



FSU News & Updates

September 29, 2025
Volume 56 Number 4

Speights, Bittinger Receive President's Distinguished Awards



Dr. Jason Speights, associate professor of physics and the director of the Multimedia Learning Center (MLC) and Planetarium at Frostburg State University, has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the President's Distinguished Faculty Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has provided exceptional service to the University and has advanced its mission, goals and strategic priorities.



Dr. Sara-Beth Bittinger '00/D'17, associate vice president for Academic Operations and Fiscal Affairs at Frostburg State University, is the 2025 recipient of the President's Distinguished Staff Award which recognizes a staff member who has provided exceptional service to the University and has helped to advance its mission, goals and priorities.

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Three FSU Employees Receive Staff Awards for Excellence

The University honored Bill Wiltout, Kenny Felker and **Alexandra ‘Alec’ Edwards ‘18** with Staff Awards for Excellence at an FSU Welcome event held on Sept. 16. The annual Staff Awards for Excellence recognize exceptional service to the institution. Recipients are nominated and chosen by their colleagues.

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New Director of Office of Sponsored Programs

Foundation for Frostburg Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following FSU students for being selected as the recipients of this year's Foundation for Frostburg scholarship: Hannah Griffith, Emilia Porter, Sydney Snyder and George Watson.

New Public Art Installation



FSU officially unveiled two new public art pieces located in the area of the new Education and Health Sciences Center on campus. "Dig Deep" by artist Stacia Goodman is a mixed-media mosaic made of ceramic, tile, glass, local fossils (collected by FSU students) and other objects, including tracks symbolizing bobcat pawprints. "Allegany Survey" by sculptor David Hess is an outdoor piece designed from stainless and Corten steel. Both projects were created by the Maryland State Arts Council in partnership with FSU and the University of Maryland Department of Planning and Construction and made possible by the State of Maryland and the Maryland Public Art Commission. Representatives from the MSAC and



Tam Lowry '91/M'01 has been named the new Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). Tam brings a wealth of experience and deep institutional knowledge to this role. With over 23 years of dedicated service to FSU, extensive experience in sponsored programs administration and a proven track record of leadership and innovation, Tam is ideally positioned to guide OSP in supporting faculty, staff and student's research and scholarly endeavors.

FSU Receives High Marks



In its annual **College Guide and Rankings**, Washington Monthly once again gave Frostburg high marks. FSU was ranked 107th in the

Allegheny/Garrett Arts Councils were on hand for the unveilings.

Northeast in the “Best Bang for the Buck” category and 75th in the country overall in the “Master’s Level Colleges and Universities” category. This designation places Frostburg 4th among public universities in the state.



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We All Scream for Ice Cream!

Join us for a Faculty and Staff Ice Cream Social on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the back of ARMAH (Lane University Center). FSU retirees are also welcome, so come along to reconnect with former colleagues!

No RSVP is required. For more info, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@frostburg.edu.

Save the Date: Homecoming Parade Oct. 2!



Be a Part of the Fun Oct. 2-5, 2025!

Our Offices of Alumni Relations and Student Engagement have planned a full weekend of events to celebrate our students, faculty, staff, alumni, retirees and friends during

Homecoming and Family Weekend, Oct. 2-5.

Don't forget to show your school spirit on Thursday, Oct. 2, by wearing FSU gear or school colors!

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Important Resources & Reminders

**...Got Meds?
Safely Dispose HERE**

Allegany County Sheriff's Office
8am - 4pm • Mon-Fri

Cumberland City Police Dept.
8am - 4pm • Mon-Fri

Maryland State Police Barracks
24 Hours • Every Day

Frostburg City Police Dept.
24 Hours • Every Day

Frostburg State University Police
24 Hours • Every Day

...just look for the GREEN BOX!

prescribechangeallegany.org

Sponsored by the Allegany County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services. Campaign is funded by the MD Behavioral Health Administration and SAMHSA.

PRESCRIBE CHANGE
allegany county

Like & share facebook

The University Police Department continues efforts to promote the safe disposal of expired or unwanted medication in the community. A free medication/drug disposal service is available 24/7/365 here at FSU. Simply bring in any expired or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications and deposit them in the green box, located in the lobby of the University Police Department. This service is

available to anyone!

In addition, the Police Department will be conducting a free medication/drug take back from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Oct. 1, 2025, Nov. 5, 2025, and Dec. 3, 2025). Simply contact the police department's non-emergency number (301-687-4223), inform us of your location, and an officer will pick up your medication for safe disposal.



PAWS Pantry

The PAWS Pantry is open and available to all students, faculty, and staff. Customers will complete a brief online intake and waiver form to register as a pantry member during their first visit. During regular hours, students may come to the pantry and shop from our selection of non-perishable foods, frozen foods, and household/hygiene products (when available).

Fall 2025 hours:

- Mondays and Fridays:
11am - 5pm
- Tuesdays: 11am - 7 pm
- Wednesdays: 11am - 3pm

Contact PAWS Pantry

Email: amdaniels@frostburg.edu

- Thursdays: closed

Phone: **301-687-7615**

ZUMBA
With Hang Deng-Luzader

FROSTBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY
Activities for Life

WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 17 - NOV. 5
7PM - 8PM
CORDTS PE ROOM 104,
DANCE STUDIO

COST: \$100

Payment and registration deadline:
Monday, Sept. 15

About the class:
With easy to follow moves set to upbeat Latin and international music, Zumba is a total workout for body and mind. No dance experience needed, and all fitness levels welcome. Come for the workout, stay for the fun, and leave feeling amazing. Your instructor, Dr. Hang Deng-Luzader, is a physics professor at FSU with a love of physical activity, especially dancing. Licensed to teach both Zumba and Zumba Gold, she's passionate about sharing the joy of Zumba with everyone. Let's move, sweat, and have fun together! As Newton says in his first law of motion: Once you start moving, you'll happily keep on moving. See you on the dance floor!

Please bring clean, dry athletic shoes to wear in the dance studio.

To register contact
anzelrod@frostburg.edu /
301-687-7934

Activities for Life: Zumba with Hang Deng-Luzader

With easy to follow moves set to upbeat Latin and international music, Zumba is a total workout for body and mind. Classes will be held on Wednesdays through Nov. 5 from 7-8 p.m. in Cordts PE Room 104, Dance Studio.

Register Now

FSU History Talk: Dr. Catherine Gira Presidency

FSU History Talk:
Dr. Catherine R. Gira

Celebrate Homecoming & Family Weekend by joining FSU Professor Emerita, Dr. Mary Anne Lutz, as she discusses the presidency of Dr. Catherine R. Gira.

OCT 2nd
2:30-3:30 PM

3rd floor Ort
Library

The Lewis J. Ort Library invites the campus community to its Inaugural FSU History Talk: The Presidency of Dr. Catherine R. Gira on **Thursday, Oct. 2, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.** on the main floor of the Ort Library. Join Professor Emerita Dr. Mary Anne Lutz as she discusses the important events, achievements and leadership during Gira's presidency, 1991 – 2006. There will also be opportunity for audience members to share their experiences at FSU during this time, or their impressions on Dr. Gira. We would be happy to have you join us! This event

Bobcat Biographies @ Ort Library

REC

Stop by the Library before you head to the Homecoming game to share your favorite FSU memories! The recorded oral histories will become a part of the University's archives and help preserve FSU's history. Bobcats of all ages and backgrounds are welcome.

Saturday, October 4th
10:00am-1:00pm
3rd floor Ort Library

FSU

Bobcat Biographies

If you or someone you know is an FSU alumni or member of the Bobcat community, we will be gathering short oral histories of your time at FSU during our Bobcat Biographies event. Drop by the Ort Library any time between **10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4** so we can record your memories. We'll give alumni some potential prompts to reflect with, or share your favorite experiences at FSU. We hope to feature these interviews online in the near future, and they will be preserved in our Special Collections as a part of our University History.

For questions about either event, contact Liza Zakharova, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist

is a part of the Homecoming & Family Weekend, 2025 Celebrations.

(ylzakharova@frostburg.edu) or Julie Porterfield, Associate Library Director for Research, Learning & Outreach (jmporterfield@frostburg.edu)



Bring Your Ideas to Life

Whether you're just starting out or you're a seasoned content creator, the new 3 State Community Media Center is your go-to destination for learning, creating, and sharing impactful media.

At the Center, you'll have access to hands-on training in media content creation, rentable audio & video equipment, professional studios & editing suites

Visit www.frostburg.edu/3StateCMC or email 3StateCMC@frostburg.edu for membership forms, questions, or enquires.



Bobcat Dining

Bobcat Dining invites faculty and staff to check out the newly renovated Chesapeake Dining Hall and all the exciting selections. Open 7 days a week, Chesapeake offers an "all-you-care-to-eat" dining experience, now with freshly updated features and menu items.

Every Friday, lunch is \$8 for faculty and staff. Don't miss out! Scan the QR code for the daily menu.



FSU Athletics Updates

Be on the lookout every Monday for an email from Frostburg State Athletics to highlight home contests for the upcoming Homecoming week. Please use these emails as a personal invitation to come see our student-athletes and staff members in action.

Visit the Athletics Website



MSRP For The 2025 Virtual Savings Symposium

Attend a variety of 45-minute webinars to enhance your financial knowledge! Gain valuable insights from participating State Agencies, MSRP investment providers, and **EMPOWER**, our new Plan Administrator!

Register Now

Nominations for Honorary Doctoral Degrees

Frostburg State University is authorized to grant honorary doctoral degrees with approval by the USM Board of Regents. Frostburg awards honorary doctoral degrees to recognize individuals who have attained achievements of extraordinary distinction.

The Office of the Provost is pleased to issue this annual call for nominations for honorary doctoral degrees.

Frostburg's Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Doctoral Degrees is attached. The policy explains the criteria for prospective candidates and the process for submitting, reviewing, and advancing nominations. Please note that the timeline indicated in the policy has been modified.

Nominations, including a brief biography or resume and supporting material addressing the required criteria, should be submitted to the Office of the Provost (provost@frostburg.edu) by Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Please contact provost@frostburg.edu if you have any questions.

2025-2026 CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

Session 1:
Civic Engagement 101



Dr. Shawntay Stocks
Associate Director
Transform Mid-Atlantic



Anthony Wagner V
Director TMAF & Special Projects
Transform Mid-Atlantic



Learn how Civic Engagement can transform your leadership and your capacity to make a difference

The Beall Institute for Public Affairs and the Office of Civic Engagement are hosting an opportunity for us to come together as a community to experience in person "Civic Engagement 101," the first of a series of webinars being sponsored by Transform Mid-Atlantic, an organization that recognizes that "civic engagement transforms students into stronger learners, thoughtful citizens, and impactful leaders."

This event will be held in the Atkinson Room in the Lane University Center on Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and is being coordinated by Jake Shade, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Beall Institute for Public Affairs, and **Jamie Winters '92/M'01**, who is now leading FSU's Civic Engagement. Food and beverages will be provided. A community conversation about civic engagement will follow the webinar.



Protecting Your Intellectual Property

Join special guest Attorney Steven E. Tiller, partner/co-chair, intellectual property section Whiteford, Taylor and Preston LLP, for a special

session on Protecting Your Intellectual Property on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. Mr. Tiller is an expert in IP litigation, technology law, trade secrets and risk management. He advises academic institutions on protecting and leveraging intellectual property.

Session highlights will include: Q&A on trademarks, patents, copyright and IP protection; legal insights tailored for academia and research; and practical guidance on safeguarding your innovations.

Information to join is below:

Zoom Link : [https://bowiestate.zoom.us/j/88344921754?](https://bowiestate.zoom.us/j/88344921754?pwd=pJqqbVylfJSvBPKiCB6m4egrloyXVM.1)

[pwd=pJqqbVylfJSvBPKiCB6m4egrloyXVM.1](https://bowiestate.zoom.us/j/88344921754?pwd=pJqqbVylfJSvBPKiCB6m4egrloyXVM.1)

Meeting ID: 883 4492 1754

Passcode: 669102



Allegany Farmers Market Association

Serving Allegany County, Maryland for Over 30 Years

Allegany County Farmers Markets: Great LOCAL Produce, Meats, Eggs & Flowers

- Cumberland, Canal Place - Thursdays until Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- Frostburg, City Place - Fridays until Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- Cumberland, Canal Place Depot - Saturdays until Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- Frostburg Winter Market - Dates and Times TBD

Department of Music, Theatre and Dance



Pianist Matthew Palumbo in Guest Artist Series Concert

Frostburg State University's Department of Music will present pianist Matthew Palumbo in a Guest Artist Series concert on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public.

[Read More](#)



Wind Ensemble Concert "Groove Music"

Frostburg State University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present the Wind Ensemble Concert "Groove Music" on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 3 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center.

[Read More](#)



MCTA Presents Celtic Guitarist Tony McManus

Frostburg State University's Mountain City Traditional Arts will host renown



Children's Musical How I Became a Pirate Sets Sail

This fall FSU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance sets sail on a

master Celtic guitarist on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 4 p.m. at 25 E. Main St. in Frostburg. The live entertainment is open to the public through general admission with a suggested donation of \$15.

[Read More](#)

comical adventure with *How I Became a Pirate* as part of the Roundabout Children's Theatre Tour. This fun musical is based on the popular children's story written by Melinda Long and illustrated by David Shannon.

[Read More](#)



Choral Concert "A Crowded Table"

Frostburg State University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present its choral concert, titled "A Crowded Table," on Friday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center.

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Dust Bunnies
 FSU Chamber Orchestra
 Peter B. Lewis, Conductor
 Performing John Mackey's
 "Under The Rug"
 as well as Balmages' "Phantom Tangos,"
 O'Connor's "String Quartet no. 3,"
 and Schönberg's "6 Little Pieces for Piano"
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Frostburg State University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present its Chamber Orchestra Recital "Dust Bunnies" on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall of FSU's Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center. The recital is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed; the link will be posted at www.frostburg.edu/concerts.

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Office of Sponsored Programs Successes

- On 5 Sept 2025, Project Director Xunyu Pan (Computer Science and Information Technology) was awarded \$400,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the project, Collaborative Research: EPIIC: Advancing Regional Innovation Through Sustainable Engagement (ARISE) Project.
- On 2 Sept 2025, Project Director Kate Sheehan (Biology) was awarded \$52,655 by the United States Department of Agriculture -Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for the project, Spatial and temporal characteristics of parasite communities of avian predators depredating Aquaculture in the Southeastern U.S.
- On 21 August 2025, Kris McGee (Education) and Wenjuan Xu (Computer Science and Information Technology) were each awarded \$1,500 by the University System of Maryland as Generative AI Pedagogy Faculty Fellows in addition FSU's Center for Teaching Excellence was awarded \$750 for support of the Fellows' programming efforts.
- On 1 July 2025, Project Director Jamelyn Tobery-Nystrom (Education) was awarded \$134,592 in U.S. Department of Education funds by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) – MD Elevates SFY26 for the project, FSU HUB at USMH.

Click the button below to see more news and successes from the Office of Sponsored Programs.

See More OSP News



2026-2027 FAFSA Opens Oct. 1

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is encouraging Maryland students and families to complete the 2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early. The form will open to the public on October 1.

Learn More



FSU Portal Highlight

Check out the new Volunteer Work app, which will be used to streamline volunteerism documentation on campus. Whether you're volunteering for a class, an athletic event, as a member of a student organization, or a faculty, staff or student who just loves to serve, this portal app is for you!

Check Out the Bobcat Portal!

The Office of Information Technology is proud to announce the launch of the Bobcat Portal, a reimagined version of the former Faculty/Staff Portal.

The Bobcat Portal is designed to better serve the *entire* FSU community, including faculty, staff, and now students. This expanded access creates a single, unified entry point for important tools, resources, and information across campus.

We encourage you to take advantage of this resource. Check back often to explore the new features and begin experiencing the Bobcat Portal.

The app will ask you to check in by providing the following details:

- Select the correct sponsoring unit
- If it is for a class, enter your course title (if applicable)
- Enter the name of the service event
- Enter the location
- Select the student organization (if applicable)



When you end your service for the day, simply repeat the process of opening the Volunteer Work app and select Check Out. It's just that easy.

Once you start serving, your Bobcat Portal page will show you how much volunteering you have done. You can set a personal goal and see your progress right on your very own portal page. Need to show your coach or your instructor what you have been doing? It is all right there on your Bobcat Portal!

Check Out the Volunteer Work App



Frostburg State University | [Contact Us](#)

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