

Connect.ED

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Dean

Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of Connect. Ed. As you know this past year has been one of responding to the realities of 2021, especially the COVID-19 pandemic and the tragic deaths that brought issues of systematic racism to the forefront. Our CoE faculty was able to successfully pivot and continue to offer the same quality of education to students whether they were online or in hybrid format. On Saturday December 18, 2021, FSU was finally able to honor its 2020 graduates as well as its 2021 graduates in a ceremony that was both safe and respectful. As we look forward to our Spring 2022 semester, we will continue to congratulate our students, staff, and faculty on their ability to adjust and succeed in this “new normal”. Please remember, *“Our Door is Always Open.”*



Boyce C. Williams, Ph.D.

Kinesiology and Recreation Dept. Receives \$280,000 from MSDE

The Maryland State Department of Education signed an agreement with Frostburg State University to develop an online High School Level 1 Physical Education Curriculum for use in Maryland Public Schools.

Given the importance of delivering high-quality physical education courses to all high school students and the fact that some students have circumstances that do not allow them to participate in the traditional face-to-face course, MSDE has identified the need for an online physical education course that could reach students statewide.



The Kinesiology and Recreation Department was awarded \$280,000 to complete this project. Dr. Rebecca Gallagher, Program Coordinator, and Dr. Nicole Bosley are the principal investigators for this innovative and forward thinking program. Congratulations are extended on behalf of The College

The College of Education Welcomes
Two New Staff Members



Ms. Anne Winters
The College of Education welcomes Ms. Anne Winters as the Research Associate II to the Maryland Accelerates Program.
A native of Frostburg, Ms. Winters recently relocated from Washington State. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in the Spring of 2022.
Her role will include managing and redesign of the College of Education website & newsletter as well as assisting with marketing and design for Maryland Accelerates.



Ms. Lori Kimble-Beal
The College of Education welcomes Ms. Lori Kimble-Beal as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Dean's office.
A native of Cumberland, Ms. Kimble-Beal attended Allegany College of Maryland and has 25 years of service as an Office Administrator for a local church in Allegany County.
Her role will consist of serving as the first point of contact for the Dean's office and she will be responsible for the daily functioning of the COE Administrative office. Ms. Kimble-Beal will also maintain the COE budget, verify contracts, and coordinate administrative responsibility of COE projects.

'A magical time': Storybook Holiday spreads seasonal cheer in Frostburg
Lindsay Renner-Wood Cumberland Times News

Storybook Holiday has a way of bringing people together, to the point where one can even observe Santa Claus and The Grinch sharing space on a parade float. Hundreds of folks gathered in the Mountain City on Saturday for the Frostburg State University Children's Literature Centre's popular annual event, which returned for an in-person celebration this year after the pandemic forced it to modify last year's offering.



Marty Rhodes Figley reads from her book "Santa's Underwear".

Little touches of public health-related mindfulness were present — like masked elves and limits on the size of the crowd inside Santa's workshop — but the event was as cheery and well-attended as ever in its 18th year. One of the day's first big events was the Elf Olympics held on Broadway. In the parking lot, 12 teams competed in the first two challenges — a two-round cookie toss followed by marshmallow catching. After the second event, roughly half the teams were eliminated, and the rest moved on to competitive gift-wrapping and tree decorating. All told, team "Electric Elves" took home the gold. Following a lively parade down Main Street, folks moved back toward Broadway and City Place, where a long line of people waiting to enter the Elves' Secret Workshop assembled. On one side, kids could sit and write letters to Santa that they'd drop in a big red mailbox. On the other, while waiting in line to pass through the workshop and take home a craft kit, kids and their families could pose for pictures with the elves.

"We were expecting a big rush, and I think we got it," said Sarah O'Neal, director of the Children's Literature Centre. O'Neal said it was exciting to host the event in-person once more, and the big crowd in attendance was evidence of how much the day was missed. "We were really excited to be back this year," O'Neal said. "We really only have a few restrictions, of course, but we wanted to make sure everyone was safe. But it feels great. We've had phone calls in the center since last year asking me if we were coming back in person, so we're really excited to be back." The way the community comes together to celebrate and support Storybook Holiday "makes the whole thing really special," O'Neal said, from the big turnout to the participation of local businesses, municipal agencies and other organizations.

"We're just really excited in general," O'Neal said. "I think it's really well-received, as you can tell by the doors to get in." Ellie Bolton, a graduate assistant at the Centre, served as the head elf, which entailed helping to organize the day and make sure everything ran smoothly throughout the course of the celebration. Saturday's Storybook Holiday was the fifth in which she participated. Seeing their hard work coming to fruition and "all of the magic within the kids," Bolton said, made an already rewarding day even better.

"All the pieces align, and as a volunteer you really get to see the magic," Bolton said. "It really is a magical time." In between guiding groups through the new station during their "Cocoa with the PoPo" event, Frostburg Police Chief Nicholas Costello said that they normally get about 300 kids and parents throughout the day. Storybook Holiday, Costello said, "is one of the most fantastic events." Like Bolton, he said the day is a "magical" one. "It's just a very magical thing," Costello said. "It brings the holiday spirit to Frostburg and a really positive feeling."

Frostburg Hosts "Next Generation Scholars"

Early in the fall semester, the College of Education partnered with the Next Generation Scholars Program to host a college boot camp called Jump Start Your Future Day!

The Next Generation Scholars is a state grant program that provides funding for college access through nonprofit organizations to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income Maryland high school students. Seven high school students from Fort. Hill and Allegany High Schools in Cumberland, Maryland, explored Frostburg State University's beautiful campus and various programs. A total of 18 programs from across campus participated in Jump Start Your Future Day. This was a total interdisciplinary learning experience! Some highlights from the day included a hands on 3D augmented reality sandbox experiment from the geography department, an EcoBrick demonstration from the sustainability department, a tour of the anatomy & physiology lab where students explored human skeletons, a walk through time with the history department learning about primary sources, a look into creating items for elementary and middle school classrooms using Circuit Design Software with educational professions, and a planetarium show in the multimedia learning center in Compton. Many other departments and representatives from visuals art, law and society, biology, business, physics, engineering, and life facilities management shared information about their programs throughout the day.

The students were able to eat lunch at Chesapeake dining hall and tour the new dorm. Also included in the tour was a behind the scenes look at the TV studio and production control room in CCIT. The students ended their day exploring the Cordt's PE Center and participated in a Recreation and Parks Management demonstration.

Events from these special partnerships begin with students at a young age to help them realize college is possible! Results from these efforts are now being seen full circle when a Next Gen Scholar joins the Bobcat family. A former Next Gen Scholar is now part of FSU's cross-country team. Another camper from FSU's F2T2 Teacher's Camp experience attended Jump Start Your Future Day. During his visit he said, "Hey, there is Frampton where I attended the F2T2 program!" It was such a great feeling to know that each student made all kinds of connections between FSU and their previous experiences. Students were comfortable being on campus due to all of the wonderful opportunities and partnerships that we have created together over the years!

Homecoming 2021

College of Education Tailgate



Dr. Jacqueline Durst and students at the COE Tailgate event for Homecoming 2021

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, during the FSU homecoming game, the COE, spearheaded by the Kinesiology and Recreation department hosted a tailgate party for all students, faculty, and alumni. This was not the first time that this event was hosted by the department, but it was the first time that it was headed by a Texan and staffed by a group of undergraduates in one of his courses. New faculty member, Dr. Jeff Farr and multiple students from his Program Planning class (RECR 382) designed and executed a plan that made this year's event a smashing success. Originally from Texas by way of Illinois, Dr. Farr made sure that this year's event wasn't limited in food options, bringing a signature chili and queso to the party, adding spice and warmth to a cool and overcast day.

Assisting in the coordinating, setting up, operating, and breaking down the event were Recreation and Parks Management undergraduates Aronne Dutton, Marcel Frazier, Ja'Marcus Holt, Ryan Hoskinson, and Trevor Jones, Frostburg State Rec Society president Maura Brennen and activities chairperson Jordyn Bateman, and multiple faculty members, including Drs. Martin Barrett, Natalia Buta, Jackie Durst, Hunter Brakeall., and Dean Williams. Without these helping hands and the generous donations from numerous members of the COE community, this event would not have been possible.



Next Generation Scholars (NGS) is a state grant program established by Maryland House Bill 1403 (2016) that provides funding for college access through nonprofit organizations to enhance college and career awareness and college completion for low-income Maryland high school students.



Athletic Training Program and Allied Health Care Students pose for a photography following the IEP Poverty Simulation



Frostburg State University Alumni, Dr. Brandon Holland



FSU 2021 - 2022 Rugby Football Club Team

Athletic Training Updates

IEP Poverty Simulation

The graduate Athletic Training Program collaborated with other Frostburg State University allied health care programs to host its first inter-professional education activity this fall semester. Nursing, Health Science, Physician Assistant, and the Athletic Training programs partnered with Bridges to Opportunity to organize the event. Bridges to Opportunity in Cumberland, Maryland is a partnership with organizations and individuals that desire to serve families and help bridge the opportunity gap in education, health, and basic needs. Bridges to Opportunity provides a service directory and self-help resource to both nonprofit service providers and assistance seekers.

Students from each program engaged in the simulation by role playing as families living in poverty and had to navigate through life’s challenges. Faculty from each program served as community members or organizations. This was a great learning opportunity for all students! Inter-professional cooperation with health care workers and community organizations can be a powerful tool to help understand what a patient is going through and how to identify, manage, and overcome patient barriers to provide an elevated level of care. Inter-professional education experiences help students prepare for future collaborations with a multitude of healthcare professions as they move forward in their academic and professional careers with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

Alumni Spotlight

The graduate Athletic Training Program welcomed Dr. Brandon Holland as this year’s alumni speaker. Dr. Holland is a dedicated licensed athletic trainer for Prince William County Schools, an Adjunct Professor for Concordia University, and Clinical Preceptor for George Mason University. He also co-hosts a podcast with a fellow FSU AT alum, called Top_DAT, where they discuss various challenging and timely issues in and around the field of Athletic Training and Sports Medicine. His latest position is serving as the state representative for the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee. He is currently collaborating on partnerships with FSU’s Athletic Training graduate program and Historically Black Institutions in Maryland to increase diversity within the athletic training profession. Dr. Holland truly has a passion for athletic training and has been a wonderful role model for many students!

Rugby is Alive and Well at Frostburg!

Curt Baker Ed.D.



Curt Baker, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership program, has been named Head Coach of Frostburg’s Rugby program. “After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Rugby is resurgent here at Frostburg,” noted Baker. “Every player on this team truly considers it an honor to represent Frostburg, both on and off the rugby pitch. Our team is fully committed to making rugby a point of pride for our University.”

Perhaps more than any other sport, rugby emphasizes sportsmanship, teamwork, camaraderie, and fair play. Rugby is an intense competition among friends. Frostburg Rugby competes in the Mid-Atlantic Rugby conference against great programs like Towson, UMBC, Loyola, and Georgetown. Dr. Baker is looking for assistant coaches who love the sport and want to help develop a prominent program here at FSU. If interested, please contact Dr. Baker directly at cdbaker@frostburg.edu.

Costa Rica- Pura Vida Trip, Summer 2022

Natalia Buta, Ph.D.

Explore ecotourism principles in the context of a country that is considered to be the ecotourism capital of the world. This study abroad experience is integrated as the experiential component of RECR 448 Principles of Ecotourism during summer session 2022. The dates of travel are Thursday, May 26, through Friday, June 3, 2022. The trip is open to any FSU student.

Students will engage in hands-on experiences as they board canal boats, kayaks, rafts and zip-lines to get an up-close and personal look at the ever-changing landscapes and unparalleled animal and plant life. The trip includes visits to five national parks in Costa Rica.

For info, contact the faculty trip leader, Dr. Natalia Buta, an associate professor in FSU’s Department of Kinesiology and Recreation, at nbuta@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4458, or visit <https://www.frostburg.edu/student-life/campus-services/center-for-international-ed/study-abroad/student-abroad-programs.php>.



Sabbatical Announcements



Heather Hurst, Ph.D.

The request for Dr. Heather Hurst’s sabbatical has been granted. Dr Hurst’s sabbatical will focus on the development and submission for publication of a scholarship of teaching and learning paper about the pedagogy and design of the course “Applying Theory and Research in Practice.” Additionally, Dr. Hurst will engage in empirical research comparing the discourses of students in the 2016 and 2020 cohorts. She plans to investigate whether the students demonstrate “discursive” changes regarding their scholarly development in relation to their practitioner identities.

This work will allow Frostburg State University to position itself to move from “Implementing” to “Experienced” by The Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate (CPED). The consistent research and scholarly work by Dr. Hurst will also position Frostburg State University to apply for the prestigious CPED Program of the Year Award in 2023 or 2024.



Natalia Buta, Ph.D.

The request for Dr. Natalia Buta’s sabbatical has been granted for Spring of 2023. Dr. Buta’s project will consist of creating CANOE (Center for Advancement of Natural and Outdoor Experiences.) The center will follow a business model by providing various services, including research and consulting services for outdoor recreation resource development. Dr. Buta will also conduct research examining the status of outdoor outfitter services in Western Maryland.

This research is ambitious and supports FSU’s strategic goal to expand regional outreach and engagement all while advancing FSU’s mission to deliver student-centered teaching and learning featuring experimental opportunities to promote regional and economic workforce development.

Master of Arts in Teaching
Student Spotlight



Jesseca Sleeman

Frostburg State MAT Program Candidate

“I spent over fifteen years working in finance, but never let go of my dream to go into the education profession. My own teachers had a tremendous impact on my mindset and sense of capability. The intrinsic reward of possibly playing a small part in helping students to understand the value of education, and to see the opportunities that education can afford the throughout their lives, is irresistible to me. I pray my passion for education, and for creating a safe space for children to learn, will have an unending ripple effect. I’m so grateful that Frostburg’s MAT program has created an opportunity for me to finally walk that path.”

Maryland Accelerates Update

The College of Education is pleased to announce that seven teacher-residents have graduated from the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Elementary Education as part of the \$4.1 million-dollar Maryland Accelerates (MA) grant. The graduates are now serving as teacher-fellows in Garret and Frederick County Public Schools.

The Maryland Accelerate program allows students who have obtained a bachelor’s degree to achieve a master’s degree in 13 months. The teacher residency program consists of two-tracks: Master of Arts in Teaching-Elementary (MAT-E) or Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary (MAT-S). Dr. Kristine McGee serves as the MAT-E Program Coordinator and Dr. Jennifer Bishoff serves as the MAT-S Program Coordinator.

Graduates of the program may obtain a certified teacher certificate following 13 months of residency in local classrooms. During the residency months, the students also receive a \$30,000 living stipend to use at their discretion.

Currently, Maryland Accelerates has 16 teacher-residents enrolled in either the MAT-E or MAT-S program for the academic year of 2021-2022. These teacher-residents are working alongside experienced teacher mentors and coaches in the partnering school districts. The residency experience allows public school teachers to serve in leadership capacities and develop their mentorship and coaching skills while preparing the program’s teacher-residents to manage a classroom on their own. This approach serves two defined purposes: It prepares and retains highly qualified teachers in Maryland, and it provides a better career pathway for experienced teachers who want to progress in their field but stay in the classroom.

Barbara Baker, superintendent of GCPS, stated, “Engaging our students for a competitive future requires highly effective educators that have the expertise and training to help all students succeed and thrive. Garrett County Public Schools is proud to partner with Frostburg State University on the Maryland Accelerates program and its innovative approach to teacher-preparation. We believe that partnering with FSU will not only build capacity in our teachers but will also have an impact in narrowing the opportunity and achievement gaps for our students and our community.”



Scan the QR code above to follow Maryland Accelerates and receive updates on social media

Over the five-year grant period, the program is expected to create more than 40 new teachers, assist 130 experienced teachers to become mentors and coaches, and impact 4,500 public school students in mostly rural communities with a high need for STEM teachers.

The Maryland Accelerates Executive Advisory Board plans to meet for their annual meeting on January 20, 2022. Teacher-residents and Teacher-fellows will present an overview of their experience with the program during this meeting.



Children’s Literature Centre

Life has been extremely busy and rewarding in the Children’s Literature Centre since March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic presented many unique obstacles to the mission of the Centre throughout the past 1.5 years, but we have enjoyed the challenge!



Kelly Claxton,
Graduate Assistant

largest community event with over 700 children and their families, had to be transformed into “Storybook Holiday Express,” where the CLC elves distributed (in under 2 hours!) 400 gift bags filled with materials to make two holiday crafts. Additionally, alumni elves volunteered to hold a virtual elf olympics competition, adding to the spirit of the season!

Spring/Summer 2021



Erica Hill,
Graduate Assistant

could still be safely utilized by faculty and students.

It has been an unprecedented 19 months, but as the Children’s Literature Centre celebrates its 40th year, we are extremely proud of and grateful for the flexibility, creativity, and effort of our graduate assistants, CLC colleagues, and continued support from Dean Williams and our generous sponsors. We look forward to an amazing remainder of the 2021-22 school year!

Spring/Fall 2020

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the CLC was anticipating our 39th Spring Festival of Children’s Literature, with signed contracts from four authors/illustrators, marketing completed, and accepted registrations for the conference date in late April. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the conference on short notice. Once we recovered from the disappointment, our incredible staff of graduate assistants (Michaela George, Kameron Brooks, and Ellie Bolton) began planning the following events under COVID restrictions: 1. Pirates Ahoy! Summer usually welcomes over 400 young buccaneers to Frostburg, but those plans morphed into our staff recording videos for children & families to create six to ten crafts, as well as providing pirate read aloud videos from a number of pirate authors and illustrators. 2. CLC (Compassion, Love & Courage) Book Award: In the fall semester of 2020, we created a virtual version of the 9th Annual CLC Book Award Celebration with a presentation by author/illustrator, Vanessa Roeder, for her picture book, The Box Turtle. 3. Storybook Holiday: The 17th annual Storybook Holiday, which is our



Taylor McCarty,
Graduate Assistant

Unfortunately, our magical Harry Potter Book Night had to be canceled in February 2021, but the CLC staff turned their focus to planning: 1. The first virtual Spring Festival of Children’s Literature for April. Our four authors/illustrators and 11 Professional Development Workshop presenters provided amazing virtual presentations to our attendees! 2. In July, we presented Pirates in the Park – an outdoor event at Glendenning Park that included a presentation by pirate illustrator, John Manders, pirate activities, and an outdoor showing of the movie, “Ice Age: Continental Drift.” Currently, the CLC is planning the 18th Storybook Holiday (December 4), following current COVID mandates.

In addition to providing most of our professional and community events during a pandemic, the CLC: continued our Adopt-a-School partnership with Beall Elementary by providing monthly read aloud videos to each classroom; Dr. Bingman and Kameron Brooks continued to provide their bi-monthly podcast, “Super Sleuths” (now in its 3rd season) to area schools; and created new protocols by which our Book Collection (of over 15,000 current picture and chapter books)



Ellie Bolton,
Graduate Assistant

CLC Staff

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FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Submit news for the next issue to
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FAEYC/FSEA Members Attend Maryland Early Childhood Conference

Sarah O'Neal Ed.D. and Janet Mattern Ed.D.

On September 18, 2021, members of the Frostburg Association for the Education of Young Children (FAEYC) and Frostburg Student Education Association (FSEA) attended the Maryland Early Childhood Conference in Hagerstown, Maryland. FAEYC/FSEA members supported the conference by managing registrations and documenting workshop participation. FAEYC/FSEA members also had the opportunity to engage in rich professional development attending workshops provided by a wide variety of highly qualified early childhood specialists including speakers from the Maryland State Department of Education, Washington County Public Schools, Apples for Children, and George Washington Carvers InVenTures Institute for STEAM. FAEYC/FSEA Advisors, Dr. Janet Mattern and Dr. Sarah O'Neal, also presented a workshop on Minimizing the Effects of Trauma and Stress using Mindfulness Practices. A highlight of the conference was meeting with Steven Hicks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education. Mr. Hicks encouraged our teacher candidates to continue their high-quality preparation in the early childhood field.



From Left to Right: Kaelie Pelczar, Kendra Friend, Dr. Janet Mattern, Jenna Yommer, Steven Hicks, Ellie Bolton, Dr. Sarah O'Neal, MacKenzie Werner, and Tiffany Rhoten.

Educational Professions Faculty Take Part in Summer Book Study

Jodi Welsh, Ph.D.

During the summer of 2021, Educational Professions faculty members engaged in book study related to the text, "We Want To Do More Than Survive," by Dr. Bettina Love. This book is focused on the persuasive argument that educators must act as abolitionists in order to fulfill their duty to provide students with knowledge about racial violence and oppression, as well as to promote change in their communities.

The purpose of the book study was to allow participants to consider the flaws within our educational systems that perpetuate the struggles of children of color and to adopt and implement tactics to create an "educational survival complex." Love explains how schools have perpetuated racist systems that severely limit opportunities and damage the spirits of Black students. This text will help readers to recognize and unpack the shared responsibility for racism within our educational institutions.

The book study was conducted from June 2021 to August 2021 with all members receiving a copy of the book funded by the College of Education. Eight Educational Professions faculty members from both the Frostburg and USM-Hagerstown campuses met virtually on three occasions during the summer to discuss the book topics and to connect their responses to issues within our past and current experiences in education. Participants also shared questions and highlighted important ideas on a shared Padlet board during the book study. At the conclusion, study members valued the opportunity to explore abolitionist teaching and to wrestle together with the powerful issues brought forth by Dr. Love in the book.