SEPTEMBER 2019
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1
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Message from the Dean

Welcome to the fall, 2019 issue of the Connect.Ed. As a comprehensive university, Frostburg State University engages and supports all College of Education students in their learning, exploration, involvement and in their ability to become leaders throughout their communities. Frostburg State University is the most diverse university in Maryland housing faculty in the departments of Recreation and Parks and Education Professions improving learning outcomes for all students regardless of background is their primary focus. I encourage you to read the newsletter and explore how you might engage in the Bobcat College of Education experience. Because of the collective collaboration and innovation, this year has been filled with many student, faculty and staff achievements worthy of mention. Should you have any questions or want to volunteer please email us at COE@frostburg.edu

Frostburg State University Awarded $4 Million for Maryland Accelerates Teacher Education Program

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Frostburg State University nearly $4.1 million over five years for the Maryland Accelerates program, a partnership that is designed to increase the number of certified teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects (STEM) in Maryland schools, as well as provide a career path for established teachers to mentor new educators.

The program is in partnership with Frederick County and Garrett County public school systems and FSU’s Master of Arts in Teaching degree. “This grant allows Frostburg State University to build on its historic strength in teacher preparation while addressing the needs of the school systems today and in the future,” said FSU President Ronald Nowaczyk. “The goal of this program will be to extend what is learned to other high-need school systems.”

The program is expected to impact more than 40 new teachers, more than 130 experienced teachers who become mentors and coaches, and about 4,500 students in the mostly rural communities with a high need for STEM teachers.
Frostburg State University Awarded $4 Million

The Maryland Accelerates program contains goals that build on one another. The Master of Arts in Teaching is a full-time program that prepares students with a bachelor’s degree for teacher certification. The Maryland Accelerate program will allow those teacher candidates who want to teach STEM subjects to receive a living stipend to cover expenses during the process. Working with FSU’s Professional Development Partnership schools in the two counties the teacher candidates will complete a yearlong residency experience, completing the necessary fieldwork in classrooms. Finally, the experienced teachers in those schools will develop their mentorship and coaching skills which will prepare them to work with new teachers in an official capacity. This serves two purposes: Its designed to prevent the significant numbers of new teachers who leave the profession within their first couple of years, and it provides a better career pathway for experienced teachers who want to progress in their field but stay in the classroom.

Creating professional development pathways is a key feature of the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, the initiative to improve Maryland’s public education system. “This innovative program is one of the very few teacher preparation programs to receive funding from the Department of Education,” said Dr. Boyce Williams, interim dean of the College of Education. “This program serves educators from the candidate level through to veteran mentor teachers.” The first year of the five-year grant will be spent planning and developing the specifics of the program. The first students will be enrolled beginning in 2020. For more information, contact the FSU College of Education at 301-687-4759. Situated in the mountains of Allegany County, Frostburg State University is one of the 12 institutions of the University System of Maryland. FSU is a comprehensive, residential regional university and serves as an educational and cultural center for Western Maryland. For more information, visit [www.frostburg.edu](http://www.frostburg.edu) or [facebook.com/frostburgstateuniversity](http://facebook.com/frostburgstateuniversity). Follow FSU on Twitter @frostburgstate. FSU is committed to making all of its programs, services and activities accessible to persons with disabilities. To request accommodations through the ADA Compliance Office, call 301-687-4102 or use a Voice Relay Operator at 1-800-735-2258.

Announcements

Dr. Kim Rotruck has recently been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Education. She has been on the faculty of FSU for 24 years, including Education Programs Coordinator at USMH and elementary science faculty education.

Dr. Sally Stephenson has been elected as chair of the Department of Educational Professions. As a faculty member since 2001, she teaches early childhood, music and integrated arts classes as well.

The HUB@USMH & The HUB @Wolfsville Summer Programs

The HUB: Families Engaged in Early Learning, in its fifth year, was born out of need in the community for early learning supports for families new to the area, including families with children identified with learning differences addressed with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP). The HUB@USMH and The HUB@Wolfsville came together this summer to offer an early learning program called Little PALS (Promoting Awareness in Literacy Skills) based on the University PALS model, created by Dr. Kris McGee. University PALS provided over 110 children ages 4-12 with a summer programming focused on the love of literacy and learning for fun!

This highly successful model encouraged The HUB: Families Engaged in Early Learning, to create a summer program that focused on building prior knowledge and engaging in the social emotional skills required to be a successful and happy young learner. Little PALS programming this summer was two days per week for the month of July and first week of August. The students had one day of classroom activities and one day of field trips for each of the five weeks. The classroom activities had an academic focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Math), while incorporating social emotional goals for early childhood learning (sharing and caring) and the basics of class structures (circle time and following directions). The second day of programming was used for Little PALS field trips, sponsored by The Alice and David Fletcher Foundation.
CLC Book Banquet Award

On October 5th the CLC its 8th annual Book Award Banquet at the Lyric Theatre. This year’s book winner was the author of the acclaimed children’s book “Drawn Together” by Minh Lê. Over 60 students, teachers and faculty attended the event. The banquet was followed by Minh Lê autographing “Drawn Together” and other books he has written.

Storybook Holiday

On December 7th, 2019 the CLC will host the 16th annual Storybook Holiday event. Traditionally the community the event engages the greater Western Maryland residents at City Place in Frostburg. Activities for families and children include breakfast with the elves, a parade, Secret Santa Workshop, and much more. Santa is the feature guest. The invited author is Debbie Brenneman. The invited illustrator is Melinda Bishoff. The feature book is “The Perfect Tree for Mrs. B.”

University PALS (Promoting Awareness of Literacy Skills)

University PALS (Promoting Awareness of Literacy Skills) began 8 years ago with only dream and 7 students. Today, the PALS program serves over 80 children from our community. The PALS program offers learning that focus on a love of reading, creating, and dreaming. Several of the original PALS scholars are now serving as teacher assistants and are helping to teach our youngest scholars, while they continue to grow as readers. This summer teacher assistants participated in our first ever #LunchBunch book club. They met to read and discuss books they were reading and promote books to one another to add to their “to be read” pile.

The PALS program also serves as a place for the recent graduates from Frostburg State University to be hired to teach during the summer program. It is also a place for post-graduate students to hone their leadership skills serving in a leadership role for the program.

Children’s Literature Center (CLC) Fall, Winter 2019 Events

For the love of reading, writing, creating, and dreaming!
Recreation and Tourism complete Feasibility Study

During summer 2019 Dr. Natalia Buta conducted a study examining the spectrum of recreation users in the Western Maryland region. The study reported the economic impact of visitors to the Western Maryland forests in the region. A survey was developed collaboratively with the Maryland Forest Service and completed by visitors to the forests. The study concluded that the visitation to the forest yielded 87 jobs equating to 2,071,757 in labor income to the region. Dr. Buta presented the results of this study to the Maryland Outdoor Recreation Economic (MORE) Commission meeting in July. The MORE Commission is working on crafting recommendations to grow the state’s outdoor recreation, and heritage tourism economy. The study will be useful in guiding future recreation and tourism plans and budgetary allocations to support recreation efforts in Western Maryland.

Soofa Bench (A Solar Powered Bench) Installed on Campus

Dr. Natalia Buta was awarded an FSU Sustainability Grant to support the purchase and installation of a solar powered bench on campus which can charge any USB powered digital device. Students can sit on the bench and charge their digital device. Students from Recreation and Parks Management Park and Facilitates Design class (RECR 342) worked with the FSU maintenance team to determine the best location for the Soofa Bench. The bench was installed on the upper balcony at the library on campus on September 16th, 2019. The bench has a backrest that will be used for posting messages promoting the programs in the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation. The Soofa Bench will bring awareness to the campus body of alternative energy resources.
The Department of Kinesiology and Recreation organized their 1st tailgate party and welcome back event on Thursday, September 5th at 5pm before the football game with West Virginia State University. The department had a tent located in the Stadium parking lot and students and faculty in the department were invited to attend. There was free food, non-alcoholic beverages, and games for everyone. The department wants to continue to show their support for our football team while building community and connections between our students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Parks and Recreation students stormed across the United States in May 2019 to begin their dream experience in the recreation industry for their internship. The 23 students spent several weeks during the spring semester developing their resumes, preparing for interviews and researching opportunities to position themselves for an internship. The students were exited that they landed the internship their heart desired. Students got internships in Oregon, California, Colorado, Delaware, Virginia, Illinois, New York, and all over Maryland.

Several of the supervisors at the internships were alumni from Frostburg State University who graduated from the Recreation and Parks Management Program. The student’s experiences were as diverse as their interests. Some worked as a conservation ranger for the Bureau of Land Management at Oregon’s shore. Other students worked within the therapeutic recreating setting ranging from community settings to a state psychiatric hospital. Others worked as coaches, and summer camp directors. The students were noticed as superior employees and gained more responsibilities during their internship. The students accomplished many things for the communities they were serving in.

Students applied and received $40,000 in grants to construct a new playground in Frostburg. Students served over 15,000 people on 4th of July at Sandy Point State Park. Students were also able to build new relationships with partner agencies and groups to meet the needs of new customers. For those that returned to campus to complete their course work, they are now focused and confident young professionals with a goal in sight and a burning desire to continue to move towards what they desire their place in the recreation and leisure industry.

Frostburg State University’s School of Education has recently parented with Robotics and Engineering in Allegany County Together, Inc. (REACT) to support youth robotics education in the area. After hearing about REACT through its partnership with the Department of Physics and Engineering, Dr. Boyce Williams, Dean of the School of Education, understood the importance of collaborating with this local nonprofit to improve the quality of educational opportunities for public and parochial students in grades K-12. REACT’s mission is to develop engaging and fun robotics learning and character building experiences for all young people throughout Allegany County. REACT challenges students to use critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills to address real-world problems.

This fall, the Department of Educational Professions has aided in the establishment of a new FIRST LEGO League team for Frostburg area students which will practice in Framptom Hall. This partnership provided staff volunteers serving as coaches and the use of facilities to practice. This allowed REACT to meet their goal of establishing a team for every elementary school in Allegany County. In addition, the College of Education is assisting REACT in planning its first Allegany County FIRST LEGO League Qualifier. This robotics tournament will be held Saturday January 11, 2020 in the Cordts PE Center. Over 75 volunteers are needed as judges, referees, scorekeepers and chaperones to help more than 200 4th, 8th grade students compete for a chance to go to the Maryland state tournament at UMBC in late February.

No experience is necessary to volunteer. To learn more, please contact Dr. Williams or Lesa Edwards at lmedwards@us.ibm.com.

ED Professions News and Recreation and Parks Update

FSU and Allegany County Collaborate with Robotics

Igniting Their Fires for Recreation Industry
Dr. Deborah A. Fortune will join the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation as a visiting professor during the fall semester, October 21st to November 2nd. Dr. Fortune is an associate professor in the Department of Health Education at North Carolina Central University and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Prior to her current position, Dr. Fortune was the director of the National HIV & CSHE Project with the American Association for Health Education.

Her research interests include HIV and sexual health among African American college, youth violence prevention, professional preparation in health education, and faculty and youth mentoring. She has published and made numerous presentations on those topics. During her visit at FSU, Dr. Fortune will deliver a lecture to our students focused on her research, will share information with the department about health education, and explore the possibility of collaborating on research projects. This is a great opportunity for the department, and the faculty and students in the department are really appreciative and looking forward to Dr. Fortune’s visit.

**Deborah A. Fortune**

Deborah A. Fortune, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Education at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). In addition, she serves as the NCAA Faculty Athletics representative for NCCU. Prior to her current position, Dr. Fortune served as the Director of the National HIV & CSHE Project with the American Association for Health Education. In that capacity, she focused on developing national standards and the infrastructure for HIV prevention education for children and adolescent with the context of school health education. Dr. Fortune has over 25 years of experience with HIV prevention and sexual health among African American college women, youth violence prevention, and professional preparation in health education. She has published and made numerous presentations on those topics. In addition, Dr. Fortune has received grant funding from the federal office of HIV/AIDS Policy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNC Center for AIDS Research.

In terms of professional service, Dr. Fortune is the past chair of the Board of Commissioners for the National Commission for Heath Education Credentialing, past member of the Board of Trustees for the Society for Public Health Education; former member of the Advisory Board for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club in Durham, North Carolina; former Associate Editor for the Global Journal of Health Education and Promotion; Fellow of the American Association for Health Education; and recipient of the 2019 Faculty Senate Outstanding Service Award at NCCU and 2008 Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award.

**Teacher Academy Conference**

On August 6-8, 2019 the College of Education held the first annual Teacher Academy Conference at FSU. Teachers from all counties in the state of Maryland that are affiliated with the Teacher Academy program along with MSDE representatives were invited to attend the conference. The College of Education has been working the past two years to build relationships with these teachers and directors.

Over the course of the three days the participants enjoyed learning about a variety of topics with a centered focus on diversity. Several faculty from the College of Education presented including: Dr. Fannia Boayue, Dr. Jackie Durst, Dr. Jodi Eirich, Dr. Janet Mattern, Dr. Emily Milleson, Dr. Sarah O’Neal, Dr. Jennifer Rankin, and Dr. Kim Rotruck. The topics presented included: family engagement, discussion techniques, sensory processing, children’s literature, educational technology, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Across the three days Dr. Boyce Williams (Interim Dean for the College of Education), Mrs. Arlene Cash (Vice President for Enrollment Management), and Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk (President) brought greetings and shared their own teaching stories. Participants were able to take a campus tour, with a special stop the athletic training lab where Dr. Durst had various activities that allowed them to explore the facility.

On the third day of the conference the keynote speaker, Suzanne Haley spoke on intraspective diversity awareness and helped participants think about their own perceptions and interactions with other cultures. She is a co-founder of Changing the Lens, a grassroots movement dedicated to changing the view of race and racism in American by examining truth and awakening empathy to activate courageous citizenship. Additionally, admissions and financial aid representatives shared information with the participants that they could return to their schools and share with their perspective students. To cap off the event a student panel comprised of Ellie Bolton, Ben Benson, and Taylor Hughes shared their first hand experiences at FSU with the participants. Overall the conference was a success and the participants had many positive comments about their time that they shared.
The Future Frostburg Teachers Teaching (F2T2) Camp

The Future Frostburg Teachers Teaching (F2T2) Camp was held on June 22-225, 2019. This teaching apprenticeship camp is a collaboration between Frostburg State University, Evergreen Heritage Center and Allegany County Public Schools. Attendance in the camp was up 300% from last year and was at maximum capacity. Students from Washington Middle, Braddock Middle and Mt. Savage attended the camp which engaged the students in a variety of space-themed STEM activities led by Dr. Jennifer Rankin and Dr. Sarah O’Neal.

Students learned about the skills humans would need to have to travel to space or live on Mars. They explored the basics of gardening and planted potato pots at Evergreen, learning about psychological challenges of isolation from Dr. Henderson and tested their endurance and participated in underwater astronaut training challenges with faculty from the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation.

Throughout the week, campers learned about space through virtual reality simulations and a planetarium presentation and learned how to fly drones to reach places that humans could not. Then, they built and coded LEGO EV3 robots to complete space-themed challenges such as, releasing cargo, collecting minerals and facilitating a spacewalk. They also identified a problem that people might have in space and designed a solution using the Engineering Design Process.

They also designed infomercials to advertise their solution and share with guests to the camp. The students were presented with certificated from Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, President of Frostburg State University and Dr. Boyce Williams, Interim Dean of the College of Education.

New this year, was the addition of an elective course for M.Ed. students, who assisted with camp planning, facilitation of activities and evaluation. The F2T2 camp is made possible with funding from a Frostburg State University foundation grant.

Introducing the New Faculty!

Gerald W. Kiel
I am a Lecturer in the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program and I’m teaching EDLP 781, and EDLP 902. This is my 39th year in higher education, and I have served in a number of senior leadership roles in student affairs and academic affairs. I have also taught both doctoral and undergraduate students in the past. I came to FSU from Ohio State.

Christina M. Durham
I just moved here from Port Deposit, MD in Cecil County. However, I was raised in Columbia, MD in Howard County. I have been married from 13 years to my husband Brooks Durham and we have two beautiful boys, Brooks Jr. and Tristan. I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education at Washington Bible College, my Master’s in Education at Regent University, and my Education Specialist and my Doctor of Education from Liberty University. I have taught in elementary schools in St. Mary’s County, Baltimore County, and Harford Country. I was an adjunct instructor at Towson University and an online instructor for Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Virginia International University. I teach in the undergraduate program in the P-9 program. I teach EDUC 100, 201, 307, 401, and 422, along with REED 323. I am enjoying my first semester here and getting to know the students and working with the faculty! I am so excited to see many students having the desire to teach children and to make an impact in their lives.

Maureen D. Hamilton
In addition to being excited with my new position at FSU, my experience thus far has exceeded my expectations! I am enjoying working with friendly and helpful colleagues, and appreciate the excellent onboarding processes both in the department and the university. My background consists of 25 years in elementary, middle, and high school teaching and as a school administrator. I also worked for 9 years for a Financial Institution as a Director of the Corporate Education and Continuing Professional Education Division. I obtained my Bachelors in Elementary Education from Towson University, have two Masters Degrees, one from Loyola University in Curriculum and Instruction, and one from Wilmington University in Business and Organizational Leadership. My doctorate is in Educational Leadership with the focus on Innovation and Leadership, also from Wilmington University.

Seniz Celimli-Aksoy
I recently joined the Educational Professions department as an assistant professor of educational research. I have a Ph.D. in Research, Measurement, and Evaluation from the University of Miami and I also have a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. My main expertise is on quantitative methods and applications of quantitative research designs in social sciences and educational setting.
Introducing the New Faculty!

Seniz Celimli-Aksoy
This semester I am teaching four graduate level courses in our department: one doctoral level quantitative methods course and three other master’s level courses on research methods, internship in school counseling, and research applications in education. I am very excited to be part of the College of Education faculty and looking forward to a great academic year and more to come.

Martin Barrett
I arrived at Frostburg State University having spent the last three years at North Carolina State University where I received my Doctorate in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. I worked professionally as a sport and physical activity manager in the United Kingdom, which is home. My family my wife and two children join me here in Frostburg, and we have been blown away by the warm welcome we have received in the community. As a new faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation, I will be mostly contributing to the new Sport Promotion and Communication and Sport Management concentration that have been added to the existing Recreation and Parks Management programs. This semester I am teaching courses Introduction to Sport Management, Current Issues in Sport Management, and Facilities Planning and Management. I am extremely honored to be here at FSU at what is an exciting time for the program.

Carita R. Mills
I am an alumni of Frostburg State University. I graduated in 2013 with my B.S. in athletic training. I served as the head athletic trainer at Potomac State College for 5 years prior to taking this job. I am excited to be back in a different role to pour into the program that formed my professional career. I will be teaching several athletic training classes and one exercise science class.

Upcoming Events

Storybook Holiday December 7, 2019