powell is encouraged by the buy-in of everyone involved with Storybook Holiday, seeing it grow from an event attended by a hundred people to well over 2,000.

"Everybody's been touched by some sort of success by it," Powell said. "If nothing else, it just makes you feel good."

– By Charles Schelle

Annual FSU Literary Festival Brings Community and Customers to Frostburg

When the Independent Literature Festival, hosted in downtown Frostburg for the past decade, was created, it was designed to build a stronger, more inclusive literary community in the region. Judging by Indie Lit's 10th anniversary event, which drew more than 100 editors, publishers, teachers and writers, the festival is meeting its goal.

From its 2006 start as the Western Maryland Small Press Fair, Indie Lit, put on each fall by the Center for Literary Arts, has had a real impact on members of that community.



Senior art and design major Megan Dignan designed this logo for FrostburgFirst.

Over the past decade, that community has noticed some tangible effects of Indie Lit.

The First Book

A professor of English at West Virginia's Fairmont State University and poetry editor of its literary journal, *Kestrel*, Dr. Elizabeth Savage first visited Frostburg for the 2011 Indie Lit. She has returned every year since.

"The regional alliances formed and fed by Frostburg's festival have real consequences in the real world, but like most forms of power, those effects are branching and expanding in ways not immediately visible," Savage said.

Her two full-length collections of poetry were published by Baltimore-based Furniture Press Books, whose founder she met during a 2011 Indie Lit panel about editors and editing. Savage struck up a friendship and the two exchanged writing regularly. Her first book, *Grammar*, was released by Furniture Press in 2012. *Idylliad*, her second, followed in 2015.

"Book publications have certainly helped authorize my work as a poetry editor. They have led to my inclusion in projects and reading series, too," Savage said.

Indie Lit also helps recharge her creative energies each October.

"I love Frostburg and hope to emulate the pervasiveness of the arts I see there here in Fairmont," said Savage. "The friendships and professional networks emitting from this annual event are to me and many others the most important, satisfying dimension of our lives as guardians of the arts and humanities."

From Near and Far

Some Indie Lit attendees travel quite a distance for its particular qualities.

Dr. Erin Elizabeth Smith, founder of Sundress Publications in Tennessee, first visited Frostburg for the 2015 Indie Lit, invited for an editor-author panel discussion by one of Sundress' poets.

"I drove up here not really knowing what to expect," Smith said. "I knew it was Western Maryland, but then I was just overwhelmed with how beautiful the drive was, how beautiful it was here and how friendly it was. I go to probably 10 literature festivals during the year, and this is hands down my favorite!"

Such festivals played a key role for Sundress as Smith grew it from a single online journal in 2000 to an established independent publisher. Today, the nonprofit counts 62 volunteer staff, hosts numerous active and defunct online journals and



Craig O'Hara of PM Press, who recently moved to Frostburg, displays his press' books during Indie Lit.

publishes chapbooks and full-length collections in both print and digital formats. They also run the Sundress Academy for the Arts outside Knoxville.

Smith drove more than 600 miles for Indie Lit.

"What I like about it is there's a really deep sense of community among the editors who are here," said Smith. Many of them she sees at a major national conference, "But here I get to go out and have a beer with them and go out to dinner. Last year we all went to the steakhouse and had this giant table of editors and authors just kind of telling stories and having conversations that you don't always get to have."

This year, Smith talked a dozen colleagues into proposing panel discussions for Indie Lit and spent the weekend discussing literature, networking and eating and drinking all over town. Even with the distance involved, Sundress covered its costs through book sales and had several people sign up for residencies.

"I'm definitely going to be back next year," Smith said with a smile.

Bringing It Home

Beyond filling restaurants, pubs and hotels with travelers and literary discussions, Indie Lit also benefits Frostburg's independent purveyors of literature.

Though PM Press is a small publisher with international staff and main offices in Oakland, Calif., PM first attended Indie Lit in 2011 and has returned each year since.

In fact, co-founder Craig O'Hara recently relocated to Frostburg from his native West Virginia. The press focuses on featuring voices, viewpoints and stories seldom seen in the mainstream media.

Nearly half of PM's yearly revenue comes from direct sales at 100-plus such events, but O'Hara really appreciates the community at Indie Lit.

"It is a valuable chance to meet folks from inside and outside of Frostburg who take reading and writing seriously," O'Hara said.

At a past Indie Lit, O'Hara connected with local musician Jon Felton, who introduced PM to the team behind a recent children's book, for which Felton's band recorded a companion soundtrack CD.

The community also connected O'Hara with Main Street Books in Frostburg, which sells books from a number of small presses and hosts the festival's Friday night kickoff reading.

"I have found that after the reading introduces folks to the store, we can't keep them out!" said MSB owner Fred Powell. "Sales increase dramatically in certain areas – poetry, fiction – especially small press titles – and blank books and journals."

Many attendees hail from small towns that no longer have independent bookstores, and Powell said they marvel at the shop's continued presence on Main Street.

"On Saturday, we find it hard to get folks out of the store by closing at 5 p.m."

Powell is planning an after-hours event for the next festival to ensure those dedicated

booklovers can peruse to their hearts' content.

Indie Lit 2017 is scheduled for Oct. 13-14.

– By Robert Spahr '13

Students Give Main Street Businesses a Boost During Frostburg 101

For some students, shopping on Main Street is no longer a mystery.

A special student-only shopping event called Frostburg 101: A Taste of the City demystified downtown businesses for those students by showing them what Main Street offers, enticing them with offers and giveaways.

Students filled downtown retailers and restaurants as part of the first-ever event held shortly after the beginning of the fall semester.

About 220 students registered for the event, which enabled them to obtain a passport to use to explore Main Street and earn stamps to be eligible for prizes. Additional students continued to shop in the stores without registering, establishing it as a successful first-time event.

"I think the event definitely met our goal to get students in the door to these businesses and let them know that just because we don't have big box stores does not mean we don't have good quality mom-and-pop shops," said FrostburgFirst Main Street Manager **Jessica Palumbo '09**.

The Student Government Association, FrostburgFirst, the FSU Foundation, the city of Frostburg and SafeRide all collaborated into creating and executing the inaugural event.

Creating an Experience

Frostburg 101 was born out of a local issues Town Hall meeting in October 2015 co-hosted by the FSU Office of Civic

Engagement, SGA and FSU's J. Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs. While talking to Frostburg's mayor and council members, a student remarked during the meeting that the city lacks big box stores and retailers that appealed to her.

That led to a dialogue among students that night, sharing how the Frostburg merchants are welcoming to students and are a great place to shop. One student, **Rosemary Rosser '16**, asked why the city and University didn't have an event to get students to go to Main Street businesses. That turned on the light bulb.

Rosser and City Councilman Woody Getz presented the idea the following month to Frostburg's Main Street Maryland organization, FrostburgFirst. Business owners quickly bought in, too, leading to the creation of Frostburg 101: A Taste of the City.

"This shows me there can be a closer, constructive relationship between the University that sits within our city, and our city formally, FrostburgFirst and the business community," Getz said.

Getz sees the bigger impact of what this could entail if 5,000 of FSU's students could spend at least \$10 once on Main Street.

"That's \$50,000 in a shot. Talk about \$10 once a month then it multiples. Talk about more than \$10, who knows what?" Getz said. "It has a huge potential."

Business Reaction

Main Street's foot traffic was steady that day with student shoppers filling up the sidewalks and shops.

Students could be seen not only sampling free items, but many of them filled up their free FrostburgFirst drawstring bag with purchases as they returned their passports to the registration table.

Clothing and accessories store Crestmont LTD has been in business 56 years in Frostburg and owner Jim Barnes has been around for 42 of those. Once students walk in, they become regular customers.

"A lot of new students didn't know the store was there. They were shocked when they got in to find out what type of store it was," Barnes said. While he does sell men's and women's clothing, the student shoppers were excited about his Brighton and Vera Bradley lines, which are extremely popular with college women.

"A lot of girls took advantage of some of the Vera Bradley sales we had right away," Barnes said. "We had one huge table at 40 percent off and a smaller table at 60 percent off, and now that table is almost empty."

Sometimes it's not always about the sale. Spectrum Design Services owner Andrea De Palatis was eager to educate students about what her store carries so they can return to make purchases for themselves and for others.

"One student said, 'My mom collects butterflies. I didn't know I could get a butterfly here for \$3,'" De Palatis said.

De Palatis loved talking to students, finding out where they're from, what they're studying and their background.

"It enriches the whole environment when the students are out and about," De Palatis said. "It breathes some life into the community."

Grammy's Attic co-owner Larissa Sheehan was seeing the benefits of repeat business from the event by the following Tuesday.

"Some of them have come back since then to get soup, milkshakes, ice cream or different items," she said.

Student Involvement

On Saturday, resident assistants walked with students to Main Street, and orientation peer mentors led freshmen on an easy stroll from campus to discover downtown. Free SafeRide shuttles continuously dropped off more Bobcats to the event, too.

"There were students everywhere – not just standing waiting for their stamps, but actually sitting at tables, eating or enjoying milkshakes or browsing the store or waiting in line to purchase items," Palumbo said.

SGA Vice President **James Kirk**, student liaison to FrostburgFirst who helped organize SGA's involvement, was surprised at not only freshmen but upperclassmen in attendance.

"They remarked that they did learn a lot and wished they had this as freshmen ... because they found out about all of these new and existing businesses in Frostburg," he said.

– By Charles Schelle



A student studies her "passport" to downtown business as part of the first Frostburg 101: A Taste of the City.



Will Sewell



Niles Scott

Football All-Americans

As the Bobcat football team played one of the most impressive seasons in school history, a pair of players totaled three All-American awards following standout individual seasons.

Senior defensive end **Will Sewell** and junior defensive tackle **Niles Scott** were selected as D3football.com All-Americans, while Scott was named a Second Team All-American by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

Sewell was selected as a First Team d3football.com All-American, while Scott was named to the honorable mention team after the duo helped the Bobcat defense lead the nation in team tackles for loss (10.7). Sewell, the New Jersey Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year, finished the season ranked eighth nationally in tackles for loss (22.0) and 11th in tackles for loss per game (2.0).

Scott was 46th in the country in tackles for loss per game (1.6) and 49th in sacks per game (0.82) and became Frostburg's first AFCA All-American since 2002.

FALL SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS:

14 All-NJAC honorees

10 All-CAC honorees

3 ECAC All-Stars

3 All-Region selections

3 All-Americans



Naya Cheatem

Cheatem Registers 1,000th Kill; Named All-CAC For Third Year

In mid-September, junior volleyball player **Naya Cheatem** registered her 1,000th career kill, becoming the eighth player in school history to do so, while leading the Bobcats to a 3-0 shutout of Chatham that evening.

At the end of the fall season, Cheatem was named to the All-CAC First Team for the second straight season. The honor also marked the third time she has been selected to the All-CAC teams, and she finished the 2016 campaign with a team-high 281 kills and was third in the CAC in kills per set (3.70).



Robert Romano

Men's Cross Country Posts Three Mid-Season Wins

The men's cross country team ran its way to three straight wins during the 2016 fall season and totaled six top-10 performances in eight meets.

The Bobcats started their winning streak with a first-place showing at the Westmoreland Invitational on Sept. 10. Sophomore **Robert Romano** was the top individual finisher for the second straight season.

The following Saturday, Frostburg captured the Penn State-Greater Allegheny Invitational Title behind top-10 finishes from senior **Xavier Alvarez** (3rd), freshman **Jacob Rickards** (4th), **Romano** (5th), freshman **Timmy Wolodkin** (6th) and sophomore **Tom Burklow** (7th).

FSU capped its winning streak with a win at the Bobcat Invitational at nearby Maplehurst Country Club. That day, Frostburg bested two NCAA Division II and two NCAA Division III schools en route to the trophy.

Mostafa Earns All-CAC Honor For Third Time

Senior goalkeeper **Hassan Mostafa** capped his brilliant four-year soccer career with a selection to the All-Capital Athletic Conference First Team for three consecutive seasons.

This fall, Mostafa finished 21st in the nation and paced the CAC in goalie minutes played (1784:54), and he also led the league and finished 67th in Division III in total saves (93). In his final season, he collected nine wins, including four shutouts and 1.36 goals against average.

A 2016 National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-South Region Second Team honoree, Mostafa finished his career with 0.99 goals against average, 292 saves, 36 wins and 20 shutouts.



Hassan Mostafa



FSU librarian **MaryJo Price M'01** fulfilled a childhood goal more than 50 years later when she swam across Conneaut Lake in Pennsylvania last year, thanks to her participation in the FSU Masters swimming team.

Swimming Before Dawn

FSU Coach and Swim Team Support Local Masters Swimmers

By Janice Burton

Most people are happily asleep at 5:30 a.m. But that's not the case for some local adult swimmers, who are in the water at the FSU pool on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at that early hour of the morning.

FSU librarian **MaryJo Price M'01** found the resolve to start her day that way more than a year ago, when she realized she needed help fulfilling a lifelong dream to swim across Conneaut Lake in Pennsylvania. She grew up in that area, and though her older sisters swam across when they were children, she never did. She wanted to fix that, more than 50 years later.

Those crazy early swims at "dang-dark:30 in the morning" are the brainchild of the head coach of the FSU swim team, **Justin Anderson**, who took over the team in the fall of 2013. Besides having the longest season of any sport at FSU, the University swimmers have to devote time to raising money for a mid-winter Florida training camp, expensive "tech" swim suits and some supplemental equipment. In the past, they have held car washes and sold hoagies and doughnuts, among other things. Anderson, thinking outside the box, wondered if the team could serve the area and raise money at the same time. And so the U.S. Masters swimming team at FSU was born.

U.S. Masters is a national nonprofit organization for adults who want to swim for fitness or competition. Price falls into the fitness category, as do most who have swum with FSU Masters (FSUM). Anderson and his assistant coaches helped Price with her swimming strokes and provided encouragement and workouts geared to her fitness level. Last September she fulfilled her dream of swimming that open-water half mile, with a fellow FSUM swimmer watching from a kayak beside her.

"I never gave up on my wish to swim the lake. When I least expected it, everything fell

into place," Price said. "I could not have accomplished my swim without the teamwork of my coaches, teammates, friends and family. Thanks to **Amy Nazelrod '97**, Activities for Life coordinator, who gave me the biggest push to get back to swimming."

During the college swimming season, the Masters and FSU swimmers see each other in the locker room, on deck and sometimes briefly across the pool. It has fostered camaraderie that goes both ways: Many Masters swimmers attend FSU home meets to cheer on the collegiate swimmers and FSU swimmers staff the Masters meets at FSU twice a year.

The first two years of FSUM have seen 30-plus people pass through the ranks. Most are there for a specific purpose, as was Price initially. A few are former college swimmers, but a majority just want to increase their fitness or improve their stroke efficiency for triathlons or open-water swims.

Frostburg resident Janice Burton has been an FSUM member since the start.

"Justin's advice and workouts have definitely improved my swimming speed and stamina," Burton said. "But really, I've stuck with it because of the people! Three of us, Coach Anderson, (**Dr.**) **Melody Kentrus '05** and I had unforgettable experiences swimming the 4.4-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge open-water swim in June. I think about that sometimes on mornings when I'm tempted to sleep in!"

Anderson and his assistants donate their time, so all proceeds benefit the FSU swim team. Practices are low-key, with some people arriving late, others leaving early, depending on their personal schedules and goals. But it's always a good workout finished dang early.

For more information, contact Activities for Life at 301.687.7934 ■

Bobcat Women Win Ethics Award for Ninth Time

The women's soccer team earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Ethics and Sportsmanship Award for the ninth year in a row.



Frostburg is one of 100 collegiate teams recognized for exhibiting fair play, sporting behavior and adherence to the rules of the game. The Ethics and Sportsmanship Award is given to NSCAA member schools at four levels.

Through their 21-game 2016 season, the Bobcats earned a spot at the silver level for receiving just four yellow cards. Levels are based on a percentage of the total number of cards received by players or coaches per the total number of games played.

FSU finished the season at 10-10-1 overall and earned a trip to the CAC Tournament Championship game and the ECAC Tournament. Frostburg closed out the regular season with five straight wins, including four shutouts. ■



The Eastern College Athletic Conference champion Bobcats pose for a photo following their victory in the Asa S. Bushnell Bowl.

Calling Hollywood – Do We Have a Story for You!

2016 Bobcats Leave No Doubt

by Robert Spahr '13

Hollywood would be hard-pressed to write a more compelling underdog sports story than the one lived by Head Football Coach **DeLane Fitzgerald** and his 2016 Bobcats.

In 2013, when 16 of the team's 19 graduating seniors were freshmen, the Bobcats hadn't had a winning season since 2005. They won just one game and lost nine in 2013, tying the second-worst season in Bobcat history. Then Coach Fitzgerald took over in February of 2014, bringing strict accountability and an unbelievable promise: those who committed to the program would become champions.



Coach DeLane Fitzgerald

Brian Taylor, senior offensive lineman and co-captain of the '16 Bobcats, had his doubts. "To be perfectly honest, I thought Coach Fitzgerald was literally insane," he said. For some, Fitzgerald was asking too much. Training would become more demanding,

Coach Fitzgerald took over in February of 2014, bringing strict accountability and an unbelievable promise: **those who committed to the program would become champions.**

but players would also volunteer regularly in the community, starting that weekend. They would be on time – always – and accountable for every action. They would commit to improving every day. Taylor and 15 other rising sophomores bought into the plan. They tired themselves out daily, sprinting before and after practices and hitting the weight room hard before dawn. They also read to children at Frost Elementary School, cleaned up Frostburg parks and streets, picked up trash, cut down diseased trees, spread mulch and gravel, donated to charities and much more. "Saturdays are a byproduct of everything else that we're doing. ... [Community service] is a way of me weeding out selfish young men that are not into the team, not into the

University, not into the town," Fitzgerald said. "I want them to feel like they're part of something bigger than a college football team." That first season, Fitzgerald's Bobcats improved to 4-6, and in 2015, they went 6-4 – the team's first winning season in a decade. For

2016, Fitzgerald introduced a new rallying cry: "Leave No Doubt." Last fall, Fitzgerald's improbable championship predictions came true when the '16 Bobcats took the New Jersey Athletic Conference by storm. Winning nine straight games during an astounding 10-1 season (8-1 in the conference), the team left zero doubt.

They tied Frostburg's record for wins in a season (10) that had been set in 1993, as well as for consecutive wins (nine) set in 1990.

In a 21-17 victory, the Bobcats reclaimed the Regents Cup from longtime cross-state rival Salisbury University for the first time since 2003. They also gained entry to the 2016 Asa S. Bushnell Bowl Game in Philadelphia, where they defeated St. John Fisher 38-14.

Watching his seniors collect those two trophies just a week apart remains Fitzgerald's favorite memory, while he marvels at the accomplishments of his men.

"What happened here doesn't hardly ever happen. ... They go 1 and 9 as freshmen and 10 and 1 as seniors," Fitzgerald said, shaking his head. "Doesn't happen. No, it doesn't happen."

The Regents Cup victory at Bobcat Stadium really resonated with the seniors.

For **William Sewell**, defensive lineman and NJAC's 2016 Defensive Player of the Year, the Regents Cup match offered a shot at redemption. The year before, the Bobcats had opened a decisive lead before halftime only for Salisbury to claw out a one-point victory.

"It was hurtful," Sewell said. "It wasn't something that we took and just forgot. I still remember the play where they scored last year."

Those painful memories kept the Bobcats focused and fired up.

Sewell said, "We took that tone from the very first snap to the very last snap, and we pulled off the win and got the Regents Cup back to Frostburg!"

Without teamwork, none of it would have been possible.

J.R. Lowery, defensive lineman and co-captain, is also an accomplished Track and Field athlete, but he prefers winning with his team.

"You're playing for them, and they're playing for you," he said.

"In track, it is a team sport, but it's an individual



Coach Fitzgerald asked his players to commit to improving every day.

effort. I get more enjoyment out of winning as a team than winning by myself."

Tim Feldman '95, Bobcat Hall of Fame member of the '93 team, was proud to see the team succeed this past season and ecstatic about the Regents Cup victory, but he really enjoyed watching the graduating seniors build their program to greatness.

"They were part of the team that was one and nine. They saw what emphasizing the team, being selfless and being committed to finishing what you start can do," he said.

Thanks to their community service, the Bobcats also found many new fans in Frostburg. Taylor said that in his freshman year, he could almost count the people in the stands.

"Every single game the stands are packed!" said Sewell of the '16 season. He attributed that in large part to their work in the community. "When you give back to the community, word gets around and that just builds your program and makes it stronger."

While Fitzgerald credits his players for their hard work, he says community support has made a big difference.

"This is a great town with great people, and a great University with great employees," Fitzgerald said. "This is a tough job, but all jobs worth doing are tough. The job has been made a lot easier by how much the University, students and alumni care. I don't think there's any doubt about that."

Though the 2016 season will be difficult to equal, let alone top, Fitzgerald remains focused on continual improvement and building better, more selfless men. His goal likewise remains the same: "Let's wake up each Saturday with a really competitive spirit and mindset, and then let's go compete for three hours and let the cards fall where they may." ■



Keith Smith II '16

Smith Takes Football to International Stage

Keith Smith II '16 is tackling his pro football dreams around the globe.

Smith is making a name for himself playing in the German Football League. He also won a championship in another football league in Brazil.

Smith will return to the GFL for a third year. He plays for the Elmsborn Fighting Pirates – with a brief stop with the Ravensburg Razorbacks. After finishing out last season, Smith flew to South America and signed with the Timbó T-Rex in Brazil, helping the T-Rex to Brazil's Superliga Playoffs, ultimately becoming national champions.

"After my senior season, I knew I was not done playing football," Smith said. "I just was unaware of where I could continue playing."

Smith leapt at the chance to play pro football overseas, finishing his bachelor's degree in social sciences online. He received offers to play in Germany, Switzerland and Poland.

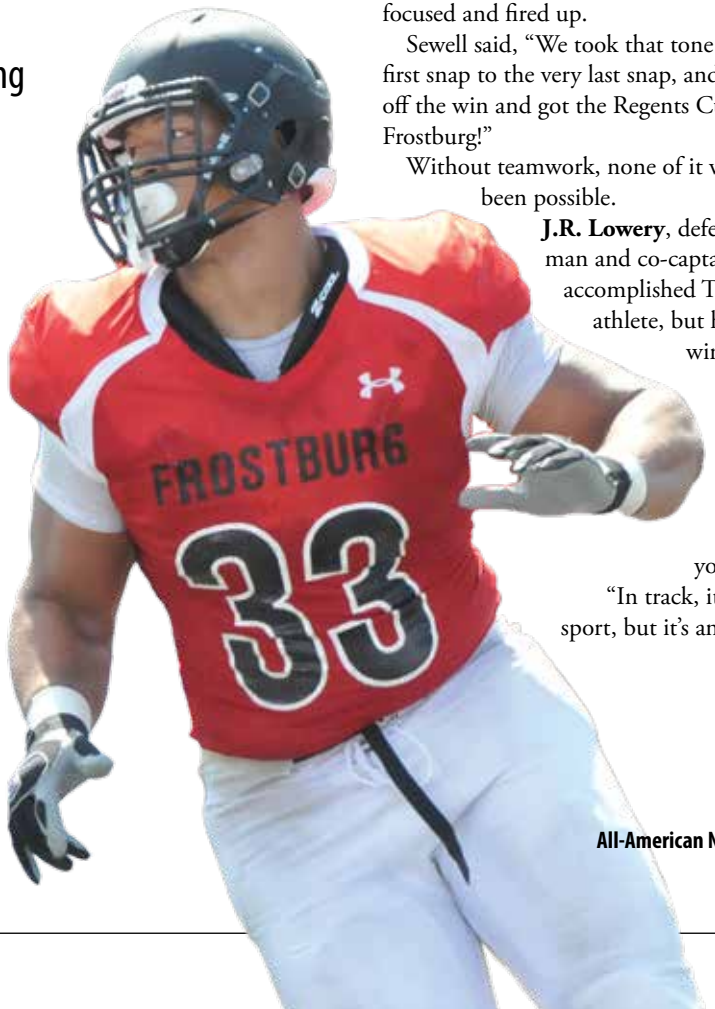
Smith plays football from March through September, then works as a student advocate the rest of the year at Old Mill High School in Millersville, Md.

The Millersville resident earned Top Defender honors in 2015 with the Fighting Pirates, with 106 tackles, four interceptions and three touchdowns. He plays safety, as he did at FSU, but he's also deployed on offense.

As a Bobcat, one of Smith's most memorable plays came at the 2014 Homecoming game against Ithaca. In the second overtime, Keith made a clutch block against an extra point attempt. The play set up an opportunity for FSU to score a touchdown and an extra point for a 38-37 victory.

"I am humbled to have another opportunity to play professional football for a third season," Smith said. "None of this would have been possible if it was not for Frostburg State University."

– Charles Schelle



All-American Niles Scott



The Bobcat Hall of Fame welcomed five new members: Cynthia Reese '03/M'04, Jennifer Hawk '90, Kevin Culbert '06, Karen Kotofski '05 and Tracey Shelley '86.



During the Hall of Fame dinner, FSU recognized the Women's Lacrosse program and commemorated its 50th Anniversary. More than 50 former coaches and student athletes returned for the celebration.



The 1991 Men's Soccer team celebrated their 25th Anniversary at the Hall of Fame dinner, recognizing their mark on athletic history.



President Nowaczyk joins the 2016 Homecoming Queen Brandy Barnes and Homecoming King Richard Ukonu.



Women's Basketball hosted an alumni game – no injuries but lots of memories shared!



Men's Basketball carried on the tradition of hosting an alumni game – and the number of alumni keeps growing!



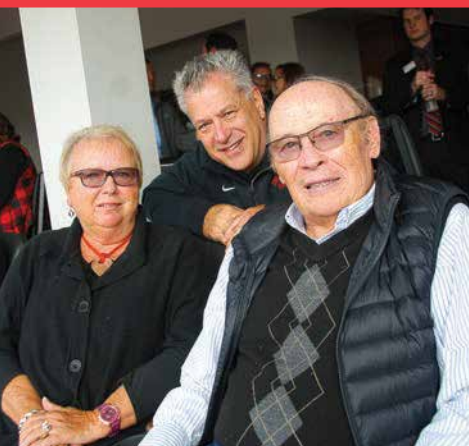
Mary Griffin and President Emeritus Catherine Gira enjoyed the annual Retired Employee Luncheon.



Jeff Brock '79 presented Mark Malec '77/M'84 with the Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Award during the Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Brunch.



Guy Robertson, Head Baseball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director, helps President Nowaczyk cut the ribbon to officially open the new state-of-the-art Baseball Locker Room.



HOMECOMING 2016 ... OLD FRIENDS, NEW FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES, GREAT FUN!

CLASSNOTES

ClassNotes listed are those received as of January 10, 2017

1968

Dr. Larry J. Brant had a summary of his work “Aging and Disease: Experiences From the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging” published in the book *Antbropology and Public Health*. Larry is retired from the National Institutes of Health.

1973

T. Edward Smith M’73 was the 2016 Service Above Self Award winner given by the Keyser Rotary Club for his volunteerism throughout the tri-state area.

1983

Maj. Ron Martin M’83 was appointed chief operating officer at Building Intelligence Inc. Ron is a seasoned security professional and will oversee the areas of information technology, sales, client relationships, and program and project oversight. He has more than 30 years’ experience in law enforcement, military police and security leadership in the federal government.

1987

Lisa Bohrer completed the USC School of Pharmacy Travel Medicine Certification. She is employed by PharmaCare, a member of The Medicine Shoppe Family.

Maureen Reilly was promoted to principal (officer) at The Vanguard Group, Inc., where she leads the Employment and Immigration Services Group within the Legal Department.

1988

Kimberly Karr Arnold was named senior vice president and chief credit officer of Woodsboro Bank in Frederick, Md. She joined the financial institution in 2001.



1989

Lori Kline was recognized as a distinguished professional in her field through *Women of Distinction Magazine*. She is the owner of Lori’s Oy-vey Café in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

1991

Amy Taylor was appointed as a regional Y Head Start director with the Y in Central Maryland. She has been employed with the Y for 22 years.

1993

Mark DiLuigi was named the 2015 Conservation Police Officer of the Year by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He is a veteran officer with 21 years of service.

1996

Dwayne Northcraft M’96 was appointed superintendent of the Southern Huntingdon County School District in Pennsylvania. He resides in Waterfall, Pa.

1998

Dr. Jesse Ketterman, Jr. M’98/M’01 was appointed by the University of Maryland Extension Office in Allegany County as an educator for financial literacy. Jesse previously worked in various roles at FSU for almost 17 years.

1999

Wayne Carr, Jr., was cast as Canewell in *Seven Guitars*. The play by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson, was performed at the Yale Rep in November and December 2016.

2000

Dr. Melinda Frazee Grove M’03 earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Foundations and Leadership from the University of Akron.

Courtney Kissell was honored by the Leadership Center for Excellence as one of the “40 under 40” of Arlington, Va. She is the executive director of The Reading Connection.



Artwork titled *Themis* by **Andi Simpson ’02** was showcased at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in the Rock the Vote: Truth to Power gallery. She resides in York, Pa., and is the owner of Andita Design House, a graphic design business.

2001

Bethany Moody was named principal of Birdwell Elementary School in Tyler, Texas. She began teaching at Birdwell immediately following her graduation from FSU.

2002

Jason Metz joined West Liberty University in West Liberty, W.Va., as an assistant professor of exercise physiology. He also contributes to cancer research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and has worked with, tested and counseled professional and Olympic athletes.

2003

Tiffany Thrist Laing M’03, owner and founder of Ancestors & Descendants, LLC, released the toy company’s first product, the History Makers Puzzle Block Set.

Charles Wilt was appointed chief executive officer and a member of the Board of Directors for Mountain Laurel Medical Center in Oakland, Md.

2005

Jennifer Moran Flinn M’05 was named dean of students at her alma mater, Bishop Walsh School in Cumberland, Md. She has taught there for 10 years.

Edward Hampton M’14 was a state finalist for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Edward is an instructional coach at West Side Elementary School in Cumberland, Md.

Michelle Harman M’05 was selected to participate in the College Board’s annual

AP reading project. She is the supervisor of College and Career Readiness for the Garrett County Public Schools.

2007

Kyle Hines was named athletic director at Glen Burnie High School in Glen Burnie, Md. He played baseball while at FSU.

2008

Matthew Ancarrow performed as Henry Norris in Baltimore’s Chesapeake Shakespeare Company’s production of *Anne of the Thousand Days*.

2009

Nicholas Preston was honored by the National Kitchen and Bath Association as a 2016 “30 under 30” in the industry. He is branch manager at Reico Kitchen and Bath in Frederick, Md.

2014

Shawnte Berry M’14, manager for Volunteers and Special Projects at Howard County Recreation and Parks, was named employee of the year. She led an Emergency Operations Center unit following the flooding in Ellicott City, which used a volunteer reception center plan that was her final master’s project.

Friend of the University

Kia Corthron will be the featured playwright for Chicago’s Eclipse Theatre Company’s 25th Anniversary Season, producing three of her plays, including *Force Continuum* and *Megastasis*. ■

Marriages

1992

Connie McKenzie Kamp M’96 married Garth Gtofelly at the Savage River Lodge on July 16, 2016. The couple resides in Grantsville, Md.

2007

Clinton Larrick M’11 married Michelle Turner on Oct. 10, 2015. The couple resides in Short Gap, W.Va.

2008



Ashley Wisner M’09 married Dr. Scott Vascik on July 23, 2016. The couple resides in Falling Waters, W.Va.

2010



Charlie Zoubek M’10 married Jake Hart on June 18, 2016. They were married on the beach in Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica.

2011

Jessica Leer M’11 married **Eric Campbell ’12** on Sept. 25, 2016, at Corolla, N.C., on the Outer Banks.



Maina Keifer



Brittany Frazier ’12/M’15 married **Stephen Kuhn ’15** on Sept. 24, 2016. Alumni family members gathered for a photo on the FSU campus – where their love story began – including, from left, **Bobby Sines ’15**, **Luther (Jack) Rizer ’62**, **B.J. Davisson, II ’81**, **Krista McGowan Davisson ’82**, **Judy Jefferson Kuhn ’80**, **Sarah Kuhn ’12**, newlyweds **Stephen and Brittany**, and **Ken Kuhn ’82**.

2014



Samantha Winkler married **Tyler Hall ’14** on Sept. 30, 2016, in Leonardtown, Md.

Families

1974



Joe Adams and his wife, Sarah, welcomed granddaughters Stella Barwick and Adeline Adams.

Ruth LaCourse ’14 married **Robert Spahr ’13** on Aug. 13, 2016, overlooking Muddy Creek Falls in Maryland’s Swallow Falls State Park. Bobcats in the wedding party include, front row from left, **Hussaine Hassan ’14**, Ruth LaCourse Spahr and **Erin Pomrenke ’14**. Robert Spahr is third from left in the second row.

1998



Shannon Gribble adopted her daughter, Samantha Elizabeth, on June 3, 2016. Sammy turned 10 in February.

Chad Paul and his wife, **Evie Morris Paul ’01**, announce the birth of their son, William Michael, on Sept. 8, 2016.

2000



Brian Ryder and his wife, Melissa, announce the birth of their second child, Wesley Vincent, on May 31, 2016. He joins big sister, Mary Ann, 2.

2004



Karley Moss Hensley M’08 and her husband, **Kris ’07**, welcomed their third daughter, Kaitlynn Olivia, on Nov. 28, 2016. She joins big sisters Kaylee and Khloe.

2005



Amy Lester Cabness M’07 and her husband, **Quentin ’09**, welcomed twin girls, Ava Nicole and Jada Ryanne.

2006



Shera Rowan Chandler M’08 and her husband, Tommy, announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Helen, on April 8, 2016.



Elizabeth Barry Stahlman M’13 and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of their daughter, Willow Adeline, on Aug. 31, 2016.

Farewell and Thank You

Frostburg State University wishes the following faculty and staff the best of luck in their retirements:

Kathy Bowman, equipment specialist for Athletics, joined FSU in 2008.

Kathaleen Clise, postal services processor for Mail & Printing Services, joined FSU in 2008.

Dr. Roger Dow, associate dean for the College of Education, joined FSU in 1977.

Ann Parrish, senior accountant in General Accounting, joined FSU in 1990.

William Preston, auto services mechanic, joined FSU in 2006.

Retirements from September 2016 to January 2017 ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL 1

Men's Lacrosse Alumni Reception
Hospitality Suite
Bobcat Stadium
6 p.m.

APRIL 8

Alumni Association Board of Directors Spring Retreat
Hall of Fame Room
Cordts PE Center
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

APRIL 19

Nursing Alumni Mixer
8407 Kitchen Bar
Silver Spring, Md.
6 p.m.

APRIL 20

Nursing Alumni Mixer
Dutch's Daughter
Frederick, Md.
6 p.m.

APRIL 27

USM Day at the Zoo
The Maryland Zoo
in Baltimore
4-7 p.m.

APRIL 28

Children's Literature Centre Spring Festival – Alumni Meet & Greet
South Addition
Lane University Center
5:30 p.m.
- APRIL 29

FSU Spring Golf Invitational
Fore Sisters Golf Course
Rawlings, Md.
11 a.m.

APRIL 29

Women's Soccer Alumni Game & Reception
Bobcat Stadium
2 p.m.

MAY 5

Old Main Society Reception & Concert
Performance by Chamber Singers, University Chorale and Cumberland Choral Society
Lyric Theatre, 20 E. Main St. and Frostburg United Methodist Church,
48 W. Main St.
5 p.m.

MAY 6

Field Hockey Alumni Game
Bobcat Stadium

JUNE 9-10

Football Golf Outing & Reunion
Rocky Gap Casino & Golf Resort

JULY 15

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
University System of Maryland
at Hagerstown
9 a.m.

OCTOBER 19-22

Homecoming 2017

For more information or to RSVP for any event listed, call 301.687.4068, email alumni@frostburg.edu or view the University Events Calendar on the FSU website: www.frostburg.edu.

2011



Kari Naylor Fagan and her husband, Colin '12, announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Marie.

2012



Sharita Sivels Stevens M'15 and her husband, Lester Stevens III, welcomed Lester Stevens IV on Nov. 23, 2016. He joins big sister Shalah. ■

In Memoriam

Alumni

- 1940 Jeanne Arthur Hardy
Jan. 14, 2016
- 1944 Irene Routzahn Blank
Dec. 1, 2016
- Mary Louise Keating
Aug. 26, 2016
- 1949 Flora Cook Lease
Jan. 5, 2017
- 1950 Mary E. Comer Martirano M'81
Dec. 7, 2016
- 1951 Allan R. Williams
July 3, 2016
- 1953 Phyllis A. Folk Wallace
July 23, 2016
- 1954 James L. Cain III
Oct. 20, 2016
- 1955 Phyllis M. Campbell Myers
Nov. 8, 2016
- 1956 James D. Dickey
May 29, 2016
- W. Edward Wallace
June 21, 2015
- Elinor S. Sines Wigfield
Sept. 15, 2016
- 1957 Dr. Donald F. Sellin
May 16, 2016
- Margaret M. Hott Zembower
June 12, 2016

- 1959 Robert L. Carver
March 30, 2016
- 1960 Robert L. Holmes
June 30, 2016
- Charles E. Patton
Nov. 27, 2016
- 1961 Donald L. Unger
Nov. 27, 2016
- 1962 Harold L. Vance
Aug. 1, 2016
- 1963 Kay Juanita Adams Barilla
Aug. 21, 2016
- Ronald J. Windle
Aug. 2, 2016
- 1964 Joseph M. King M'66
June 20, 2016
- Anna R. Knepper Thomas
June 12, 2016
- 1967 Nancy L. Schriver Dressman
Oct. 30, 2016
- Joanne D. Holland Lowery
July 6, 2016
- Gary P. Thomas M'71
Aug. 28, 2016
- 1968 Dr. Bernard J. Keene
Aug. 6, 2016
- Trudy A. Gardiner Lears
Oct. 29, 2016
- Beverly J. Hansroth Mease M'68*
Sept. 7, 2016
- 1970 Eleanor Gilliland Zinck M'72
Aug. 30, 2016
- 1972 George M. Elser
Sept. 16, 2016
- Jo Ann Beckman Resner
Nov. 2, 2016
- 1973 Deborah L. Shacklock
Oct. 19, 2016
- 1975 Barbara A. Wilt Heilig M'80
Oct. 24, 2016
- Sandra J. Mitchell
Sept. 10, 2015
- Joseph T. Sirna, Jr. M'81
Nov. 12, 2016
- 1976 Stephen D. Grimes
July 30, 2016
- 1977 Ivan C. McDaniel
Nov. 12, 2016
- Benny K. Pritts
Nov. 5, 2016
- 1979 Steven L. Bittner M'79
Nov. 8, 2016
- John C. Coffman M'79
Oct. 14, 2016
- Marc W. DeLaney M'79
Sept. 19, 2016
- Gary L. Leasure
Aug. 30, 2016
- 1981 John J. Linhard
Dec. 12, 2016
- 1982 Arnold L. Iser
Aug. 14, 2016

- 1983 Thomas W. Pugh
Sept. 5, 2016
- 1984 Richard J. Veatch, Sr.
March 8, 2016
- 1985 Mark R. Stader M'85
Jan. 6, 2017
- Susan Y. Young Wiswell
Nov. 3, 2016
- Randall E. Zimmerman
Sept. 12, 2016
- 1995 Lawrence A. Potanka
Oct. 5, 2016
- 2000 Wesley S. Robinette
June 24, 2016
- 2003 Dr. Janusz Ochota M'03
Aug. 22, 2016
- Sara R. Pinekenstein
Oct. 16, 2016
- 2011 Carson J. Sommerlatt
Dec. 21, 2016

Friends of the University

- Dr. Clement C. Alpert
Aug. 18, 2016
- Dr. David B. Berkowitz
Dec. 1, 2016
- Esther E. Patterson Biggs*
Oct. 27, 2016
- Joy Bettencourt Colegrove
Sept. 16, 2016
- James T. Frantz III
Feb. 3, 2015
- C. Phillip Gellner
Oct. 7, 2016
- Norman T. Hazard, Jr.
June 27, 2016
- Donald T. Kifer*
Nov. 2, 2016
- Matthew T. Kroll
Sept. 5, 2016
- John W. Lowe
Aug. 28, 2016
- Katherine M. Cerutti Neubauer*
Aug. 6, 2016
- Deirdre O'Connor-Montefiore
June 20, 2016
- Catherine H. Booth O'Neal*
Dec. 4, 2016
- Gerald J. Pasdach
Dec. 16, 2015
- Shryl A. Powell
Oct. 26, 2016
- William E. Riley
April 4, 2016
- Alexander A. Stevens
Jan. 4, 2017
- Shirley F. Wolf
Jan. 8, 2017

*Former faculty or staff member. ■

The Honorable George Beall, who died Jan. 15, 2017, was on the Board of Directors of the J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Institute for Public Affairs at FSU and a former U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. Beall is best known for his investigation into corruption in Baltimore County that ultimately led to the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew in 1973. He spoke at FSU on the 30th anniversary of the resignation. His papers regarding this and other significant cases are housed in FSU's Lewis J. Ort Library in the Beall Archives. A native of Frostburg, Beall was the brother of the late U.S. Sen. J. Glenn Beall, Jr. Their father, J. Glenn Beall, was also a U.S. Senator.



George Beall



Dr. John H. "Jack" Biggs '52, who died Dec. 27, 2016, was a professor of mathematics, teaching at FSU for 27 years. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He enjoyed

varied interests, from acting in community theatre and growing his own vegetables, to reading and designing his Frostburg home. He was instrumental in launching the Frostburg Meals on Wheels program, and, no matter the weather, was often seen riding his bike.

Phyllis Riggelman Brotemarkle '52/M'87, who died Nov. 6, 2016, taught in the Department of English at FSU. Among her activities was dancing with the "Never Too Late Girls," a local senior dance troupe, and gardening, sharing her flowers with her co-workers. She sewed a quilt in honor of the 100th anniversary of the University's founding. "She was a good and popular teacher, known for her patience and kindness," according to her colleague, Dr. Gerry Snelson '65.



Phyllis Brotemarkle

Dr. Ronald J. Clifton, who died Nov. 20, 2016, was a professor in the Department of Educational Professions and the coordinator of the Master of Education in School Counseling, retiring in 1998. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army. His interests included football, music, books and spending time with his family. He was known for his sense of humor. Among his five daughters is Dr. Becky Gallagher, an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation.



Dr. Ronald Clifton



Dr. Brian Lockard

instructional and leadership positions. He retired in 1998 as Superintendent of Schools. He also taught education and coordinated the graduate program in administration at McDaniel College following retirement from the school system. He was a 1998 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and a founder and champion of the Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership. He is survived by his widow, Lynda Tinsley Lockard '65, son, Dr. Stephen A. Lockard '92, and daughter, Laura Lockard Francisco.

Ed Sweeney, who died Jan. 28, 2017, was a former FSU head football coach who led the Bobcats from 1996-99. Sweeney, the program's ninth head coach, guided Frostburg to 30 overall wins (30-11), which is the current winning percentage record for a Bobcat football coach (.732). Among his many accomplishments, Sweeney posted a perfect 4-0 record against cross-state



Coach Ed Sweeney

rival Salisbury and has two Eastern College Athletic Conference Bowl Game wins.

Retired Air Force Col. Donnie White '75, who died Nov. 30, 2016, was a member of the Bobcat Hall of Fame and translated the insight he gained from college athletics into a career in aerospace and operational physiology in the Department of Defense. As a human factors and human performance consultant, he participated on 14 Class A safety investigation boards, two accident investigation boards and four medical incident investigation boards, including the investigation into the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. He was a high-altitude, low-opening and static-line master parachutist with more than 4,500 parachute deployments. He was honored numerous times for his scientific achievements in human performance for aviation and aerospace. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



Col. Donnie White

Dr. John Wiseman, who died Jan. 23, 2017, spent 36 years teaching in the Department of History. He was a distinguished scholar, an active member of the University and local communities and a dedicated teacher. He received the Outstanding Mentor Award and the Faculty Achievement Award twice. He wrote a book on the history of the Democratic Party and coauthored *Allegany County: A History* and a collection of essays on Maryland life and culture. Among the diverse forums he organized at FSU were explorations of the Vietnamese War, the Holocaust, World War II and feature films. Just before retiring, he organized a national conference on the history of baseball and later published *Joy in Mudville: Essays on Baseball and American Life*. ■



Dr. John Wiseman

Remembering Alice Manicur

Dr. Alice Manicur, who passed away on Jan. 2, 2017, was many things. Frostburg State's first dean of students. A steadfast advocate for students who also pushed them to be their best. An avid and fearless world traveler. A trailblazer. A role model for women in higher education administration well beyond Frostburg. A friend to scores of colleagues and graduates.

She dedicated 47 years of her career to FSU and shaped it in innumerable ways. The Summer Planning Conference – now Preview FSU – was the model that hundreds of other universities followed. She championed hosting the AmeriCorps national service program, making FSU one of the first in the nation to do so. The Cultural Events Series, the Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership, career services, residence hall programming, the Honors Convocation, Introduction to Higher Ed – all of these FSU mainstays had her fingerprints in their origins.

"She was a very humble person," said colleague **Bill Mandicott**, whom she hired in 1989, but she was also very well known in her field. She was the first woman president of NASPA – Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education and named a NASPA Woman of Distinction. She is in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. A national conference for women aspiring to student affairs leadership is named for her. But she struggled with those kind of accolades, of which there were many. When President **Catherine Gira** named the multi-use room in the Lane University Center in her honor, it was a surprise. It had to be.

"Her lens was focused on what was best for the student," Mandicott said. That was Alice Manicur.

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