After Nine Years of Leading Frostburg State University, President Gibralter Is Moving On

The Presidency of Jonathan C. Gibralter
2006-2015

The Frostburg State University Magazine Profile

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It seems almost unimaginable that, after nine years as president of Frostburg State University, this will be my last edition of Profile. My time at Frostburg has been the most professionally rewarding of my career, and I will be very sorry to leave. When Laurie and I arrived in Frostburg in 2006, I will admit it was a huge adjustment for us. We moved here from Farmingdale State College in Long Island, N.Y. We built a house here; we attended many events on campus, including plays, dance recitals and concerts. We attended many President’s Concerts and loved hearing the Chamber Choir under the leadership of Dr. Karen Soderberg-Sarnaker. We went to Homecoming events and galas together.

We also met alumni and became acquainted with this community. We got to know so many alumni from so many generations, even some who attended FSU in the ’40s and ’50s, like “The Boys” from the ’60s, the baseball alumni from the ’70s and even the alumni whom I first knew as students. I had the great privilege to bestow honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees to two great friends of FSU, Woodward D. Pealer and W. Dennis Thomas ’65. I was particularly glad to be able to present this degree to Dennis shortly before he passed away, as his guidance and friendship had an impact on me that will truly never be forgotten.

This has been one of the greatest privileges of my life—not only to know so many alumni, but to consider many as friends. I have met CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, Broadway actors and actresses, Hollywood producers, NASA astronauts, members of the Maryland General Assembly, business people, teachers, nurses, medical professionals and guidance counselors. I’ve been stopped in parking lots throughout Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. I was pulled over while driving through the middle of Baltimore by an alum who saw my Bobcat license plate frame. The list goes on and on. FSU alumni are all over the country and the world, in every occupation, and they all tell a version of the same story. That story always starts with these words: “I owe everything I have to Frostburg State University. I wouldn’t be who I am today without FSU.”

This edition of Profile will certainly speak of accomplishments during my tenure at FSU. These achievements, including the “bricks and mortar” accomplishments, are important, but that legacy is not what gives me the most pride. What has truly meant the most to me has been getting to know our students. I always enjoyed my time with them. I worked closely with the President’s Leadership Circle and the Student Government Association. I was directed by Mass Communication majors making “Down to Earth With Dr. G” for FSU TV3. I was made an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha, a music fraternity. I felt so much pride attending students’ art exhibits, plays, concerts and recitals, watching them compete athletically, and walking the track with them during Relay for Life. It was a pleasure just working out next to them in the fitness center or sitting and talking with them in the Lane University Center.

My priority first and foremost has been the quality of these students’ education and the lives they would come to lead. I want them to leave FSU remembering it for the fine academic institution that it is. From my very first day on campus, I always gave our students the message that my door was open to them. They took advantage of that, and I have learned so much from them over these years. The students who attend FSU are some of the finest young people I have met. Kindness, generosity and intellectual curiosity define them. I always want them to remember that FSU is the place where they got their start.

I am going to miss FSU and will cherish my time here. It has meant the world to me, and I only hope that people feel I made an impact. Certainly, my time in Frostburg had a profound impact on me personally. For that I will be forever grateful. I will always be a proud Bobcat.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan C. Gibralter, President

P.S. I hope Frostburg State University alumni will remain in touch with me after I start at Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., in July. My email address will be jgibralter@wells.edu.
CCIT TO BE NAMED FOR PRESIDENT GIRA

“My predecessor had the dream that, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of individuals over the last eight years, evolved into the incredible Center for Communications and Information Technology,” said President Gibralter.

PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP

In recognition of President Gibralter’s nine years of accomplishments, Profile presents a reflection on some of these achievements, as well as thoughts from former students and others to illustrate what cannot be expressed in lists or data.

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When a career in professional baseball didn’t pan out, Keith Voelker ’73 learned that God had other plans for him.

“BUCKET LIST” SCHOLARSHIP

Alums who entered Frostburg as “raw public school students” with a drive to succeed have achieved one of their goals with the Tyrone and Sandy Wyche Adams Scholarship, supporting students facing similar challenges to theirs.

A WORLD OF INVOLVEMENT

The FSU student experience builds on academics through real-life practice. Students and alumni recount how their time with Student and Community Involvement programs has made a world of difference.

BUILDING SOMETHING TO LAST

After 18 years as a member of Towson University’s football coaching staff, John Donatelli ’88 has been able to “build something that will hopefully last for the following generations.”

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FSU Stepping Up to Serve Veterans and Military Students

As more and more veterans who have served in the military are transitioning to civilian life, growing numbers are headed to college and graduate school, and FSU is stepping up to find new and better ways to serve those who served.

Following the retirement of longtime counselor and coordinator of Veterans Services Pat Drainy, the Veterans Services Office was restructured and a full-time veterans services coordinator was hired. The new coordinator, Danielle Dabrowski, has 10 years of experience serving veteran and military students.

“I am focused on building an awareness on campus for our student veterans and helping them to acclimate to the campus community,” Dabrowski said.

Part of the need for awareness is based in terminology—“There seems to be a disconnect in identifying veterans. They are not normally the first to jump up and say they are veterans, and the term ‘veteran’ does not actually encompass all those who are serving—for example in the National Guard or Reserves. They do not consider themselves veterans because they are still currently serving,” she said.

The Student Veterans Organization, founded a few years ago, continues to grow, with a focus on outreach in the community and raising awareness about benefits for student veterans. The group welcomes all who are currently serving, veterans, and/or supporters of veterans of all branches of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. The SVA is a non-political, nonprofit organization that brings people together through a shared respect and desire to help the nation’s heroes, many of whom are friends and classmates. Last year, SVA worked with Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, to raise money and collect donations for care packages sent to soldiers overseas, and Delta Omicron, a music fraternity, held a concert on Veterans Day to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

In addition, last year FSU was named one of the top-ranked schools in the 2014 edition of the U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges for Veterans rankings, recognizing schools that participate in federal initiatives helping veterans and active service members apply, pay for and complete their degrees.

For the fourth straight year, FSU was named to G.I. Jobs’ Military Friendly Schools list, which honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

FSU is an Affiliated Institution for Debate, emphasizing education in all public, progressive and national debate literature. All literature is determined and judged without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, handicap. FSU is committed to meeting the needs of all programs, services and activities provided in compliance with the Handicapped Accessible Program.

CCIT to Be Named in Honor of President Emerita Catherine Gira

The Center for Communications and Information Technology (CCIT) will be named in honor of President Emerita Catherine Gira in a ceremony on Sunday, May 3. Approved by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents at their February meeting, the naming honors Gira’s 15 years of service to FSU and her distinguished career in higher education.

“My predecessor, Dr. Catherine Gira, had the dream that, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of individuals over the last eight years, evolved into the incredible center for Communications and Information Technology,” said President Gibralter. “Frostburg State University and its faculty, staff, students and alumni greatly benefited from Dr. Gira’s leadership and service.”

Gira, an early and strong advocate for the construction of CCIT, recognized the need for advanced and appropriate facilities for the rapidly transforming technology disciplines. She was present for the grand opening in September.

To be named the Catherine R. Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology, the building houses facilities for computer science, mass communication, communications studies, mathematics, graphic design, the FSU TV3 studios and radio station WFWM.

During Gira’s presidency from 1991 to 2006, the Performing Arts Center was completed and opened, and she successfully lobbied for the construction of the Compton Science Center, which was completed in 2003. Under her leadership, FSU experienced significant growth in academic offerings, enrollment, accreditation and attracting research and fundraising dollars.

Following her retirement from FSU, she continues to be active in advocacy for the arts and leadership development through her service and leadership with the Maryland Humanities Council Board of Directors and the Leadership Maryland Board of Directors.

Making a Splash for Their Colleagues

Faculty members in the Department of Educational Professions ended their fall planning retreat with the ALS for Rocket Challenge, in recognition of classmates who have been touched by the disease. Joyce Whatanun Cron, at left, had been diagnosed with the disease and has since passed away from it (see in Memoriam, p. 33). Amanda Ruothenberg, '99, pictured third from left, lost her husband Ron to ALS in early 2014.
Time to Listen: Students and Savage River Watershed Partner on Marcellus Shale Study

By Candis Johnson

Last fall, FSU students partnered with the Savage River Watershed Association to participate in “Marcellus Shale in Mountain Maryland: A Listening Project” to document local hopes and concerns regarding proposed hydraulic natural gas extraction in Western Maryland, sometimes called fracking. The project is part of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Appalachian Teaching Project, which provides funding for project-related travel and conference participation.

Two FSU classes are working on this project throughout the academic year — “Folklore in Appalachia” and “Sociology of the Environment.” Both courses are taught by Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology. The students are being trained to listen, record and respect a full range of opinions and attitudes, while avoiding imposing an agenda or opinion-based approach to the topic.

Over the fall, students presented in “Folklore in Appalachia” designed the Listening Project. They conducted door-to-door interviews and set up information tables at several events and regional libraries.

In December, those students presented their work at the annual gathering of the Appalachian Regional Commission’s Teaching Project in Washington, D.C. View it at bit.ly/MarcellusListen.

This spring, students in “Sociology of the Environment” are continuing these efforts, hosting additional listening sessions, attending several community events and designing an online survey to be made available via social media.

Student representatives from both classes plan to host a poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Studies Association in Johnson City, Tenn., and in April, students and members of the Savage River Watershed Association will collaborate on a presentation at FSU’s Focus Frostburg event.

The Circle of Life

For the past two years, Frostburg Grows, a greenhouse complex built on a former strip mine on the outskirts of Frostburg, has been growing produce and native tree seedlings, all part of a mission that includes helping area farmers expand their seasons and increase the availability of local food. With the entry of Chartwells, a new food service provider on FSU’s campus that is actively seeking local growers as suppliers, Frostburg Grows produce is now being purchased to serve to Frostburg students at Chesapeake Dining Hall.

Now the circle is complete. Chartwells has installed a quick-composting machine called “The Rocket” that is combining pre- and post-consumer food waste from the dining hall — roughly 60 gallons a day — with wood chips from the City of Frostburg’s yard waste collection. That combination creates a rich, dark compost that fills the planters at Frostburg Grows, where tomatoes, squash, lettuce, herbs and more will be grown and eventually sent to students in Chesapeake. And the cycle will continue. Frostburg Grows in the past has produced as much as 1,500 pounds of tomatoes a month, and Chartwells has offered suggestions for what produce it would like Frostburg Grows to plant this year. By the time Frostburg Grows’ early planting season begins, five high-turnover greenhouses will be operational and producing food.

This local, sustainable food system is a model for schools and communities around the country, not to mention that composting dining hall food waste will also save the University several thousand dollars in trash hauling fees each year.

A World of Experiences: Calculations in the Cloud

By Robert Spake ’13

FSU computer science faculty and students have partnered with Maryland-headquartered vCalc LLC through a Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) grant to improve vCalc’s innovative online calculator. The vCalc application embraces the power of the Internet and social media to create a user-friendly, universal, customizable free online calculator for educators, students, scientists, industrial users and laymen.

For Brad Rinard, chair of FSU’s Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies, this is his second partnership with a Maryland industry through MIPS. These grants are a “great opportunity for our students,” he said. Four of Rinard’s students in computer science are building equations and sets of constants used in the calculator application. Performing that work, “The students get hands-on experience with a commercial product, which you can’t get in a classroom: dealing with a client, applying knowledge from their courses. It’s great on a resume.”

The students first interviewed FSU professors from a variety of academic fields outside their major. Justin Liller, a senior, said the professors are giving us textbooks and showing equations that will be useful, then they can use [vCalc] in their class.” The experience was his first time working in the field and a lesson in teamwork, he said.

Once collected, the students coded the information in Groovy, a Java framework. The FSU computer science major “teaches a lot of Java,” according to vCalc CEO Kurt Heckman.

“The students get hands-on experience with a commercial product, which you can’t get in a classroom: dealing with a client, applying knowledge from their courses. It’s great on a resume.”

Dr. Brad Rinard
Chair, Department of Computer Science & Information Technologies

At the vCalc calculator can be found at www.vcalc.com. 

Liller agreed. In addition to a standing job offer from Heckman and vCalc, “One of the biggest places that hires from FSU is IBM’s Rocket Center (facility) in West Virginia. We’re now ahead of the game. They do the same sort of programming there,” Liller said.

“Thanks in part to the experiences his students have, they ‘don’t have trouble finding employment. They just need to find a place they’re comfortable with. [This experience] will be great for the job search,” Rinard said.

The vCalc calculator can be found at www.vcalc.com. 

Music Majors “Sing” a Wedding That Hits All the Right Notes

In a first for FSU’s Department of Music, music majors Mikayla Young and Zachary Dodge wrapped up their junior recital by tying the knot — right on the Pealer Recital Hall stage.

Young and Dodge, who met during their freshman year in fall of 2011 and got engaged in July of 2013, had planned for a June wedding, but they knew they wanted to be married on the Pealer stage. They decided that since their families would already be there for their recital, why not follow it with the wedding? After they performed their joint recital with the requisite art songs in multiple languages, they bowed and...
FSU Recognizes Three With Staff Awards for Excellence

Three outstanding employees, Blair Knouse, Linda Lewis and Alan “ike” Eichhorn, were honored at Fall Convocation for outstanding service to the University. The recipients, who have a combined 51 years of service to FSU, were nominated and chosen by their colleagues.

Knouse was honored in the exempt (salaried) employee category. He began his career at FSU in 2015 as the Chemistry Department’s lab manager and has become a valuable asset to the department because of his efficiency and the time he takes to listen to others. His attention to detail ensures that the proper equipment and supplies are purchased and maintained. On campus, Knouse is the advisor for the Music Department’s Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity. Off campus, he serves as president of the Frostburg Arion Band and plays the flute in the band.

Eichhorn was recognized under the non-exempt employee/facilities-maintenance category and has been at FSU for 34 years, the past 18 as a locksmith. He has literally opened doors in every building on the FSU campus, even installing brand-new locks and issuing the first keys for FSU’s newest facilities. Devoted to community service, Eichhorn volunteered on a mission trip to Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake. He has served his church in various capacities, been a member of the Frostburg Fire Department and assisted as a “searcher” with the Western Maryland Crime Scene Investigators under the direction of the Maryland State Police.

Lewis, who has been a dedicated FSU employee for the past 15 years, was honored in the category of non-exempt (hourly) employee. She is an executive administrative assistant in the Office of the Dean in the College of Education, where she is diligent, thoughtful and prompt in responding to the needs of the office and an invaluable resource in its day-to-day operations.

Concerned for the well-being of FSU’s students, Lewis organizes events such as a “hat, scarf and mittens drive” during the cold Frostburg winter season.

Staff Awards for Excellence are funded by the FSU Foundation’s Annual Fund Campaign.

Andy Duncan Wins World Fantasy Award

For Wkaliko Springs, a novella about multiple generations in an African-American family living in a strange place in Florida, Andy Duncan, associate professor of English, was awarded the 2014 World Fantasy Award for Best Novella. The awards, widely considered one of the most prestigious fantasy awards, were given at the World Fantasy Convention.

“It’s just an amazing honor, I can’t get over it,” Duncan said.

Wkaliko Springs, which Duncan co-wrote with Ellen Kagen, was also a finalist for the 2014 Hugo, Locus and Nebula writing awards. This is Klager’s first World Fantasy Award and Duncan’s third. Duncan previously won in the Collection and Short Fiction categories. His novella Close Encounters won a 2013 Nebula Award from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. He has also won the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for his novella, The Chef Designer, and has been nominated for the Hugo Awards multiple times. Duncan is only the eighth person to win three or more times in the fiction categories.

Wkaliko Springs is different from other World Fantasy Award nominees in that it is not fantasy in the traditional sense. Fantastic elements in most fantasy fiction are obvious, like witchcraft in the Harry Potter series, but are less so in Wkaliko Springs.

“The monster never comes out of the woods,” Duncan said. “It’s about the magical worlds and monsters we create for ourselves.”

To read Wkaliko Springs, visit bit.ly/WkalikoSprings.

Shah Honored as Mentor

Dr. Amit Shah, a professor in the College of Business’ Department of Management, has been recognized with FSU’s Outstanding Mentor Award. Alumni nominate faculty who have made a significant impact in their students’ professional and personal development.

Shah has been working at FSU for more than 25 years and has made a name for himself as a fair, passionate teacher who challenges his students to give their all and rise to meet challenges. He is prolifically involved in his broader academic community and has received awards for several papers.

Students recognize him for going the extra mile and his smart sense of humor, giving advice like, “If you think I’m tough, wait until you get in the real world!” Graduates of his business capstone course say he urged them to be their best.

Business alum Shannon Grible, ’98 praises his powerful role as a mentor. “He pushed you to do it well and then some, think outside the box, work as a team, value your peers and complete quality work on time with no excuses. He sincerely cares for his students—both as a student and as a person and displays genuine interest in your success professionally and personally.”

Shah’s passion has spread to the community beyond the Frostburg campus. He has shown his commitment to developing business in Western Maryland through Mountain City Coffeehouse and Creamery, which he owns with his wife, Yashi, and through his research on Maryland microenterprises.

Shah also welcomes alumni into his classroom to share their invaluable experience, and has worked with the Alumni Association to take students to their workplaces. In recognition, the Alumni Association granted him the status of honorary alumni.

“He gets it and shares it … with a sense of humor and continuous smile,” Grible said.

—Ruth LaCourse ’74

Bwu Wins Regents’ Award for Teaching

Dr. Yan Bao, an associate professor in the FSU Department of Accounting, has been awarded the Regents’ Faculty Award for Teaching, the highest honor that the University System of Maryland Board of Regents bestows to recognize exemplary faculty achievement.

“Dr. Bao has been one of the most dynamic faculty members in our college,” said Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean of FSU’s College of Business, routinely earning among the highest evaluation ratings, especially in teaching. “This has been due to her student-centered teaching philosophy and her commitment to innovative and engaging teaching approaches,” he said.

Her students’ comments have consistently reflected her caring attitude and devotion.

“Some students learn better through pictures, others through reading or PowerPoint and others may learn better through trial and error. In Dr. Bao’s class, you were never at a disadvantage if you learned better through a certain method because she literally made ALU (all of them) available for students,” said current MBA student Lauren Martin.

She redesigned the MBA Financial Accounting class for online delivery to provide a learning environment similar to that in a face-to-face class. She uses an online homework system for instant feedback, an online conference room so students can ask questions and participate in discussions, and a project in which students use annual reports of publicly traded companies to learn how to make a financial statement analysis, applying knowledge to real-world settings.

She also coached other faculty to help them improve their online teaching skills. Bao was one of the first faculty members to take the lead in incorporating global-experiential learning into FSU’s curriculum, organizing two study abroad programs called “Impact China,” a combination of travel and online instruction that turned out to be highly valuable global learning experiences for students. These efforts have been expanded to direct communication with universities in China for establishing collaborative academic programs.

Dr. Yan Bao

Second-, er, Fourth-Hand Robe

Tiffany Syle Weschler ’14 took the concept of hand-me-downs to a whole new level at December’s commencement ceremony. The cap and gown were previously worn by her grandmother, Jenny Syle Suanders, when she graduated from Columbia Union College 40 years before. It was also the one worn by Weschler’s great-grandmother, Mary Nelson Anderson, Salem College Class of 1934. But that’s not all. The first in this long line of grandparents to wear the cap and gown was Wechsler’s great-great grandmother, Jennie Anderson, upon her graduation from Salem in 1894, four years before the founding of Frostburg Normal School No. 2. It is a great tradition to be a part of,” Weschler said.

—Shah Honored as Mentor

Dr. Amit Shah accepts the Outstanding Mentor Award from Shannon Grible, ’98 who nominated him.
Alumni Connection Brings Star and writer/comedian to Speak to Students

Classic TV as Hollywood students last fall. Vilanch's face is most familiar question-and-answer session with FSU.

Matt Byars '13 and writer/comedian Matt Byars '13 agreed to speak to students at Byars' alma Washington, D.C., for a writing gig, and he Vilanch was passing through on his way to.

Matt Byars '13

Byars decided to entertainment business. Byars declined to complete his studies in 2013 to add a diploma complete his studies in 2013 to add a diploma.

Fallon The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon

The T on tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon

Duke's a Rising Star on Stage

Jessica Frances Dukes '92 has been busy in the spotlight of East Coast stages. In February, the four-time Helen Hayes Award nominee played Tonya in Washington, DC's Arena Stage production of King Hedley II, a drama about an ex-convict's homecoming after seven years in prison. In August and October, Dukes performed in an Off-Broadway play at Playwrights Horizons in New York City. The play, Bodycandy, is a series of sketches by (the-winner Robert O'Hara about growing up as a gay African-American. Dukes played multiple roles, including the young version of the main character, Sutter; Sutter's mother; and Sutter's little sister. Before that, she starred as the title character in Benedum's Poirot on Baltimore's Centerstage. The play, by the Centerstage's artistic director, Kwame Kwei-Armah, is a follow-up to Bruce Norris' Pulitzer- and Tony-winning Clybourne Park, which is a spin-off of the 1959 Broadway play, A Raisin in the Sun. Orcheservice.com said Dukes "fascinatingly realized" Benedum's character. Dukes also appeared in a episode in season 6 of CBS' The Good Wife. She has performed throughout the Washington, D.C. area, Baltimore, New York City and more and has taught classes at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Md., Montgomery College and Howard University.

Jessica Frances Dukes '92

Alum Shares Inspiring Story About Life’s Crossroads

Keith Voelker '73 had a dream that he didn’t publicly share with anyone – until last Homecoming.

Keith Voelker '73

At FSU’s 2014 Homecoming, Voelker, a retired educator, stood in front of a group of baseball alumni to accept the Jim Anderson Memorial Award, presented to outstanding alumni who have excelled in their careers. Voelker, a Bobcat Hall of Fame inductee who was a star pitcher at Frostburg State, admitted that his chosen career wasn’t his intention. He fully expected to live his life after Frostburg as a professional baseball player. He was crushed when life put him on a different course.

―It’s the first time I ever articulated it,‖ said Voelker, admitting that he spent many sleepless nights thinking about this announcement.

―I gathered group of alumni and students. “I wanted to say something that would hopefully make an impact,‖ Voelker recalled his rainy graduation day in 1973 when he skipped his commencement ceremony.

Megan Zimmerman '07/M'10

Megan Zimmerman '07/M'10 had some high profile observers in her language arts class in February. In the foreground at right are, from left, National PTA President Ortha Thornton, Bates Middle School Principal Paul Delius and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Megan Zimmerman '07/M'10 and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

K

Keith Voelker '73

Keith Voelker '73 received the 2014 Jim Anderson Memorial Award at Homecoming.

Voelker's photo from the 1973 Homecoming

Voelker's photo from the 1973 Homecoming

Keith Voelker '73

Keith Voelker '73

Dream Revised

Alum Shares Inspiring Story About Life’s Crossroads

By Ty Doharrino '90

I had to accept that it was my job to make it work.‖

Voelker's career led to a role as a department chair early in his career, then into administrative jobs. He eventually became assistant superintendent for educational services in the East Pennsboro Area School District in central Pennsylvania where he and his wife, Anita Nedial Voelker '73, and their children relocated. He even taught at Messiah College as a supervisor of student teachers, sharing his “never-give-up approach” to education.

―There’s no greater compliment for a teacher than when a student comes back and says “thank you,”‖ he said.

At the Homecoming awards ceremony where Voelker shared his journey and his crossroads, he also had “something” to thank. “I thanked baseball,‖ he said. “It led me to a very fulfilling career.‖
As the Alumni Association Board of Directors plans its upcoming outreach to FSU alumni, we wanted to introduce you to five of the newest members of the Board.

**Raymond "Buster" Nelson ’77**

Chief Operating Officer of Buster Nelson Insurance Agency, Inc., State Farm Insurance

Accomplishments/Acivities: Proud entrepreneur of 32 years as agency CEO.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

My entire college years were good memories. However, my favorite is sitting on the Chesapeake Dining Hall steps after dinner with friends joking with and about people who passed by.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I hope to bring the resources, business acumen and connections I have established during the years to help the Board reach its goals. Through these efforts, FSU and students will be the recipient of financial support to enhance growth and education.

**Kevin McShane ’89**


FBI Supervisory Special Agent

Accomplishments/Acivities: Superior Intelligence Specialist 

What is your favorite FSU memory?

One of my favorite memories is playing soccer all four years at Frostburg. Through the sports network, I developed outstanding friendships.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

As a Board member, I hope to enhance the learning experience of the students of Frostburg and promote all of the great qualities of the University.

**Sarah Kuhn ’12**

Germantown, Md.

Towson Elementary School Fourth-Grade Teacher

Accomplishments/Acivities: (PIA) member; girls’ varsity basketball co-captain.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

My favorite memory from Frostburg was becoming a student-teacher. I had some wonderful experiences as a result. I went to New Orleans on the Alternative Spring Break trip and then traveled to Prague with members of the President’s Leadership Circle. I think Frostburg prepared me for the real world and helped me make memories that I will cherish forever. I also met my fiancé at Frostburg and got a great education that prepared me to become a fourth-grade teacher. Frostburg will forever be my home!

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I hope to become as actively involved as a Board member as I was as a student and really want recent graduates of Frostburg to know that Frostburg gave us much more than just an education but a lifetime of memories. It really needs to go to back to the University that gave me so much and helped me become who I am today.

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What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I hope to become as actively involved as a Board member as I was as a student and really want recent graduates of Frostburg to know that Frostburg gave us much more than just an education but a lifetime of memories. It really needs to go to back to the University that gave me so much and helped me become who I am today.

**Kathy Nicholas Boykins ’80**

Ellicott City, Md.

Allstate Insurance Co. Performance Consultant

Accomplishments/Acivities: Ten years as a Wellness Champion for Allstate, promoting healthy living.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

I often reflect on my time at Frostburg and will always cherish the memories that have been instrumental in shaping and molding me into the person that I am today. Oddly enough, the classes that gave me the most insight were not always the classes where I got the best grades. … However, some of the best memories were of the times I spent with my fellow classmates in the Lane Center, Chesapeake Hall and the dormitories. I was very active in different organizations and these interactions were just as important as the instruction that I received in the classrooms. My time at Frostburg was one of my best life experiences.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I hope that … I can share my passion for giving back to Frostburg and the students with other alumni who have not yet re-engaged themselves with FSU. We must reach back and help those who will be our legacy by giving of our time, talent and treasure to ensure the tradition that has given us so much continues to give to others.

**Keith Price ’82**

Windsor Mill, Md.

Senior Tax Practitioner at The Hutt Co.

Accomplishments/Acivities: Active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, 15-year career with Hutt Co.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

One of my favorite memories as a student at FSU was participating in Greek Step Shows. This was always an opportunity for the fraternity and sorority organizations to entertain the students and visitors who came to see the performances. For me, this was a lot of fun and I always enjoyed watching the students and I would love for FSU to continue to participate in Greek Step Shows in the future.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I hope to become a Board member. I have always been an FSU student by presenting creative performances of dancing, singing and stepping. I want to give back to the University that gave me so much and want to help it continue to be a great university.

**Antonio Hayes ’00**

Alexandria, Va.

With 15 years of leadership and management experience, Hayes was appointed as Chief of Staff to the Baltimore City Department of Social Services in 2011. He also led the team in reducing the number of children in foster care by 58 percent by ensuring they were placed with permanent families. Hayes also improved business practices, promoted efficiency and created a culture of accountability. Under his direction, Baltimore City DSS gained national recognition for the modernization and effectiveness of its social services and is now one of the most well-respected social service organizations in the country.

From 2006 to 2010, Hayes was Assistant Deputy Mayor of Baltimore, a role in which he oversaw the city’s public safety agencies.

**Antonio Hayes ’00**

State of Maryland, Planning and Budgeting Office

Accomplishments/Acivities: 15 years of leadership and management experience.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

One of my favorite memories is going to the 5th Annual Spring Break trip and then traveling to Prague with members of the President’s Leadership Circle. I think Frostburg prepared me for the real world and helped me make memories that I will cherish forever. I also met my fiancé at Frostburg and got a great education that prepared me to become a fourth-grade teacher. Frostburg will forever be my home!

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**Jim Riggleman ’74**

Abington, Pa.

Frostburg State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame Inductee

Accomplishments/Acivities: 32 years in major league baseball; led players union.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

One of my favorite memories is playing soccer all four years at Frostburg. Through the sports network, I developed outstanding friendships.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I developed outstanding friendships.

**Sarah Kuhn ’12**

Germantown, Md.

Towson Elementary School Fourth-Grade Teacher

Accomplishments/Acivities: (PIA) member; girls’ varsity basketball co-captain.

What is your favorite FSU memory?

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What do you hope to accomplish during your time as a Board member?

I developed outstanding friendships.
Scholarship Reflects Admiration for Positivity of “Phenomenal Individual”

By Robert Spahr ’13

Sometimes in life, we meet people who seem to transcend impossible obstacles. Dr. Fred Surgent was teaching a Motor Learning and Human Performance class at FSU when he first met Bobcat volleyball player Lauren Weller Sidorowicz ’08, a young woman who showed selflessness and positivity in the face of a terminal disease. He was so moved by this “phenomenal individual” that after she lost her eight-year battle with cancer in December of 2011, Surgent started the Lauren Weller Sidorowicz Academic Support Scholarship.

The scholarship supports students with an ability to provide academic monitoring projects and gives preference to student-athletes or student-athletes on the women’s volleyball team. Scholarship recipients are asked to serve on the planning committee for FSU’s annual Relay for Life event, which supports cancer prevention and awareness. “I hope her legacy will continue on through the scholarship. That’s why there’s a requirement to advocate for cancer awareness,” Sidorowicz said.

Sidorowicz first learned she had Ewing’s Sarcoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, during her freshman year at FSU. When Surgent first met her in her upper-class-level class, “I didn’t know she had these problems until halfway through the semester. She was just so positive.” One day, Surgent overheard some coaches discussing her illness. “From that day on, I tried to kind of follow her. She did so well in the class,” and Surgent witnessed the effect Sidorowicz had on those closest to her.

In his own conversations with Sidorowicz, Surgent saw a remarkable young woman. “She always wanted to get married, to coach volleyball. She had that opportunity, but not for very long.”

Sidorowicz married her college sweetheart and spent her final years earning her degree in health and physical education, completing the bulk of her studies for a master’s degree in educational administration, coaching volleyball and teaching elementary students at Moroh Catherine Spalding School. During her graduate assistantship, Sidorowicz worked in an office down the hall from Surgent’s, where he would check on her from time to time. “She would go for treatments and come in afterward and would never complain about it. She was an example—a model really—of what a human being can be like under those circumstances.”

Surgent says one lost opportunity: “I would like to have given her a hug, just so she knew someone else cared.”

For more information on how to support the Lauren Weller Sidorowicz Academic Support Scholarship, visit foundation.frostburg.edu or call the FSU Foundation at 301.687.4161.

Alumni Cross Off Bucket List Item With Scholarship

By Ty DeMartino ’90

For Tyrone ’87 and Sandy Wyche ’86 Adams, establishing a scholarship at Frostburg was a way to show appreciation, give back to a place that gave them their starts and cross off an item from their collective bucket list.

“Since graduating from Frostburg, we have been thinking about ways to give back. We wanted to offer students who were just like us the same opportunities we had,” said Sandy about her and husband Tyrone. “We came to Frostburg State as raw public school students from Baltimore City and County with the drive to succeed, but in need of financial assistance. Over the years, the idea of establishing a scholarship became a bucket list item for us.”

Tyrone and Sandy met on the Frostburg campus, when Tyrone, a math major with a physics minor, and his buddies were “interviewing” young ladies as a part of a “sorority assignment.” Sandy, an English major, immediately saw through the ruse. “[My roommate and I] politely declined. But that is how Tyrone and I first met. We started dating a year and a half later.” The Adamses married in 1992 and now have a daughter, Shannon, who is a junior at Duke University.

Both Tyrone and Sandy credit their experiences on the Frostburg campus with giving them the foundation they needed to build successful lives and careers. Tyrone previously worked with NASA on the launch of the Space Shuttle after the Challenger disaster and at Johns Hopkins in space science studies and has consulted for UPS and AT&T. He and Sandy created Anyvols Technologies, a small business enterprise specializing in data communication and service transportation systems that has worked on mass transit systems all over the country. Sandy serves as the director of publishing operations at the National Academies Press, where she oversees the editing, design, composition and production of 200 books annually for such organizations as the National Research Council, the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, among others. She earned a master’s in educational administration from the University of Baltimore and is an adjunct faculty member at Loyola University Maryland.

They agree that several “unique opportunities” at Frostburg paved the way for their creative and entrepreneurial spirit. Tyrone, who was president of the Black Student Alliance, recalls helping register students in Old Main to learn the principles of physics, while Sandy, who interned in the FSU Office of Publications, was encouraged by her professors to study abroad and spent time in Plymouth, England.

“The best part about mentors at Frostburg was that we did not have to seek them out. They sought us out.” Sandy said. “Thankfully, we did not have enough savvy to know we needed mentors. We are eternally thankful that our mentors at FSU and others saw the potential in us and played those crucial roles in our success.”

None of the Adams family wants to provide that crucial role in the lives of current Frostburg students. The Tyrone and Sandy Wyche Adams Scholarship is presented to students who have demonstrated a commitment to a place that gave them their starts and crossed off an item from their collective bucket list.

“I hope her legacy will continue on through the scholarship. That’s why there’s a requirement to advocate for cancer awareness.”

Dr. Fred Surgent

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Dr. Fred Surgent
An ancient Chinese proverb roughly translates to “Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.” That millennia-old axiom underscores FSU’s emphasis on student involvement with experiences that reinforce and enhance classroom knowledge.

And for FSU’s Student and Community Involvement, it’s right there in the name. The people in the department that oversees student activities, Greek life, the Cultural Events Series, civic engagement and the Social Marketing Team focus on involving students in a wide, diverse range of experiences. For students who work with the department or lead the organizations, the experience brings personal and professional enrichment.

Here are some stories about current students who are making the best of their college years and alumni who have gone on to exciting and rewarding careers. The common denominator is their involvement as students at FSU. Their stories demonstrate the world of experiences FSU has long provided and the lasting impact of learning through involvement.

Greek Life Was on Alum’s Bucket List

When Michael Dunn ’90 came to Frostburg in the mid-1980s, he wanted to pledge a national Greek fraternity. But when he didn’t find one he liked, he decided to start his own.

“It was on my bucket list to be a member of a national fraternity,” he recalled. “So I said, ‘let me start one. I’ll find 20 guys.’”

That, in essence, is how the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity came to be at Frostburg State University. Dunn says he chose SAE because of its national affiliation, size and strong mentoring and leadership programs. But creating a chapter wasn’t as easy as signing paperwork. Dunn, who was a soccer player putting himself through college, dedicated his spare time to convincing administrators and the Interfraternity Council and recruiting classmates to his cause.

“It was a lot like starting a business from scratch,” said Dunn, who is now an entrepreneur and CEO of the Chesapeake Eyecare and Laser Center in Annapolis. “In order to get the chapter, I had to put in the work.”

All of his hard work and persuasion paid off and the fraternity became a chapter in 1991, a year after Dunn graduated. “It was hard to leave college. But by that time, we had a strong group there,” he said.

Dunn feels that his efforts influenced the trend for more national organizations at Frostburg at the time, when most of the fraternities and sororities were local.

Through the years, he has remained an active adviser for SAE at Frostburg and the president of the SAE Alumni Association. When he visits the chapter, he is proud of their accomplishments.

“The students are great. They are very enthusiastic,” he said, hoping each one will reap the benefits of a fraternity like he has.

“My career started because of SAE. It was definitely the key to my success.”

As for Dunn, who has four sons ranging from age 12 to 18, he secretly hopes that his hard work and love of Greek life will be passed on as they enter college.

“If it fits within their academic career, they should do it. Joining a fraternity is a personal choice,” he said, quickly adding, “But do I want them to be SAE? Absolutely.”

Creating a Service Plan

Jennifer Cruz believes her work in civic engagement is just part of who she is.

“I just like helping people,” she said. “It’s who I am.”

Cruz, a senior from Columbia, Md., was active in community service organizations throughout high school and her church back home. So when she came to FSU, it was a natural fit for her to get involved in civic engagement.

“I wasn’t sure how community service would fit into my plans, but it did. And it made a huge impact.”

Her freshman year, Cruz became a member of the ECHOSTARS residence hall, a living, learning and serving community. Looking back, she admits that was the perfect way to get started and acquaint herself with the campus.

“Joining ECHOSTARS kick-started a lot of my service efforts and got me connected.”

A psychology major, Cruz decided to do a placement at the FSU Children’s Center for her ECHOSTARS service. There, she interacted with all types of young children, including some with challenges, and established relationships with her fellow students.

More recently, service has been incorporated in her role as a residence hall supervisor on campus. She has helped with the Relay for Life event, works with nonviolence and anti-bullying clubs and interned at the FSU Diversity Center, where she helped students organize focus groups on such topics as diversity and campus inclusion. She has been accepted to this year’s Alternative Spring Break volunteer opportunity.

Just as she was uncertain how service would fit into her Frostburg life, she’s uncertain about what will happen after graduation. However, she has applied to the Peace Corps and is awaiting their decision.

“We will see how life works out,” she said with a smile.
Putting the Social in Social Media

If this story had a hashtag, it would be #Amusing. It was actually social media that landed Ly-Anh McCoy her job as a member of the Social Marketing Team at FSU, even before she was officially a student. When McCoy, a student from Baltimore, came to Preview FSU, she was interested in media. Her social media liaison for the college, much to McCoy's surprise, asked her which social media platform she preferred. “I was a big Facebook fan then,” McCoy replied. “Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and I was like ‘Don’t even ask me what I’m doing on Facebook.’”

McCoy never considered herself a big Twitter fan prior to Preview, but she was up for the challenge in the newly formed initiative. It was a case of hashtagging in the right place at the right time. “It was a case of hashtagging in the right place at the right time.”

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McCoy transitioned into other roles in the three years she was with the campus, finding stories and Tweeting about them. McCoy never considered herself a big Twitter fan prior to Preview, but she was up for the challenge in the newly formed initiative. It was a case of hashtagging in the right place at the right time.

McCoy encourages all students to get involved, to lead and to acquire necessary experiences that will help them in the future. “Being a leader in a student organization is kind of like being an entrepreneur. You have to find resources, build a team, do marketing and implement strategy. You have to find resources, build a team, do marketing and implement strategy. You have to find resources, build a team, do marketing and implement strategy.

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After nearly nine years leading Frostburg State University, President Gibraltar announced in February that he would step down at the end of June to accept the presidency of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y.

In his message to the campus community, he said, “From the first time I set foot on the campus in March of 2006, I knew what a special place this was and have been very proud and honored to be your president. We have accomplished a lot these past years and have truly transformed FSU together into a competitive regional comprehensive university.”

In recognition of what has been accomplished over the past nine years, Profile presents a reflection on some of these achievements, but also thoughts from former students and others to illustrate what cannot be expressed in lists or data.

From his arrival, Gibraltar focused on lifting FSU up – its reputation, its enrollment, its school spirit. To better tell Frostburg’s story, he championed the development of a research-based brand and image and the use of new media outlets to get the word out. There are great stories to tell. Here are some highlights.

“Working together (in the President’s Leadership Circle), he showed all of us the characteristics of true leadership. He even took the time out of his busy life to write a personal letter of recommendation to help get me accepted into medical school. . . I really felt that Dr. Gibraltar was one of the main influences on my acceptance.”

— Shenna Wilbanks ’13

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gibraltar took up the mantle of regional economic development with enthusiasm.

• Within a year of Gibraltar’s arrival, funds had been secured for infrastructure and site preparation at Allegany Business Center at Frostburg State University (ABC@FSU) in preparation for the construction of the FSU Research Center, built by a private developer. ABC@FSU is also home to SERF.

• To strengthen the connection between the University and the city of Frostburg, Gibraltar helped acquire a grant to renovate the fire-damaged Lyric Building on Main Street. FSU’s Advancement operation, the FSU Foundation and the Center for Creative Writing are now tenants.

• Mountain City Traditional Arts, a collaboration between FSU and local government, also opened on Main Street.

• FSU was the 2012 Allegany County Chamber of Commerce “Business of the Year.”

• A 2012 study determined that FSU’s operations, employees and students had an economic impact conservatively estimated at $173 million on Maryland.

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• FSU’s primary role in economic development is education. The University has established active partnerships with regional business and organizational leaders to ensure academic programs will produce graduates with the knowledge these organizations need.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Early on, Gibraltar recognized that to prepare future leaders to “meet the challenges of a complex and changing global society,” as the FSU Mission Statement says, a Frostburg education had to have a global focus. He started by renewing the relationship with FSU’s oldest international partner, Mary Immaculate College. FSU hasn’t stopped since. The newest partnership is with Communication University of China in Beijing, which will leverage the resources in CCIT.

• Other partnerships with international higher education institutions include:
  • Human Normal University, China
  • Human University of Commerce, China
  • Northumbria University, United Kingdom
  • Yuanang University, Taiwan

“President Gibraltar was actively engaged in developing these partnerships. I saw the personal work he put forth in meetings with the leaders of these institutions, both here and abroad,” said Dr. John Bowman, vice provost, who oversees international programs.

Gibraltar was also very supportive of the effort to partner with TLC-Frostburg, a branch of The Language Company which brings in students wanting to learn English. Since it opened in March 2013, about 30 TLC-Frostburg graduates have enrolled at FSU.

Nearly 120 international students enrolled at FSU during the current academic year, up from 27 in 2006-2007. Likewise, the number of FSU students who have studied abroad in either short-term or long-term programs has more than doubled since 2006, with about 90 students heading overseas each year. And opportunities like participation in the President’s Leadership Circle further encourage international engagement, all designed to present students with “a world of experiences.”

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Fall 2006 Fall 2014

Total 4,910 5,645

Undergraduate 4,232 4,915

New Transfers 249 570

Masters 658 661

Doctoral 0 69

Retention, graduation rate and average time to degree have all improved. The campus has also become more diverse, from a 21 percent minority population in 2006 to 40 percent in 2014, with a larger population of international students.

Dr. Gibraltar could be seen everywhere... His presence on campus sent a clear message that the students were his primary concern, that we were important to him and that he cared about us.”

— Dr. Shawanna Shorter ’07

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

The beautiful new Center for Communications and Information Technology, which opened in September 2014, is the most visible sign of campus improvements since 2006, but it’s far from the only one.

• New Bobcat Stadium Building with facilities for athletic trainers, home and visiting teams and officials, expanded concession area, media and hospitality suites as well as new bleachers

• Renovated and expanded Lane University Center, adding a new University Store, fitness center, game room, and meeting and dining spaces

• FSU Sustainable Energy Research Facility (SERF), an off-the-grid center for the study of a variety of renewable energy technologies

• Renovations to Cordts Physical Education Center, including expanded fitness and athletic training facilities, additional classrooms, new and improved climbing gym, renovations to the pool, locker rooms and Hall of Fame Room

• Modernized spilt residence halls, most built in the 1950s and ’60s, and renovation of downtown hall’s began

These projects also meant added employment for local construction tradespeople.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HIGH-RISK DRINKING REDUCTION

Spurred by the serious injury of a local man by a drunken student in Gibralter's first months on campus, the new president quickly took on the twin issues of high-risk drinking among FSU's students, a mirror of a national problem, and the deteriorating relationship between campus and community residents ages 12 to 24. One of the most active such groups in Maryland, the Coalition was recently awarded a $300,000 increase in its state grant and a high-profile community grants.

Gibralter joined Frostburg Mayor Robert Flanigan '92 behind the grill to feed Beauty 'The Burg volunteers.

President Gibralter always went out of his way to make me really 'feel at home' whenever I was on campus,” Planigan said. "If I needed to review an issue with him, I would just pick up the phone. It has been much more than a

NATIONAL REPUTATION

Gibralter has become a national figure on the issue of high-risk drinking reduction among college students. He has shared his expertise and insight in numerous articles and presentations and has been interviewed by national media outlets, including PBS, NewsHour, NPR's All Things Considered, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

• 2008, Presidential Leadership Award for success in promoting a vibrant intellectual and social campus climate that de-emphasizes the role of alcohol.
• 2011, FSU joins the inaugural Learning Collaborative on High-Risk Drinking, co-ordinated at Dartmouth College.

“President Gibralter set the tone for sustainability when he scheduled his inauguration on Earth Day in 2007. That was also the day he signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment on behalf of FSU, to move toward a goal of bringing campus climate neutral. By 2009, FSU had submitted a Climate Action Plan outlining strategies to reduce the University's carbon footprint, improve environmental education, encourage research and outreach and set sustainability goals in operations and purchasing.

FSU’s sustainability landmarks:
• 2012 recipient of Second Nature’s Climate Leadership Award for Institutional Excellence
• Listed in the Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges four times
• Named a Sierra Magazine “Cool School” three times
• STARS Silver Rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
• The renovated Lane University Center is certified LEED Gold
• CCIT and SERF are both designed to LEED Gold standard, with certification pending
• Funded a Time Campus USA for three consecutive years
• Established a minor in Sustainability Studies
Donatelli Mentors No Lions, but Tigers and a Bear

By David Driver

After spending a frustrating freshman season with the football program at Division II Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, John Donatelli ’88 decided to enroll at Frostburg in the mid-1980s as a sophomore. It was there he was reunited with Bob Novak ’89, his former teammate at Calvert Hall High School in suburban Baltimore who had transferred from Widener. “I played center and he played guard,” Donatelli said.

The transfer worked well for both Donatelli and Novak, who have remained lifelong friends as veteran football coaches. Baltimore native Donatelli is in his 18th year with the Bobcats’ Lineman of the Year in 1987.

“It hasn’t been easy by any means. I have had the opportunity to stay in one place and build something that will hopefully last for the following 15 to 20 years,” Donatelli said.

Donatelli is the offensive line coach for a team that posted a record of 29-10 in a three-year span.

“Tigers and Bears,” Donatelli said.

“Has a great perspective on kids,” said Rob Ambrose, the Towson head coach. “He understands the kids that come here and where they come from. He has coached in multiple offensive systems.”

Donatelli has helped develop several standout offensive linemen for the Towson Tigers, but perhaps the most notable pupil is former Towson tackle Jermon Bushrod, who was a fourth-round pick by the New Orleans Saints in 2007 out of college. In his first season as a starter in the NFL, he was part of a top-ranked offense with New Orleans that triumphed over the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV.

A two-time Pro Bowl player now in his eighth NFL season, Bushrod signed with the Chicago Bears in 2013.

“It is like a proud father, it is the exact feeling,” said Donatelli, who has stayed connected to Bushrod. “Before every game, my phone rings three hours before kickoff and we talk. We will talk about this opponent. All that does is strengthens the relationship. That is what keeps me here at Towson.”

Donatelli said he draws some of his football acumen and leadership skills from Augie Miceli, his former coach at Calvert Hall; former Towson coach Phil Albert; and his late father, Dan, who served in the U.S. Air Force.

“Augie was in his mid-50s and teaching math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted. “He was very instrumental with my coaching and I took a principles of math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted. “He was very instrumental with my coaching and I took a principles of math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted. “He was very instrumental with my coaching and I took a principles of math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted. “He was very instrumental with my coaching and I took a principles of math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted. “He was very instrumental with my coaching and I took a principles of math at Calvert Hall,” Donatelli noted.

Donatelli’s father enforced values of honor, respect, courage and commitment. “He was never one to force a military mindset on us,” Donatelli said.

The veteran coach was part of some lean years with the Towson program. “From standing in the rain to bring in the sunshine” is Donatelli’s analogy. “We have had a lot of adversity.”

Donatelli and his wife, Maria, are the parents of Samantha and Luca and live in Hartford County.

Donatelli has mentored standout offensive linemen, including Towson Bulldog of the Chicago Bears.

David Driver is a freelance writer. He can be reached at daviddriverwriter.com.
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY: ONE UNIVERSITY. A WORLD OF EXPERIENCES.

Women's Soccer
Record: 15-6-4, 5-3-2 Capital Athletic Conference
Highlight: Bobcats advanced to the NCAA tournament.
Recap: After earning the fourth seed in the CAC Tournament, the Bobcats began a late-season surge that propelled them to the CAC Tournament title and into the NCAA Tournament for the eighth time in the past 14 years. Frostburg shut out five opponents at home, but none was sweeter than a 2-0 blanking of Mary Washington in the CAC title game on Nov. 8. FSU led the CAC in scoring (48 goals, 53 assists) and had a trio of players named to the All-CAC teams: senior Stephanie Fazenbaker and juniors Brooke Longo and Jessa DiTullo. Fazenbaker was also selected to the Capital One Academic All-American for the third-consecutive year.

Next Season: Frostburg looks for Fazenbaker and senior keeper Katie Smith, but head coach Brian Parker has a young roster loaded with talent that is poised for another CAC title.

Men's Soccer
Record: 10-6-3, 3-1-1 CAC
Highlight: Frostburg advanced to the CAC Tournament for the fourth straight season.
Recap: The Bobcats earned the third seed in the 2014 CAC Tournament Championship and posted 10 or more wins for the fourth straight season. And they did it with defense behind one of the region’s top goalkeepers. Sophomore keeper Hansen Mestala and freshman defender Jabari Hawkins both earned All-CAC honors and spearheaded a defense that allowed the CAC’s fewest goals (19) in games. Frostburg, which also posted a league-best 0.43 goals against average, finished with 11 shutouts, including one in five straight games without a goal allowed in mid-September. As a team, FSU finished second among 402 NCAA Division III schools in save percentage (0.909) and goals against average (0.45).

Brook Longo was named to the All-CAC team. Association of America All-South Region and was selected as an Eastern College Athletic Conference South All-Star.

Next Season: Mestala and Hawkins return as Frostburg State aims for a CAC title.

Football
Record: 6-2, 3-1 Empire 8
Highlight: Bobcats win five games, including an upset of 25th-ranked Rhodia.
Recap: DeLane Fitzpatrick was hired in January 2014 to turn around the Frostburg football program and his import was immediate. Frostburg won four games for the first time since 2011, including a 38-17 overtime upset of No. 25 Whasa at Bobcat Stadium for Homecoming. The Bobcats, who started 2-0, made vast improvements from a season ago, but none were more evident than on defense. Frostburg finished fifth in the league in scoring defense (27.3) and total defense (359.6), allowing 17.4 fewer points per game and 10.4 fewer total yards than in 2013. Sophomore defensive end Irv Willson, junior linebacker Rowan Pinkett and junior defensive back Salaman Robidour all were named to the All-CAC Empire 8 teams. Senior quarterback Ke Enemerr was voted as Frostburg’s Sportsman of the Year.

Next Season: The Bobcats return numerous starters on both sides of the ball as they begin their first year of competition in the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

Field Hockey
Jennelle Gover earned All-CAC honors.

Women's Cross Country
Highlight: Bobcats take fifth at the CAC Championships.
Recap: FSU posted two wins on the season, entering the CAC Championships in early November. The Bobcats were both the Westmoreland/Pitt-Greensburg Invitational and Head College Open before finishing fifth at the CAC Championships. Senior Bryn Allister captured runner-up (19:42.7) in Westmoreland/Pitt-Greensburg Regional. Meanwhile, sophomore Casey Columbia paced Frostburg at the CAC Championships, taking 28th place (24:00:01).

Next Season: The Bobcats return four of their top five runners as they look to improve at next year’s CAC Championships.

Field Hockey
Record: 6-12-0, 6-1-0 CAC
Highlight: FSU posted six wins, and Jacqueline Gover earned All-CAC honors.
Recap: Frostburg finished sixth in seven games at the CAC Championships, finishing fifth at the CAC Championships. Senior Bryn Allister captured runner-up (19:42.7) in Westmoreland/Pitt-Greensburg Regional.

Women's Basketball
Record: 6-19 Overall, 3-15 CAC
Highlight: Ronje James nails first Team All-CAC honors.
Recap: Frostburg State showed signs of life late in the season under first-year head coach Carrie Saunders as the Bobcats won five of their final eight games, including a 78-76 double overtime win over York. Senior guard Ronje James was named to the All-CAC First Team following a season in which she led the conference in scoring (156 points). James capped off four-year Frostburg career ranked 12th in school history with 1,180 points.

Next Season: Frostburg carries momentum into next season following the late surge but the team will have to replace four seniors, including its top two scorers.

Men's Swimming
Highlight: The Bobcats set a pair of school records while placing sixth at the CAC championships.
Recap: The men placed sixth at the CAC Championships and individually did not fail to impress. Freshman Christian March earned three CAC "A" cuts and an NCAA "B" cut. March set the school record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:07.61 and broke the FSU record with a time of 2:07.21 in the 200-yard breaststroke. He earned the final spot for the championship in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.72. Junior Joe Sheppard was the final Bobcat to earn a pair of "A" cuts at the CAC Championship meet. Sheppard owns the 100-yard breaststroke with a record of 59.36 and the 200- yard breaststroke with a time of 2:12.61.

Freshman Zach Shattuck set three Paralympic American records at the CAC championships in the 100-yard freestyle (26.29), the 200-yard freestyle (1:33.23) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:03.90).

Next Season: March will highlight a roster that has a great deal of youth and depth that will look to continue to improve on its standings.

Noah Becker

Men's Cross Country
Highlight: Frostburg finishes eighth at the CAC Championships.
Recap: Frostburg captured three straight top-five finishes before taking eighth at the CAC Championships. The Bobcats finished fourth at Messiah and improved one place to third at the Westmoreland/Pitt-Greensburg Invitational, behind a fifth-place finish from freshman Brad Baker (27:31). Two weeks later, Frostburg registered fifth place the Head College Open before finishing eighth at the CAC Championships. The Bobcats capped their season with a 38th-place showing at the NCAA Midst Regionals. Sophomore Jordan Riddick emerged as the team’s top finisher.

Next Season: Frostburg lost just one senior and returns a roster loaded with young talent that should help improve on its finish at next year’s CAC Championships.

Winter

Men's Basketball
Record: 10-15 Overall, 6-12 CAC
Recap: Frostburg State finished in seventh place in the CAC standings following a regular season that saw the Bobcats post 19 wins, six in the CAC, and an upset at 11th-ranked Randolph-Macon late in November. Junior Nick Smoot led the team in scoring with 299 points, while senior Jabari Kamau finished fifth in the league in rebounds.

Next Season: The Bobcats graduated three starters and return six of their top seven scorers.

Fazenbaker Racks Up Academic, Athletic Honors
Senior Stephanie Fazenbaker is wrapping up four years at FSU with an extraordinary academic and athletic career behind her. Fazenbaker, a soccer player and biology major, was named to the 2014 Capital One Academic All-American Women’s Soccer Division III First Team, making her the first student-athlete in school history to earn the prestigious academic honor three times. She is also a two-time member of the All-CAC Academic First Team, and received an honorable mention for the NSCAA Scholar All-East Region Team.

Fazenbaker has helped lead the Bobcats to a 32-17-11 record over four years, with four appearances in the CAC Tournament, two trips to the NCAA Tournament and an ECAC Tournament Championship in 2011. This fall she helped her team make the NCAA Tournament, in eight NCAA appearance in 14 years. She finished her final season with the fourth-most assists in program history (23), placed sixth in scoring (113 points) and seventh in goals (42).

Stephanie Fazenbaker

Ronje James was named to the All-CAC team.

Men's Soccer
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Highlight: Frostburg advanced to the CAC Tournament for the fourth straight season.
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Next Season: The Bobcats return four of their top five runners as they look to improve at next year’s CAC Championships.

Indoor Track and Field Wrap-up will appear in the next Profile.
FSU HOME COMING ’14

President’s Leadership Circle students and Student Government Association President Katie Morgan enjoy dinner at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with President Glassier.

President’s Leadership Circle students and Student Government Association President Katie Morgan enjoy dinner at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with President Glassier.

FSU alumni and friends gather in front of the sign for Susan Essel Drive, named in honor of her 40-plus years of service in Bobcat Athletics and the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Homestanding Queen Ly-Anh McCoy and King Keith Smith wave to the crowd after halftime of the football game against Ithaca College.

Homecoming Queen Ly-Anh McCoy and King Keith Smith wave to the crowd after halftime of the football game against Ithaca College.

Anissa Ayers, Danielle Jackson ‘13, Jimmy Swindell and 2012 Homecoming Queen Amanda Wallace ‘13 were among many FSU friends and alumni who came out for the late-night Frostburg Finale.

Dr. Bill Bingman reunites with former FSU employees Adelia McKenzie and Ralph Murphy at the annual Retired Employees Luncheon.

Dr. John Bambacus presents Ken Coffey ‘77 with the Patrick McKenna Professional Achievement Award at the Jim Anderson Memorial Baseball Breakfast.

The Department of Athletics recognized the 50th anniversary of women’s basketball at FSU. Eleven former players and three head coaches returned for the celebration.

Congratulations to the 2014 Bobcat Hall of Fame Inductees: Grant Burrough ‘04, Carlos Acker ‘86, Lisa DeLauter Westwood ‘89 and Barry Holder ‘84.

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The Department of Athletics celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 1984 field hockey team on its 30th Anniversary. The team posted the field hockey program’s first NCAA win.

Homecoming weekend wrapped up with a men’s basketball alumni game.

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CLASSNOTES

Books by Alumni

The Devil and Pastor Gus
By Roger Bruner '68

Bruner’s third novel, a satire that he calls “quirky spiritual fiction,” combines elements of “The Devil and The Book,” C.S. Lewis’ "Screwtape Letters," and John Steinbeck’s "East of Eden." The Devil and Pastor Gus is set in a small town in the mid-20th century and follows the life of the town’s pastor, Gus, who is haunted by the Devil, who wants revenge.

Michael C. Wilt, Ph.D.

joined the firm in 1998 and serves as cochair of the firm’s Employee Benefits group within Wallace & Nurick LLC as an attorney in the firm’s Employee Benefits group. His practice focuses on employee benefits law, taxation and executive compensation. He is employed in the firm’s Lanham office.

Linda Nichols Martin

won Salisbury University’s 2014 40 Under 40 Century 1 Contest. The contest features a cyclist’s dark silhouette and a lone seagull, backed by the marshy Eastern Shore scenery and a colorful evening sky. It was showcased on T-shirts and promotional materials for the bike ride across the lower Eastern Shore.

1992

Philip Rodenheaver '91, who is market area president for First United Bank & Trust, graduated from the American Bankers Association Graduate School of Banking in Philadelphia. Stouffer is ABA national graduate school of banking, an intensive three-year program for bank executives.

1993

Dr. Rae Ann Smith M’94 was promoted to a tenured professor at Allegany College of Maryland. Rae Ann teaches in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program and is the program’s director. She joined the ACM faculty in 2005.

1994

Sarah Bry joined the law firm of McKee, Wallace & Nuske LLC as an attorney in the firm’s Employee Benefits group within the Labor Employment practice group. Her practice focuses on employee benefits law.

1998

Dr. Richard Ammon M’98 joined Northeast Technical College in Pocomoke, Md., as dean of Business, Management and General Studies. His duties will include leadership of the Business and General Education academic area. Richard previously held positions at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Federick Community College and Hagerstown Community College.

2006

Greg Hughes retired after 10 years in the U.S. Air Force and then went to work for the federal government. He will celebrate 30 years working for the government as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a member of the Physical Security/Antiterrorism Force Protection Team.

2000

Dr. Sharon Colantonio Garino is employed as a research scientist at the University of Texas at Austin New Energy Department of Chemistry. She is also known as one of Maryland’s Next Leaders in Banking.

2004

Trecia Ellis (M’00) joined Garrett College in McHenry, Md., as a director of Student Life, bringing with her over 15 years of experience in residence life and student affairs, including at FSU.

Andrew Miller

was named as "Job’s Best and Brightest" finalist by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana and Andrew is senior vice president of Operations for Public Affairs Group and was also named the overall winner of the Governor’s category, an honor placing him at the top of a highly competitive category. Sponsored by Junior Achievement, the “Best and Brightest” award program identifies 100 of the city’s most outstanding young professionals age 40 and younger.

Kati Townsley

was named executive director of the Carroll Technology Council CTC, an independent, nonprofit, technology-focused organization providing leadership, information and resources to educate, attract and influence technology in Carroll County, Md.

2008

Griffin Detrick was promoted to a senior accountant in the Family Services Group of Arthur Kill CPA. He joined the firm in 2011 and obtained his CPA license in 2017.

2012

Jenna Matthews Gorgol was awarded the Mary People (Mary Fish Treasurer) Award at Paw Paw Elementary School in Paw Paw, W.Va. She and her husband, Dan, reside in LaFayette, Md.

2014

Dylan Scherpf had his article "WikiMacro: Revelations on Trans-Pacific Partnership Ignored by Corporate Media" published in Genomeweb 2015, featuring Dr. Andrew Gorton, who works at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

APRIL 18

Field Hockey Alumni Game
Rock Island, Hospitality Suite
Noon – 3:00 p.m.

APRIL 25

6th Annual Baseball Spring Golf Invitational
First Sisters Golf Course
Dundalk, Md.
11:00 a.m. – Registration

MAY 1

Undergraduate Research Symposium
Lane University Center
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MAY 2

Rugby Alumni Game
FSU Campus

MAY 3

CCF Dedication In Honor of President Emeritus Catherine K. Girr
CCF
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MAY 7

D.C. Public Policy & Government Relations Affinity Group
Laughing Man Tavern,
Washington, D.C.
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

MAY 9

Spring Fest
face painting, Student Alumni Association Upper Quad, FSU Campus
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Send Us Your News!

Share your news on social media:

OR BY MAIL OR EMAIL:

- Email: info@frostburg.edu
- Mail: Frostburg State University, Alumni Office, Frostburg, MD 21532-2303

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MILESTONES

Marriages

2007
Meghan Chandler married Bradley Yost ’12 on Sept. 6, 2014. Meghan is a librarian with the Baltimore County Library System. Brad is a physicist with the Patrick Naval Air Base. The couple resides in Lexington Park, Md.

2011
Katie Johnson married Daniel Gares ’11 on July 6, 2013. Katie is attending graduate school and is working toward her master’s degree in business in Philadelphia. The couple resides in Clarysville, Md.

Births

1997
Karen M. Aycox ’97 M’97 was born to James and Karen Aycox in Nov. 10, 2014. Karen is employed at Roy Rogers and the Cumberland Country Club in the Pro Shop. The couple resides in Lexington Park, Md.

2010
Julie Schliebhulte Rando M’09 and her husband, Nick, ’00, announce the birth of their daughter Mia Sidney, on Oct. 10, 2014.

For the Brickey-Goldsmith family

2009
Joe Brickey and his wife, Cheryl, announce the birth of their son, Anthony James, on Oct. 5, 2014.

2004
Jillian Bocchi Schleifer was born to Judah and Nancy Schleifer in July 2014. Joe is the director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Henry E. Lackey High School in Leonardtown, Md.

2002
Leann Behrend Mongelluzzo and her husband, Robert, who are 5 years old.

2000
Geoffrey ’00 married Tricia ’98 on June 15, 2013. Sheree is employed at John’s Hopkins Hospital and is working toward her doctorate in French from Yale. She taught at SMU, the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Dallas before accepting his position at Frostburg.

In Memoriam

Alumni

1956
Margaret E. Doak M’57 was born on Aug. 10, 2014.

1959

1940

1941

1942

1949

1951

1952

1954
Isaac F. “Shoter” Bowman Nov. 11, 2014.

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959
Clyde J. Gipper Feurer July 20, 2014.

1960
Leatrice Meek Hochsch Dec. 21, 2014.

1961

1962

1963
Pamela A. candlesis Sept. 6, 2014.

1964

1965
Helen A. Leporal Hatfield June 1, 2014.

1966

1967

1968
Sally A. Lyman Vann Nov. 16, 2014.

1969

1970
Brett W. Blodgett June 6, 2014.

1973
Mary Kate Wrinklewicz Aug. 16, 2014.

1974

1975

1976
Eleanor C. Fike Smith M’81 Oct. 25, 2014.

1977
Bradley L. Kline Williamson Nov. 7, 2014.

1978

1979
Erin Giddi Betherem and her husband, John, announce the birth of their daughter, Mia Zelina, on June 7, 2014.

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985
Teresa J. Letourneau M’81 Nov. 16, 2014.

1986

1987
Evelyn A. Atwood M’87 July 28, 2014.

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993
Helen A. Leporal Hatfield June 1, 2014.

1994

1995

1996
Merrill J. Habersack July 5, 2015.

1997

1998
Katie Johnson married Daniel Gares ’11 on July 6, 2013. Katie is attending graduate school and is working toward her master’s degree in business in Philadelphia. The couple resides in Clarysville, Md.

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2002
Leann Behrend Mongelluzzo and her husband, Bobby, announce the birth of their son, Anthony James, on Oct. 5, 2014. Anthony joined big brothers, Thomas and Robert, who are 5 years old.

2004
Julie Schliebhulte Rando M’09 and her husband, Nick, ’00, announce the birth of their daughter, Mia Sidney, on Oct. 10, 2014.

Swim Team Reception

Families of the event’s and women’s swimming teams gathered in January before the Bobcats hosted a meet against the Randolph- Monroe Valley Yellow Jackets and the York Spartans.

Christina Floresca and her husband, Jason Wilson, announce the birth of their daughter, Hope Wilson, on Nov. 7, 2014.
A Fellow Graduate

University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. “Brit” Kirwan, who will soon retire after 51 years in higher education, spoke at the 145th commencement in December. He told the graduates, “I, too, graduate today and prepare for a transition to a new phase of life, just as you do.

“I chose this campus for my last commencement because of my enormous appreciation and respect for Frostburg State University, its commitment to the education of its students and the advancement of the surrounding community. Frostburg exemplifies the best of what higher education can do for the people and region it serves.

“So, fellow graduates, know that you are privileged to graduate from a great university. Go forth and do well in this world while you do good for others. For that, indeed, is the spirit that defines Frostburg State University.”
Increasingly, alumni and friends of Frostburg State University have chosen to leave their stamp on the University in a more literal way, associating their name or the name of someone they love and admire with a space on campus. These “naming” opportunities involve financial gifts to support the University, and in some cases, a related program. They are a visible demonstration of a commitment to FSU.

A number of opportunities exist to create a permanent association with a space on campus, starting at the $5,000 gift level. To learn more, contact the FSU Foundation, Inc., at 301.687.4161.
Sometimes, all a student needs is one opportunity to connect.

For student DeShawna Jones, the Student Leadership Retreat her freshman year gave her an opportunity to connect with other students. Now, nearly three years later, she is thriving as the president of the Global Business Club in the College of Business.

“Even in my junior year, I still talk about that experience with my friends,” Jones says. “I learned that being a leader involves integrity and always doing the right thing—even when you think no one is watching.”

The Student Leadership Retreat, held every September at Camp Allegheny in Stoystown, Pa., is supported through an Opportunity Grant administered through the FSU Foundation, Inc.

“The retreat helps students identify with one another and with Frostburg,” said Director of Leadership and Experiential Learning Doug Baer. “These freshmen come in not knowing anyone, and they leave feeling like a part of the campus. That’s the best part.”

Programs supported by Opportunity Grants give students the chance to participate in transformational experiences and assist in student retention.