Dear Frostburg State University Alumni & Friends:

I want to personally welcome all of you to our spring edition of Profile. In this issue, we are highlighting the active engagement of our students in their education, in particular outside the classroom. And as our students interact with the world as students, you will also see our alumni continue that inclination forward toward destinations they may never have imagined.

It starts with our students being engaged by their faculty members, who encourage meaningful connections to the curriculum. This enthusiasm and interest might expand to off-campus opportunities, such as an internship in the U.S. Senate or Congress through the Beall Institute, an Engineering or Business co-op through CSX Transportation, or teacher candidates starting their careers in practicums with schools across Maryland.

It might also include doing research in local forests or studying the possible use of renewable sources of energy. It may be working with community service groups, where our students have been known to raise thousands of dollars and provide thousands of hours of service.

As your University continues to evolve, these opportunities for engagement outside the classroom are expanding, particularly in the area of international education. In October, I had the opportunity to travel to Limerick, Ireland, to visit Mary Immaculate College, where Frostburg State University students have been studying for years. I also visited Northumbria University in Newcastle, England, and Copenhagen Day and Evening College in Denmark. Officials from Northumbria and Copenhagen are visiting FSU this spring to explore expanding our partnerships. These international collaborations deeply enhance our students’ view of the world and their experience of the United States’ position in the global economy.

As you read this issue of Profile you will be introduced to students and alumni who have “gone places” literally and figuratively — from a NASA astronaut who is scheduled to fly within the year to students on “road trips” and overseas — and other students and alumni who went further in one way or another than those around them. And you will see how their journeys all started with the decision to go to Frostburg.

As prospective students consider their choice for their collegiate experience, we want them to tell their peers proudly, “I am going to Frostburg State University - Where are you going?” All of you have been here and understand the enormous pride that comes with having graduated from FSU. I hope this helps you reflect on the journey that you began here at Frostburg.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Gibralter
President, Frostburg State University
Bringing Gallaudet Back

Ed Hottle ’99, ’01, has been rebuilding the football program at Gallaudet University, bringing the team back into the NCAA and learning sign language along the way.
Who Are We? The FSU Alumni Association is a non-dues-based organization comprised of all graduates and former students (those who have successfully completed a minimum of one semester) of Frostburg State University, Frostburg State College, Frostburg State Teachers College and State Normal School #2 at Frostburg.

What is the purpose of the FSU Alumni Association? The purpose of the Association shall be to unite graduates, former students and friends of Frostburg for mutual benefit and to promote the welfare and advance the interests of Frostburg State University.

As you can see, we are a very large, diverse group of individuals who have one thing in common — our dedication and love for our University in Western Maryland. The alumni of Frostburg State University are compassionate, hard-working and competitive. Every day my mailbox is filled with news articles portraying yet another successor story from one of my fellow Bobcats. We have a strong tradition of excellence at FSU, and I am proud to serve you.

As the FSU Alumni Association continues to grow, we strive to engage and reconnect with our alumni base. In order for us to be successful in this venture, it is important for you to understand what the Alumni Association is and who we are.

Where Are You Going? Frostburg!

"Where are you going?" For many students, that answer should be "Frostburg!"

Today's high school students — and tomorrow's Frostburg students — are vastly different from those of even 10 years ago. In many ways, Frostburg has adapted to those changes well with new programs and activities; in others, however, we have missed opportunities to tell our distinct story. As changes in the look and language of our recruitment materials and our outreach efforts to prospective students didn’t to change with them. While we continued to attract many wonderful students to Frostburg, a considerable number of others were going elsewhere. We were not reaching the right students with the right message in the right place.

In the fall of 2008, FSU President Jonathan Gribble formed a Marketing and Branding Task Force. Among the committee’s tasks was to review University recruitment publications, gather data on current and potential students, examine how Frostburg is perceived in our selected markets and learn “a common institutional branding language.” All this would lead to the development of a comprehensive communications plan that would be integrated into the University’s strategic plan.

Among the discussions was how better to create and use messages that students want to receive so they can make Frostburg their college choice. Too often, colleges and universities focus on themselves, as if the number of campus buildings is what’s important to a high school junior or senior. Frostburg’s messages must focus on the student and challenge the student to imagine himself or herself on our campus.

This past semester, the first elements of an updated Frostburg State University identity began appearing in college fair and education guides. These publications begin a process of coordinating messages focused on student needs and interests, and how a Frostburg education and the overall Frostburg experience can help a student achieve his or her life’s goals. This spring, those themes will be carried through with a new search piece and viewbook.

So what makes Frostburg State University distinctive? Our initial themes will focus on three broad areas: the providers of education and professional management (through research, internships, co-op) help students complement their classroom theory with activities that bring the theories to life; the integration of the Western Maryland geography and economic development and entrepreneurial activities (economic development and entrepreneurship programs); and the process of discovery, through which students challenge themselves to grow through leadership opportunities, group activities and other experiences.

It is important to note that these areas of engagement, integration and discovery are not new; they have been essential elements of the Frostburg experience since we founded the College over a century ago. Our alumni have been sharing these stories for years as they travel throughout the region, nation and world. What IS new is the way we package these stories. The FSU Alumni Association seeks to host stories for years as they travel throughout the region, nation and world. What IS new is the way we package these stories. The FSU Alumni Association seeks to host stories, so that others can take the time to learn from our past.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Shannon Gribble ’98
directorofAlumniPrograms@fbu.edu
Aspiring Artists Take a Closer Look at Society's Problems in "We've Got Issues"

by Rebecca Rampert

Ask FSU freshman Francesca Pehr to tell you about the unique power of expression that visual art offers, and you’ll get a thoughtful and mature answer.

“Artwork can use words to express an idea, but unlike writing, you also have the benefit of line, color, shape, light, value, perspective, unity and other elements and principles that let you communicate ideas and feelings that words cannot always grasp,” she says.

Pehr had the opportunity to articulate her feelings about art and explore her potential as a professional artist while participating in FSU’s Fall 2007 Art and Design Learning Community, one of many such communities at FSU that group like-minded students together to create introductory courses in their shared areas of academic interest. As part of the Art and Design Learning Community, participants took field trips to area cultural landmarks like Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater in Pennsylvania and renowned art museums in Washington, D.C. They also created individual projects, wrote artist statements and went to museums in Washington, D.C. They also created individual projects, wrote artist statements and went to museums in Washington, D.C.

During the course, students worked towards creating a "We’ve Got Issues" — on display in the Lane University Center in November. The show drew hundreds to its opening reception.

"By giving students the "real-life" experience of planning an exhibit and creating the artwork, they can experience firsthand the life of a working artist and then decide for themselves based on their own reactions, and not on the opinions of others, whether they want to make the commitment to art and to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree,” says FSU instructor Trish Limbaugh, a key coordinator of the Art and Design Learning Community.

For "We’ve Got Issues," each student selected a current topic or problem — Hurricane Katrina, depression, environmental destruction and the effect the military has on families were among the countless subjects that were explored in the show.

Pehr’s work focused on sexual abuse.

"Most rapes and cases of sexual abuse never make it to court, and the very few that do don't get any results," she says. "You can read an article about sexual abuse, but seeing it before you, actually having a visual, gives you a stronger connection to the problem.”

As serious as some of the content in "We’ve Got Issues" was, the title of the show itself was both literal and tongue-in-cheek.

"We’ve Got Issues" perfectly sums everything up without taking ourselves too seriously,” says Alice Greenoehck, a student who created artwork that uses mushrooms to address body image.

"I read about how mushrooms can release spores into the air and contaminate everything around them, causing other plants to grow a sometimes poisonous fungus. I realized this could be a powerful metaphor for peer pressure and how one person’s negativity can easily influence another person’s thoughts,” Groebeck says. "I hope that by drawing a mushroom infecting a flower to represent body image, the viewer will be affected by my piece and remember it later on.”

In addition to marketing the city’s existing cultural strengths, the designation could also play a key role in how the downtown continues to grow and thrive.

"By successfully establishing an arts and entertainment district, Frostburg can expand its use of the arts as a catalyst for economic development in the revitalization of Main Street,” said Stephen Spahr, FSU’s Vice President for Economic Development and Government Relations.

"Getting this designation is also a way for the city to strengthen the sense of community around the arts, foster the relationship between the FSU and the City of Frostburg, provide new and expanded opportunities for resident artists and develop a visual identity for the city’s downtown market for the creation of new arts programming.”

The arts and entertainment designation opens doors to property tax credits for qualifying resident artists and art and entertainment enterprises, Spahr said. It also extends an invitation to local Frostburg artists to get involved with the process and offer their support to the project. The Arts & Entertainment Committee and Frostburg First have held several public forums to discuss the geographic boundaries for the proposed district and to share ideas with Frostburg residents.

"I’ve most enjoyed the opportunities for creating and reaffirming community that this effort has created. Our public meetings have been well attended, and it’s been rewarding to see both longtime local residents and new arrivals come together to work toward achieving a common goal,” said Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas, co-chair of the Art & Entertainment Committee and a resident folklorist and assistant professor in FSU’s sociology department.

Andy Vick, Executive Director of the Allegany Arts Council, and a co-chair of the A&E Committee, noted that Frostburg’s cultural community boasts lots of musicians, writers, visual artists, actors and other creative professionals.

"Forming an arts and entertainment district is one way to organize and showcase this talent to both locals and visitors.”

FSU’s Green Campus Efforts Growing

If FSU could bottle its environmental advocates’ enthusiasm and dedication to developing a greener campus, it would probably have enough energy to sustain its facilities for several decades. Since April 2007, when FSU President Jonathan Gibralter signed the American University and College Presidents Climate Initiative, the University has rapidly enacted a variety of projects as part of its campus-wide sustainability initiative, “Learning Green, Living Green.”

“We’ve achieved much more in a short amount of time than I would have dreamed possible,” said Dr. Jim Limbaugh, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and the chair of the sustainability initiative’s committee. “To date, 67 members of the FSU community — faculty, staff and students — have volunteered to take on tasks as diverse as establishing a recycling program, researching alternative energy sources and forging community partnerships.

FSU is also building new partnerships through its faculty’s environmental research efforts. Under the direction of Dr. Oguz Soysal, chair of the Department of Physics, the University hosted a Renewable Energy Symposium and Exposition Sept. 14 and 15 that drew area academics, industry representatives and researchers who presented papers and held discussions on a variety of topics relating to renewable energy. Soysal and his colleagues have also developed a certified training program for the practical installation of residential solar and wind generation systems, thanks to a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

FSU’s Sierra Student Coalition, which lobbied for a greener campus, continues to encourage the University community to take action. On Oct. 30 and Nov. 18, the group organized campus-wide ‘Blackout Days,’ during which everyone was asked to turn off all electrical appliances from noon to 1 p.m. in offices, residences and classrooms. By comparing kilowatt consumption records, Ray Blank, Director of Facilities, calculated that during the Oct. 30 Blackout Day, energy consumption dropped by almost 1,500 kWh (kilowatt hours, or how much energy is used in one hour). Additionally, during Fall 2007, the SSC’s President Jeff Selles and vice president Patrick O’Brien joined a statewide organization, the Maryland Student Climate Coalition, a collaboration of student groups from across the University System of Maryland who advocated that all System institutions adopt a comprehensive campus wide sustainability policy.

In January, the University joined with other colleges and universities across the country in Focus the Nation, a national teach-in for environmental sustainability that included 32 presentations — most by FSU faculty members as well as four panel discussions, nine booth displays, a concert and a ‘‘Trash Not, Want Not’’ trash sculpture competition. FSU is also participating in a pilot sustainability study of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and in RecycleMania, a 10-week national recycling competition for institutions of higher learning.

On Nov. 31, FSU joined more than 1,500 other American colleges and universities in “Focus the Nation,” a nationwide “trash-off” on global warming. Activists included a ‘‘Trash Not, Want Not’’ trash sculpture competition.
FSU Homecoming Court Raises $12,900 for Charities

By Brandy Vinson

FSU’s Homecoming Court has continued its philanthropic tradition by raising $12,900 for six different charities in a weekend of fundraisers. The event included a bake sale, a yard sale, a costume contest, and an online auction.

FSU Adding Offices, Bookstore Branch on Main Street

FSU will soon have a face on Frostburg’s Main Street when the renovation to the fire-damaged Lyric Building is complete sometime this summer. The historic building, which housed the popular Gandolfini’s restaurant until it was nearly gutted by fire in early 2004, is finally undergoing renovation.

Bayer Boosts Chemistry Labs with Gift of Equipment, Supplies

Dr. Robert Larivee, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, has been to most university science labs in Maryland, and he says Frostburg’s Compton Science Center undergraduate science laboratories can stand up to or surpass most. Now, a recent series of gifts from Bayer Material Science, LLC, is about to give a further boost to Frostburg science students.

FSU Professors Santoro and Schlegel Recognized as Outstanding Mentors

Frostburg professor Dr. Patricia Santoro, a professor in the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Keith Schlegel, a professor emeritus in the Department of English, were recognized with the Outstanding Mentor Award, which was presented at the FSU Career Expo Luncheon on Homecoming Weekend.

Business Resource Center Gives Entrepreneurs a Helping Hand

Local business owners and those needing assistance in establishing a business can now find resources through the Business Resource Center at FSU.

The center, located on the ground floor of the Guild Center, provides access to software and reference materials to help entrepreneurs learn more about planning, managing and growing their businesses.

Dr. Kermit Pooroltan, professor of Management in the College of Business and a director of the Trident Initiative for Entrepreneurs, says the center is a valuable tool to help individuals learn more about operating and business. “Entrepreneurs are not born; they also learn,” he said. “Most entrepreneurs are like most of us.”

Through a grant from the Coleman Foundation, Frostburg has established a number of outreach programs through the Trident Initiative to encourage entrepreneurship and small business development in Western Maryland, including an annual academic conference and the creation of the Business Resource Center.

Among the reference materials available at the center are books on how to start various businesses, financial and market data and directories of where further information can be found. One piece of software includes a business simulation program in which using various scenarios, a user can follow the success or failure of an idea without risking any money. The center will also be used by FSU students, especially those in courses such as Student Business Initiative, where students plan, organize and open their own businesses.

For more information, contact Pooroltan at 301.687.7488.
New Faces in University Advancement

FSU’s Office of University Advancement is welcoming some new faces in 2008.

Monica G. Reginio is FSU’s new Director of Annual Giving, with responsibility for leading the FSU Annual Fund. Reginio has most recently served as an Annual Funds and Special Gifts Officer at Mount Holyoke College, where she was a member of a team that brought that annual fund to its highest total ever of $8.56 million last year. She has significant experience in soliciting leadership annual fund gifts up to $10,000 and has effectively utilized a massive volunteer structure to achieve annual fund success. Reginio has garnered additional experience in development research and special event planning at Smith College.

Todd R. Moffett has been named the Director of Development Information Systems and Technologies. Moffett has worked in the development office at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, for approximately nine years as an Information Systems Engineer. In this role, he assisted the UMB Foundation Inc. and the development offices of six professional schools through database reporting, data loads and special projects. He is adept at developing effective information technology business processes, including procedures for data entry, record maintenance and database security and integrity. Moffett will assume a leadership role in making necessary improvements to the department’s data systems.

Cherie A. Krug, who had previously done great work with FSU’s Center for Volunteerism and National Service, has joined University Advancement as Director of Major Gifts. While Krug’s work in the area of volunteerism and service is well known in the FSU community, her fundraising prowess is perhaps less known. A graduate of the Fund Raising School-Indiana University Center for Philanthropy, she has secured numerous grants during her tenure as well as support from private donors. She knows the FSU alumni base very well, and the “bottom line” approach to her work and her outgoing personality will continue to serve her well as she makes this transition. She will play a critically important role in assisting to secure major philanthropic commitments for the upcoming campaign.

Vice President for University Advancement Bernard J. Davison II ‘81 says that these new members of the Advancement team and the expertise they bring represent a significant investment in the future of philanthropy at FSU at a particularly meaningful point in its history.

“This infusion of much-needed resources will allow us to enhance the institution’s presence with our donors and active volunteers around the state and around the country,” Davison says. “Advancement and alumni programs staff will be on the road more in coming months to build better relationships and engage those who care about FSU more meaningfully in its philanthropic endeavors.

“We know that people’s lives are incredibly busy, and this type of personalized attention is what Frostburg’s educational product is known for. We view this approach to alumni and donor relations as a natural progression of an ongoing relationship,” Davison says.

Alum Inaugurated as University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown President

Dr. Jem Spectar ’89 was inaugurated Sept. 28 as the fifth president of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

With an outstanding leadership record, Dr. Spectar has been provost at Western Oregon University; associate provost of academic affairs at the University of Scranton; director of studies at Princeton University; and assistant dean of students at the University of La Verne. In announcing Spectar’s appointment, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg noted, “Dr. Spectar is a visionary leader and champion. He is a watchful and engaging teacher with the skills and experience necessary to build effectively upon the strengths of our Johnstown campus and to enrich the lives of students, faculty, staff and administration.”

Spectar, a native of Cameroon, West Africa, earned his MBA from Frostburg. He also holds degrees from the University of La Verne, The George Washington University, University of Maryland Law School and Claremont Graduate University. Spectar has published numerous articles on international law and made presentations focusing on the world’s disadvantaged, international human rights and global health issues.

Special greetings from world leaders were shared at the inauguration, including a video message from Nobel Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu.

ABC@FSU Welcomes First Business

The Allegheny Business Center at Frostburg State University, a technology business park on the south end of campus, welcomed its first tenant in February. The information technology company InfoSpheras will be the anchor tenants in this first building, known as FSU Research Center.

Academic Privatization of Maryland, the developer of the project, anticipates that the $2.000 square-foot facility will be fully leased by the time the rest of the structure is finished later this spring. Businesses that are currently in the Taconic Business Incubator, housed in the former science building on campus, are among those expected to move in.

The park has been funded by federal, state and local sources, including a $2.5 million grant from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to assist with site work and “growing,” — filling abandoned coal mines beneath the site.

“FSU, together with its state, county and private partners, is pleased to welcome the first tenant to the newly opened ABC@FSU,” said FSU vice president for Economic Development and Government Relations.

Work now turns to developing the remaining sites in the Allegheny County-operated business park. Businesses that locate in ABC@FSU have the opportunity to engage with faculty in collaborative research and testing, as well as to hire students as interns or employees.

Together Again

Broadway star Debra Monk ’73 and her husband, long-time FSU drama professor David Press, were reunited in New York City this summer on a visit back to her homeland, “Curran,” to which she co-stars with Tony-winner David Hyde Pierce. Press, his wife, Candie, FSU President Jonathan Gilbert and his wife, Larue, and other members of the FSU community we’re greeted by Monk and Hyde Pierce and treated to a backstage tour. The group also had dinner with another New York area alum, Monk’s illustrious Gilbert Stafford. Press, who has kept close ties with his student over the years, presented Monk with a framed page from the program of the Tony award winning Monk’s first production on Frostburg’s Complete stage.

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You’ll go...the places to Frostburg. This is why Frostburg State University is working to make these experiences personal transformations entail much more. As you read these accounts, consider your own expeditions that began with your entrance with books and exams. And for many, that destination is just the embarkation point for still not at all where those entering students imagined they might be after they’ve finished growth — personal, spiritual, intellectual. The destination is often an astonishing surprise, secret is that the trip across the mountains to Frostburg State University is just the beginning.

Destination Anywhere
Starting Point Frostburg –

Frostburg alumni share a fond secret, one they know that most FSU students will learn. The secret is that the trip across the mountains to Frostburg State University is just the beginning. Once they arrive, the journey really starts.

Being a student at Frostburg State University is a grand voyage, one of self-discovery and growth — personal, spiritual, intellectual. The destination is often an astonishing surprise, not at all where those entering students imagined they might be after they’ve finished with books and exams. And for many, that destination is just the embarkation point for still another of life’s grand voyages.

In this issue of Profiles, FSU alumni and students talk about some of the journeys they have taken as a result of their Frostburg affiliation. While each has taken a physical journey, their personal transformations entail much more. As you read these accounts, consider your own expeditions that began with your entrance to Frostburg. This is why Frostburg State University is working to make these experiences available to more and more students. And you’ll understand why we now ask young people who are deciding their future to consider “Where are YOU going?” and answer, “Frostburg.”

Today, that steady relationship is the foundation for a new initiative within FSU, designed to dramatize and capture both the opportunities for Frostburg students to venture overseas and the number of students from all over the world who will call Frostburg home for a semester, a year or their entire college career.

FSU President Jonathan Gibralter and a handful of key FSU officials journeyed to Europe this past fall to renew relationships with three institutions that FSU had worked with in the past, including Mary Immaculate College.

They were pleased to report that the face-to-face meetings not only rejuvenated current connections but also generated potential new areas for cooperation and options for program development.

“We went to Europe with the intent of rekindling existing student exchange agreements, but it turned out to be much more than what we originally anticipated,” Gibralter says. “We found many common goals and many ways that the institutions could support one another.”

The journey’s highlight came when Gibralter and Dr. Pradad Cremin, president of Mary Immaculate, signed a new pact. They agreed to continue the educational exchange and promote – that have become standard among American universities – are still new concepts in Europe, and ones needed in a new European Union atmosphere.

“The Frostburg officials were pleased with how candid and wide-ranging the in-person discussions were, touching on topics that would not have been discovered otherwise,” Gibralter says. “Our hosts pointed out how important it was to meet face to face – a lot of what we do is by phone calls or e-mail. But there’s no substitute for actually seeing people and discussing where we have been and what our goals are,” says FSU Vice Provost John Bowman.

Linking to the World
Renewing European relationships is only the beginning of FSU’s international initiative. Frostburg has launched a strategic effort to increase the number of international students studying in Western Maryland, as well as the number of study abroad possibilities for Frostburg students. During the past five years, FSU has enrolled students from 50 countries, ranging from Argentina to Zimbabwe. During the 2006-2007 academic year, 31 international students were on campus. Likewise, nearly 50 FSU students each year study abroad, and that number will increase dramatically with new initiatives in the coming year, in particular the relationship with Hunan Normal University in China.

FSU’s new association with HNU has produced two international opportunities for Frostburg students within the course of a few months. In January, FSU students observed teaching in the schools attached to HNU (see story, p. 12). In March, FSU’s Chamber Choir will present a series of performances in Changsha, home of HNU, and Beijing. FSU is also working to attract students to Frostburg from China and India, and applications are in the works.

Where We Are – Where We’re Going
“International education is a life-changing experience, enriching a student’s education in a way that no classroom can,” says Dr. Hank Bullamore, who just completed a stint as interim director of the Center for International Education. The new director, Lynn Neddo, started in February.

Gibralter has committed to a significant expansion of international students at FSU.

“International understanding is such a crucial part of education in today’s world, and I am strongly committed to increasing the opportunities for our students to expand their horizons, as well as to bring the world to Frostburg in the form of these young scholars,” he says.

Frostburg winters and the warmth of Frostburg’s people.

Around 20 years ago, Frostburg State University started a partnership with a teacher’s college in Ireland, Mary Immaculate College, now part of the University of Limerick, has hosted scores of Frostburg students over those two decades, and dozens of Irish students have been introduced to the chill of Frostburg winters and the warmth of Frostburg’s people.

FSU Vice Provost John Bowman.

FSU President Jonathan Gibralter met with Mary Immaculate College President Pradad Cremin in Ireland (right), Dr. Kate Peterson, director of the Day and Evening University College of Teacher Education (bottom left) in Copenhagen, Denmark (bottom far right), and with Vice Chancellor Kel Farr of the University of Northumbria in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England (bottom center).
Frostburg’s Ireland Connection: Good Craic™ and So Much More

During a European visit to partner institutions last year, Frostburg State University officials met with FSU students attending Mary Immaculate College for the semester, as well as “Mary I” students who had spent previous semesters in Frostburg. The main purpose of the meeting was to examine concerns and advancements of the two educational institutions, which have been exchanging students since the 1990s, more forward with plans for future interactions. But it also gave the students a chance to talk about their common and differing experiences in this unique trans-Atlantic student connection, and to express what this international opportunity has meant to them. Here is some of what they had to say:

Mary I students:

Emma Dwan (FSU in Fall 2006)

Spent Spring Break in Daytona Beach.

Iris Murphy (Mary I)

Friends are abundant here.

Mandy Witt (FSU in Spring 2005)

Caitriona Hughes (FSU in Fall 2006)

Mandy Witt with some of her new friends, “Ivy” and “Meg,” an English Major at HNU

New Connections with China’s Schools

With the upcoming Olympics and China’s growing economic and cultural clout, the world is turning its sights toward earth’s most populous nation. Frostburg State University is no different.

Starting last year, FSU has been forging ties with Hunan Normal University in the south-central Chinese province. While much larger, HNU has plenty in common with FSU, including common roots in teacher education.

In January, that relationship advanced from meetings between officials to meetings between students. Eight students and two faculty members traveled to China during FSU’s Intersession to learn more about that nation’s educational system and culture.

“I know my eyes were really opened. I was deeply impressed and changed,” says Christine Yurko, a communications studies and English major at FSU. Yurko was struck by the friendliness of everyone she met, as well as their strong sense of history and pride. The students started major in Beijing, where in addition to visits to that city’s main cultural sites, including the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall, they observed a high school English class.

“The class was so new and neat, and the students did not speak a word of English. We were really surprised,” says Mindy Witt, an elementary education major and a theatre minor.

Come back to China

The students returned to China this past summer for the dedication of the Nankese Community Health Post. In her speech at that dedication, she said, “I came to Ghana to study Art and Design in 2005. I left Ghana a changed person. The experiences I had here were so profound, they awakened my soul and humanity…”

The Art of Caring

It was just a piece of litter, but because Heather Prince picked it up, she gained a new perspective on the world, and a community in Ghana is healthier for it.

Prince was in her final year at Frostburg studying art and design. She was also going through a divorce. Prince had just finished a year abroad in Hunan University. She knew nothing of the Nankese Community Health Post, but was amazed by how kind, how sincere and how honest they were,” Witt says.

Yurko and Witt both said they’d be perfectly content to live in China.

Once again, things seemed to fall into place. A scholarship from FSU and a timely inheritance funded her trip. N.C. State had one spot left in the program.“Everything just kind of worked out,” she says.

During that month-long program, half of her time was spent outside the classroom learning about China. She there observed about how the students lived and the customs learned by the kindness and generosity of people who had so little. “I quickly forgot my own problems at home,” she says.

About Africa

She was also going through a divorce. She was also going through a divorce. She was also going through a divorce. She was also going through a divorce. She was also going through a divorce. She was also going through a divorce.

“The experiences I had here were so profound, they awakened my soul and humanity…”

How could anyone leave this place untouched, still not be moved into action?”

They were welcomed with open arms, with a warmth she would not have expected for their status as “friends of friends.”

Perhaps they were welcomed with open arms, with a warmth she would not have expected for their status as “friends of friends.”

The bulk of their time was spent in Changsha, home of Hunan Normal University, where they met with fellow college students, learned about the Chinese educational system and teacher training, and observed more classrooms. All of the classes they observed were taught in English, and they were often called upon for pronunciation assistance, Witt and Yurko say.

At every turn, the students encountered a friendly welcome and a sense of helpfulness. “I was impressed by how kind, how sincere and how honest they were,” Witt says.

Yurko and Witt both said they’d be perfectly content to live in China.

The Art of Caring

It was just a piece of litter, but because Heather Prince picked it up, she gained a new perspective on the world, and a community in Ghana is healthier for it.

Prince was in her final year at Frostburg studying art and design. She was also going through a divorce. Prince had just finished a year abroad in Hunan University. She knew nothing of the Nankese Community Health Post, but was amazed by how kind, how sincere and how honest they were,” Witt says.

Yurko and Witt both said they’d be perfectly content to live in China.

Once again, things seemed to fall into place. A scholarship from FSU and a timely inheritance funded her trip. N.C. State had one spot left in the program. “Everything just kind of worked out,” she says.

During that month-long program, half of her time was spent outside the classroom learning about China. She there observed about how the students lived and the customs learned by the kindness and generosity of people who had so little. “I quickly forgot my own problems at home,” she says.

About Africa

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Retracing an Agonizing Journey

When Frostburg junior Seth Bruin set sail in the summer of 2007, he joined a crew that was retraceing a voyage not taken willingly.

Bruin spent the summer on the Amistad America, the replica of the slave ship whose captives rebelled and took control of the schooner in 1839. The resulting court case made history when the Africans won their freedom in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The notorious incident and resulting court fight were depicted in Steven Spielberg’s 1997 movie “Amistad.”

“I’ve always wanted to sail somewhere. But more importantly I wanted to learn about history, and the Africans’ experience—especially the Atlantic slave trade, stuff I never knew before,” says Bruin, who is a geography major with a minor in African-American studies.

Bruin was urged to apply for the Amistad journey by Dwayne Williams, his instructor in Sociology of African Americans. Williams is also a faculty member for Amistad America.

Williams says Bruin showed a sensitivity, intellectual curiosity and sense of leadership in the class that drew his attention. “He isn’t afraid to ask questions. He isn’t afraid to dialog,” Williams says.

Amistad America is spending 16 months traveling 14,000 miles retracing the routes of the slave industry, from the U.S. East Coast to points in Europe, the Caribbean and West Africa. Bruin signed on for the first leg of the journey, starting in Amistad America’s base of New Haven.

From New Haven, the ship, its crew and complement of eight college students began their journey. They sailed to Halifax, spent a couple of weeks completing the outfitting of the ship for its extended journey, then set sail for England, with a stop at the Azores Islands in the middle of the North Atlantic. The program also included two weeks of land-based educational experiences to steep the students in the history of the Amistad.

While onboard, he and the other student crew members worked the ship—polishing brass, cleaning, striking sails and serving watch shifts. Watches were key to keeping the ship safe, a lesson he learned well one night when he looked in one direction and saw clear sky, then looked the other way and saw a wall of towering clouds bearing down on the ship. He woke the captain, then the crew set to dropping sails in the pouring rain.

But the time onboard was also instrumental to giving the students a deeper understanding of the hardships the Amistad rebels endured in particular and the evils of the slave trade in general.

“They gave us the information, but it’s really up to the individual to put meaning to it. And a lot of the things during our discussions—not the class discussions, just like the informal stuff, hanging out on deck and talking—we really made the connection,” Bruin says. He knows that a book he felt compelled to read at home was beautiful, spacious, clean and safe in comparison to the horrific conditions of slaves shackled in a ship’s hold.

“I could not imagine what it would be like to spend months below deck all day, chained together with the smell of death surrounding you,” he wrote in a blog on the Amistad America Web site while he was at sea.

“When you’re actually on a boat and you’re in the middle of the ocean, you think about those same kinds of things, and it’s a lot more powerful,” he says.

He’s still trying to assess just where the Amistad experience has had on his life and where it might take him from here.

“I think I might be able to answer that question a year from now, after I’ve had time to go back through and read some of this, process it, and learn more,” he says.

Frostburg Roadtrip Takes Some Surprising Turns

The PBS series “Roadtrip Nation” started with a handful of recent college graduates who came to the realization that they didn’t know what their next step in life should be. Instead, they criss-crossed the country in a neon-green RV, talking to people from all walks of life. Then they turned their journey into a book, a documentary, a TV series and finally a movement to encourage others to explore the world outside their comfort zone.

The individuals that we interviewed are excited to get up every day and do something new. We got interested because I want my job to be like this,” says Amanda Demler, one of the Florida/Puerto Rico Roadtrip alumni.

“It’s nice when alumni would treasure that these students that they would eventually find their passions,” DeMartino says.

The Roadtrippers found all of their interview subjects to be eager to talk, welcoming the students with open arms.

“Tt was a lot of them look at these students and are transported back to when they were a 20-year-old, uncertain about their path in life,” DeMartino says.

“They pointed me in a new direction, but he didn’t limit himself to ledger books.

Richard R. Arnold II ’85 moved from Henderson, Kentucky, to nearby West Virginia to attend Frostburg State University.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do. I was interested in accounting with numbers, and that appealed to me,” he says.

He graduated from Frostburg with an accounting degree, but he didn’t limit himself to ledger books.

Arnold spent two years in training, then another two evaluating hardware destined for the International Space Station from the astronaut’s perspective.

Now Frostburg’s efforts may show up in their upcoming season on PBS. “When I sit down and watch the video every once in awhile, I step back and make sure I am still following my dreams and my goals,” he says.

Look for Frostburg Roadtrip this Fall on PBS

The original Roadtrip Nation team, whom DeMartino contacted when the first Frostburg trip was considered, has provided plenty of advice and assistance toOver the years Frostburg’s efforts may show up in their upcoming season on PBS.

Richard Arnold showed some bottom-of-the-ocean Bobcat pride during a recent training and research mission in an underwater habitat. He called the experience “a dream come true” for the former marine scientist. The mission, called NEEMO (NASA Extreme Environment Mission) simulated the level of gravity on the moon.
Putting Their Money Where Their Hearts Are

By Becca Ramspott

Philanthropy offers a way for people to celebrate memories, loved ones and lifelong passions by providing much-needed support to an institution or organization. This story takes a closer look at how friends and alumni of FSU have created funds and endowments that reflect their values, dreams and love for others.

Love of Learning Endures

When Jimmy Hollis was a child, his parents sent him outside—not just to school—to instill in him an insatiable love of learning.

As St. Mary’s County schoolteachers, Jim and Mary Hollis often spent their summers off taking Jimmy and his sisters, Colleen, camping, hiking and fishing around their cabin in Western Maryland, an area Jimmy would continue to enjoy years later as a student at FSU. It was out in the rustling woods where the plants and animals Jimmy read about on the pages of Ranger Rick and How Big is Big Backyard came to life, and his mom and dad were always ready with guidebooks on birds and insects to help him study the natural world around him.

“We enjoyed looking for salamanders and crayfish under rocks in streams… the kids often took nature walks with park rangers—everything was hands-on learning,” Mary says. “Science for Jimmy was just part of his environment.”

Jimmy’s wilderness adventures were supplemented by another kind of eye-opening education—watching his dad teach in the classroom and accompanying Jim when he took his students on field trips to the White House and museums in Washington, D.C.

“We used to take as many as 10 field trips a year,” Jim says, remembering how much his classes loved having his son tag along with them. “We had a blast… All my kids would have given their lives for Jimmy, when he was a wee little guy.”

Not surprisingly, when Jimmy got to college and it was time for him to pick a major, he chose elementary education. As an teaching intern, he used his experiences in the great outdoors to get his own students excited about learning. In elementary, he turned the celebration of Thanksgiving into a science project for his second graders, dressing up as Squanto, the Indian who helped the pilgrims learn to fish under rocks in streams… the kids often took nature walks with park rangers—everything was hands-on learning.” Mary says. “Science for Jimmy was just part of his environment.”

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“So down the mountain we went for 40 minutes to water the little corn plants and make sure they didn’t die, to make sure he had them on Monday for the kids,” Jim laughed.

It was because of moments like these that the Hollises chose to set up a scholarship in Jimmy’s memory when his life was tragically ended by a car accident in November 2000, just weeks before he would start a job as a teacher in St. Mary’s County.
“It’s a very uplifting feeling. We know we did the right thing… it has given us a whole lot of positive to look forward to, as opposed to just focusing on the loss and the negativity.” — Mary Hollis

A Longtime Mentor’s Legacy

Jane Sloop is another person who can appreciate the power of the positive in the aftermath of losing someone. Her house is filled with tokens of love and kindness given to her by people who were lucky enough to know her husband, Dr. Richard Sloop, a beloved FSU professor who taught in the Educational Professions Department from 1961 to 1996 and who passed away in August 2007 (see obituary, page 30). On her coffee table rests a picture book commemorating the 40th Annual Crab Feast, a get-together that brings a bunch of FSU alumni to Westminster, Md., every summer. That group includes men Jane collectively refers to as “the boys,” all members of Tau Kappa Epsilon who knew Sloop when he was their fraternity advisor and professor. The album is filled with images of them laughing, smiling and enjoying time with their beloved mentor. She is also the proud owner of a beautiful memory quilt created by the boys’ wives and friends, on which a photograph of her smiling next to her husband is forever captured on fabric.

Jane is full of stories about how the TKEs were a part of the couple’s lives. During their time in college together, it wasn’t unusual for the boys to shovel snow from the Sloops’ walk, help them move furniture or get their girlfriends to babysit for the Sloops’ kids at no charge. But the friendships with Sloop and his family went much deeper than the common courtesy call or the boys’ good manners.

“Before many of them made big decisions about their life, their career, they would run to him… he was their mentor. … We have found it fitting tribute.” — Mary Hollis

In 1996 when their beloved mentor retired, Graves and the other TKEs honored Sloop’s 35 years as a professor, advisor and friend by establishing the Sloop Leadership Endowment Fund. The fund laid the groundwork for FSU’s highly regarded Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership, a comprehensive, value-based program for students with emphases in areas such as personal responsibility, creative thinking and collaborative learning. The Institute has become a sought-after opportunity for FSU’s most promising juniors and seniors and anchors several unique FSU programs that focus on leadership, including its leadership mastery certificate program. Graves envisions that the Institute can eventually become part of a larger, signature aspect of the FSU educational experience—an unique focus on fostering leadership. It’s a focus that he sees as a fitting tribute.

“I think anytime a great person is rewarded for what they’ve done or remembered for what they’ve done … I think that’s very important,” he says. “When we all got a little older and a little smarter, we realized how much he had done for us.”

An Instrumental Need

Like the Sloop Leadership fund, Joan DeVee Dixon’s philanthropy with FSU expresses a personal passion and is connected to the loving memory of her late husband, who inspired her through his own giving.

As a successful touring pianist, international concert organist and an FSU music professor, Dixon knows firsthand what it is like to pursue a life’s passion, and she dreams of providing the same such experience for FSU music students. Through her late husband Dr. Alvin Boyle’s employer, Exxon Mobil Corp., she is able to meet needs for the Department of Music, such as supplying FSU facilities with new instruments.

“Exxon Mobil matches all employee contributions three to one, up to a total of $7,500 per employee per year. In short, if I donate one piano per year, Exxon Mobil purchases three more,” she says, noting how thanks to the Exxon program, in 2007 she was able to supply FSU’s Performing Arts Center with new pianos.

Dixon is also the key organizer of Friends of Music at Frostburg (FMF), an organization she founded in 2006 that unites faculty, staff, friends and alumni to ensure the future of music programs at FSU. In its first year, FMF generated over $200,000 that will help fund
We are blessed in many ways, and it’s important that we give in some way—time, treasure or talent.”

— Theresa Testoni ’85

Hands-on Engagement

Theresa Testoni ’85 also found a way to channel what she cares about most into something that will benefit FSU students now and for years to come.

“As I have gotten older, I have realized that my passion is not just being part of an organization, but really making a difference in someone’s life,” she says. “We all have areas of interest in our lives, and mine is volunteerism and philanthropy.”

Testoni distinguishes between those two areas of interest by being not just a key donor but also an active, hands-on advocate for FSU’s Center for Volunteerism & National Service. In addition to providing much-needed funds for FSU’s civic engagement initiatives (giving that is matched by Northrop Grumman, her employer), she works tirelessly at various alumni events, including rolling up her sleeves at annual service projects during Homecoming weekend. This past fall, she spent hours making whimsical, brightly colored hats for sick children during FSU’s Glories Happy Hats event.

“I am a strong believer in creating a balance between asking people for resources—toys, money, etc.—and asking them for their time,” she says. “When you give of your time, that is when you make a difference.”

Testoni’s impact goes way beyond simple funding, says Cherie Krug, the former director of the Center who has recently joined FSU’s Advancement team (see page 4).

“As an FSU alumna, Theresa offers our students a role model that service is life-long—not just done while they are in college,” she says. “Her dedication to the University and to the Center helps our students understand their roles as future alumni of FSU.”

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Testoni is now taking her enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering to a whole new level as Commissioner for Service and Volunteerism for Montgomery County, a state-level appointment. Krug has also been asked to serve as a commissioner representing Allegany County.

“We are blessed in many ways, and it’s important that we give in some way—time, treasure or talent,” Testoni says.

With philanthropists like Testoni, Dixon, the Holliess and Jane Sloop and the “boys” making meaningful contributions to FSU’s future, it’s clear the University is blessed in many ways, as well.

Theresa Testoni has a passion for volunteerism and philanthropy.
Members of the Class of ’57 returned to campus in June to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. They spent the day revisiting 2007 a Golden Year for 1957 Grads distinguished service award by the National Association of State Banks of America. Edward L. Root 1953 and his wife, Mabel (FSU 1952), celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on July 30, 2007. The couple resides in Frederick, Md.

Members of the Class of ’57 who gathered for the Golden Anniversary weekend are, front row from left, Donald Blake, Shirley Konzem, James, Ruth Schadey Chapman, Margaret Gruber, Joyce Warren Brown and June Monahan Ruff; and back row from left, Fred Downey, Robert Berry, Leo Pryor, Wayz Blue, Lois Mackenridge, Anne Louise Anderson, Betty Lynne Carver, Mary Ellen Powers, Lionel Donald Miller and Eunice “Mama” Jefferson.

2007 Golden Year for 1957 Grads

Members of the Class of ’57 returned to campus in June to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. They spent the day revisiting old memories, and a trip to Old Main, a luncheon and a campus tour brought them together to make new memories. The Class of ’57 will celebrate 50 years on June 7.

Christine V. Waggner is principal of South Charlotte Middle School in Charlotte, N.C. She has taught in Trentham, Belgium and Brussels and brought the first Midvea Year Internship to an international program to the Unitd States.

36x159

1959

50th anniversary of FSU College of Business

Terri M. Moser Harne and her husband, Richard, now live in Lynchburg, Va. They have three children and recently became grandparents. Terri teaches first grade and serves as a school teacher. Gifted Education coordinator and Differentiation Implementation coach for Allegheny County Schools.

Tony John Petrizzo is presently in the logistics business and is an official for New Jersey high school football and baseball games. He previously taught health and coached from New Jersey state championship football programs.

Ellen R. Rosenbush Orseck ’74, has her paintings featured in two solo exhibitions in Houston.

Robert Henry was named executive vice president and chief operating officer for Harris Corp., an international communications and information technology company in Florida.

Terri M. Moser Harne and her husband, Richard, now live in Lynchburg, Va. They have three children and recently became grandparents. Terri teaches first grade and serves as a school teacher.

Edward L. Root was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of State Banks of America.

Mary Beth McCormick was appointed by Governor Mary K. Robinson to the District Court for Montgomery County. Her current assignment is in juvenile court. Prior to this, she sat on the District Court bench for nearly 10 years.


Connie C. Cornelsen Green was director of the Jacquelyn Community College Child Development Center after over 30 years as an early childhood educator in Colorado.

Robert Henry was named executive vice president and chief operating officer for Harris Corp., an international communications and information technology company in Florida.

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cation on behalf of the MECA Public Safety Non-Group Employees Chapter at the MECA Annual Convention in Ocean City, Md. on Oct. 5, 2007.

Timothy M. Martin had his artwork fea
tured at the Silvers Center Gallery in Albany, N.Y., in October.

Anita N. Nedzel Voelker, a member of the Class of 1957, and her husband, Dr. Robert, have one daughter, two sons and seven grandchildren.

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1959

Jenny L. Jacques Bennett has retired from the Frederick County Board of Education after 26 years of service. She and her husband, Robert, have one daughter, two sons and seven grandchildren.

36x159

1964

1965

Evah Mohler has retired from the Loudoun County Public School System after serving 45 years. He has worked as a biology teacher, principal of Lincoln Elementary School, assistant principal at Blue Ridge and Sonoma Ridge middle schools, director of facilities services, and most recently, assistant superintendent for support services.

Frank L. Hamons was named Port Leader of the Year by the Buchanan-Jamestown Association of Commerce.

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1979
Dennis J. Albritt was promoted to Assis-
tant Superintendent for Grant County Schools
in West Virginia. He is enrolled in West Virginia
University’s Educational Leadership doctor-
ate program.

John R. Isaac earned third professional
designation as a CAS. (Chartered Advisor for
Senior Living) from the American College at
Charlotte. He was honored at Northwestern
Mutual’s Annual Meeting for completing his “Best Travel Fee” for the second year.
In addition, he completed his fourth year as the varsity wrestling high school coach at Chehalis Christian Academy in
Manitoulin, MI. The team made it to the semifinals of the conference championship.

Kevin Shepherd was one of two FSU graduates, beauty practicing at Wealthy LLP in Washington,
D.C., to be named to the Best Lawyers in
America annual legal rankings guide.

1980
Lloyd David Vanseven was a Senior Vice
President of Marketing for Chilton’s International, headquartered in Washington, D.C., a lead-
ging global provider of insurance solutions for equitaries and international organiza-
tions. He is also a founding member of the region’s premier Gracious Dead tribute band
Ole Koolhaz, which appeared at Walden Hall in September 2007 with Jefferson Starship.

1982
Michael C. Dawson and his partner,
Ken Perkins, are restoring a house in New
Jersey to its original 1900s condition. The
house features many floor surfaces and
features, including a flax-covered bathroom.

The house was showcased in the Home
Neighborhood Association’s Third Annual
Home Tour in September.

1986
Debra A. Beck married Lou Larson in July.
He is director for Corporate Communi-
cations for Constellation Energy in Baltimore.
The couple resides in Annapolis, Md.

1987
Donald L. Amos is teaching math at
Cushing High School in Oklahoma.

Todd D. Boward is the lead assistant
men’s soccer coach at Christopher Newport
University in Virginia.

1990
Martin E. Crump is the supervisor for
Professional Development for the Allegany
County Board of Education. He previously
served as the principal of Westmore Middle
School in Westmoreland, Md.

Kathleen M. Davis, a sophomore, lived with
her twin daughters, Erin (22) and Megan (19).

Mary Beth Dishong Pirolozzi
was named to the city council in Cumberland, Md.
She serves as the executive director for
Alliance City United Way.

1993
Brian Edward Lyons married Ann Rowley

Andrew Lowery Thomas was promoted to
Assistatant Superintendent for Constellation Energy in Baltimore.

1994
Michael David Friend married Shelley

Jennifer Hatt Windus was honored with the Alumni
Designation as a CASL (Chartered Advisor for
Senior Living) from the American College at
Charlotte. She was awarded an MBA in
Marketing at the Wharton School.

1995
Megan Garret Hartman married David
Garraty on Sept. 16, 2000. They live in
Donor.

Steven Douglas Schlepper and his wife,
Heather, announced the birth of their first child,
Grady James, on July 14, 2007. Grady joining
Brothers Gust (3) and Grant (5).

1996
Deborah A. Brown announced the birth of

1997
Megan Garret Hartman married David
Garraty on Sept. 16, 2000. They live in
Donor.

Stephen Douglas Schlepper and his wife,
Heather, announced the birth of their first child,
Grady James, on July 14, 2007. Grady joining
Brothers Gust (3) and Grant (5).

1998
Michael Ray Baylor was named president of
Fidelity Bank in Cumberland, Md.

Anita Clairr Comfort is the guidance
counselor at Calvary Christian Academy in
Greensboro, Md.

Marlise Valerie Minner started Sherry
Bolick Services LLC, a consultancy of per-
sonal and professional transformation ser-
dices, in Oakland, Md.

Cori P. Piero married Sarah Laakey on
June 26, 2007, in the Virgin Islands. Curtis is
a certified public accountant employed by
Glisson Prosecution Services. The couple resides
in Cumberland, Md.

Philip Lee Rodeheaver is the Garrett
County market president of First United Bank
& Trust.

1999
Melanie L. Bland and Brad Walker ’94
are photographers and founders of the SameTime
Project. Without fail, when their cell phone
alarms sound at 7:30 every morning, they take
a photograph that reflects where they are or
what they are doing at that precise moment.
The photo is then posted on the project’s Web

2000
Andrew Lowery Thomas was promoted to
Assistant Superintendent for Constellation Energy in Baltimore.

2001
Megan Garret Hartman married David
Garraty on Sept. 16, 2000. They live in
Donor.

Steven Douglas Schlepper and his wife,
Heather, announced the birth of their first child,
Grady James, on July 14, 2007. Grady joining
Brothers Gust (3) and Grant (5).

2003
Linda Lynn Summerfield has been named
Son. Benjamin Gardin’s Western Maryland
representative.

Brian Edward Lyons married Kim Royer
on March 19, 2006. Brian is a senior account
executive with Comerica Blue Cross Blue Shield of
Virginia. The couple resides in Great Falls, Va.

2004
Debra A. Beck married Lou Larson in July.

1983
Linda Ender was honored with the Alumni
Designation as a CASL (Chartered Advisor for
Senior Living) from the American College at
Charlotte. She was awarded an MBA in
Marketing at the Wharton School. She is married with three children and resides in
Great Falls, Va.

2005
Jennifer Hatt Windus was honored with the Alumni
Designation as a CASL (Chartered Advisor for
Senior Living) from the American College at
Charlotte. She was awarded an MBA in
Marketing at the Wharton School.

2006
David Lantz and son

2007
Jennifer Hatt Windus was honored with the Alumni
Designation as a CASL (Chartered Advisor for
Senior Living) from the American College at
Charlotte. She was awarded an MBA in
Marketing at the Wharton School.

2008
Lloyd David Vanseven was a Senior Vice
President of Marketing for Chilton’s International, headquartered in Washington, D.C., a lead-
ging global provider of insurance solutions for equitaries and international organiza-
tions. He is also a founding member of the region’s premier Gracious Dead tribute band
Ole Koolhaz, which appeared at Walden Hall in September 2007 with Jefferson Starship.

During Homecoming Weekend 2007, the Lane University Center’s Akinson Room was temporarily transformed into an
assembly line complete with 50 volunteers, an abundance of brightly colored fabric, sewing machines, pull-balls
and ribbons. The students, alumni, faculty and staff who participated were working on Glories Happy HATS destined for
the University of Maryland Hospital for Children.

It was the second year that FSU alumni had gathered at Home-
coming to make the happy hats, working with the Northern
Virginia-based organization for this unique hands-on service
learning program. In 2006, FSU’s Center for Volunteerism teamed
up with the Alumni Association to secure a $5,000 grant from the
University System of Maryland Alumni Association’s Glories
HATS project. In addition to the Homecoming weekend
sessions, the Alumni Association held workshops over the course of the year at Ruskov, Appalachia and Hagerstown,
sewing a total of 169 hats in the process.

Glories Happy HATS are designed in a variety of colors and
patterns. They are shaped like a jerkin’s hat and meant for
martyr — crowning around. Each one is personalized, containing
a tag with the maker’s name and message of encouragement.
Of the hats delivered most recently to UMHC, one reader, “You are
terrific,” another reader, “I must hat this but especially for you.” When
the children were wearing Happy HATS, they are encouraged to “think
happy thoughts.”

“It becomes part of the healing process,” says Shannon Joslin,
Child Life Manager at UMHC.

“Happy HATS can now be seen all over the Pediatrics and the
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit,” Joslin said following the delivery of
the hats. “One of our cardiac surgeons, usually a very stoic man,
promptly snapped up a hat as well and said he was going to wear
it into surgery the next day”

Three FSU student members from the Center of Volunteerism,
Joseph Ruiz, Whitney Young and T.J. Shaddott, accompanied the
delivery of happy HATS to UMHC.

The hats were handed down to children with life-threatening illnesses, to be silly for a little while,
just “kids” instead of “sick kids.”

The Glories project is just one way that the FSU Alumni Associ-
ation has continued the FSU tradition of serving its community.

“We will never sever the ties we’ve made with Glories,” says
Shannon Grizzle, Director of Alumni Programs. “Our 120 FSU
alumni volunteers have worked with them. In the coming years
we will continue to look for unique programs like Glories to unite
the alumni and the community.”

Hats allow the children, who are often suffering from life-threatening illnesses,
to be silly for a little while.

For more details, call the Alumni
Office at 301-687-4068.
2008 is your reunion year! For more details, call the Alumni Office at 301.687.4658.

Joy Lynn Blankenship is the college accountant in the finance and personnel area of Allegany College of Maryland.


Angela Dawn Moir married Daniel Broussard on Sept. 15, 2000. Angela is employed by the Allegany County Board of Education. The couple resides in Cumberland, Md.

Stacey Renee Stakem married Justin Bruns on Oct. 14, 2004. She is employed at Shaffer Transco, Cheyenne and Bache as a finance and insurance manager. The couple resides in LaVale, Md.

Tyson Wade Dunkelberger graduated from Wittenberg University with a bachelors degree in finance and insurance. He is a public affairs officer for the Blue Angels. He is a marine assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Group 21 in Pensacola, Fla.

Michelle Christine Mead married Richard Shadle III on Sept. 29, 2007. She is an international marketing representative for Europe with the Orlando Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The couple resides in Orlando, Fla.

David Eric St. Clair has completed the requirements to be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. He works at Smith Elliott Bearans & Co.

Emily Ann Carey married Matthew Wolde on July 8, 2000. Emily is a second-grade teacher at Clear Spring Elementary School in Clear Spring, Md.


Julie Marie Weil Hall is married and works for Tempo University in their financial services department.

Lisa Marie Guamer married Dale Jones on Sept. 30, 2006. She is director of social services for the Frostburg Village Nursing Home. The couple resides in Garrett County, Md.

Michael Joseph Maginias uses his love for art in a video exhibit at the Washington County Arts Council Gallery in August. He serves as a fine arts and science teacher at Antietam Academy in Hagerstown, Md.

2001 is your reunion year! For more details, call the Alumni Office at 301.687.4658.

Jennifer Lynn Yabeer Masser was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Philadelphia College. She is doing a internship and residency in family medicine at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown, Pa.

Amber Lynn Vistonick married Michael Mose on Oct. 21, 2006. She is the assistant manager of Chipotle & Banks. The couple resides in Westmoreland, Pa.

Amy Elizabeth Wescott graduated from Wilmington College with a Master of Management degree in technology. She is a project leader for at-risk students at Collingswood Public Schools in New Jersey.

2003 is your reunion year! For more details, call the Alumni Office at 301.687.4658.


New Scheidl Scholarship

Patty Groppe Alexander ‘94, chair of the Scheidl Scholarship Fund at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Md., presents a check for $10,000 to FSU President Jonathan C. Gibralter and Bernard J. Sadowski II ‘81, senior president for University Advancement and executive director of the FSU Foundation. The funds will establish the Montiress C. and Elizabeth Ann Scheidl Youth Through Scholarship endowment. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, which will provide scholarships to Allegany County students attending FSUs who demonstrate financial need.

Shelley’s FBI Special Agents also have a Special Tie to Frostburg

At least one Federal Bureau of Investigation office can now boast a trio of Frostburg grads: Kevin McShane ’93, John Roberts ’85 and Joseph (Jay) Stone ’85 serve in the FSU Philadelphia Division.

McShane came to the FBI from the Baltimore County Police Department. In Philadelphia, he works bank robbery, kidnapping and violent fugitive investigations, as well as serving on the Philly SWAT Team and the National Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team.

Roberts, who is also a CPA, started in the FBI’s Memphis Division in 1987. Now a supervisory special agent, he has investigated government corruption, currently supervising the Philly Public Corruption Squad.

Stone worked white collar crimes and narcotic investigations and was a member of the division SWAT team, then transferred to FBI headquarters as a supervisory special agent. He returned to Philadelphia in 2003 to head a health care fraud squad. Last year he became supervisor of the Philly Special Operations Group. — TK
New look coming to ClassNotes

In the next issue of Profile, ClassNotes will have a new look, with new sections making it easier to find announcements for births and adoptions, as well as the announcement of marriages and other commitment ceremonies. As a result of all this news, we no longer will be able to publish wedding or baby photos. We will still consider other alumni-related items, however. If you have an item that you would like to have included, please send it to us as soon as possible.

One consequence, however, of the increasing volume of information we receive is we will no longer be able to keep us informed of the momentous events in your life. In the next issue of Profile, ClassNotes will have a new look, with new sections making it easier to find announcements for births and adoptions, as well as the announcement of marriages and other commitment ceremonies. As a result of all this news, we no longer will be able to publish wedding or baby photos. We will still consider other alumni-related items, however. If you have an item that you would like to have included, please send it to us as soon as possible.

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In Memoriam

Dr. Richard Sloop, who died Aug. 17, 2007, was a member of the faculty from 1961 to 1996, teaching subjects ranging from physical science and research methods to an array of professional education courses. He was both a member and adviser to Tau Kappa Epsilon. The Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership was established at FSU in 1998 as a tribute to him, something he considered to be his greatest honor.

“He was willing to stay in his office at night and help anyone who needed help … he just had lots and lots of patience,” said his wife, Jane, who with her husband welcomed scores of his students into their home over the years. (See story, page 10.)

Dr. Melvin L. Brown, who died Dec. 7, 2007, was a member of the Biology Department faculty for a number of years, including serving as department chair in the 1970s. According to his colleague, Dr. Amy Harman, he was instrumental in bringing the Appalachian Laboratory to the Frostburg campus and building its affiliation with FSU, and the taxonomy books he co-authored, *Woody Plants of Maryland* and *Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*, are still key reference works for anyone involved in botany. Harman said that many of the trees that grace the campus today were planted as the result of his efforts, often donated from his private arboretum.

Dr. Chrismarie Baxter, who died Jan. 28, 2008, served as a member of the psychology faculty from 1979 until her retirement in 2005, the same year she was awarded Outstanding Mentor recognition. She developed the research methods sequence of courses that remains the cornerstone of FSU’s psychology major, and she shared her passion for learning and research with her students, many of whom presented their projects at regional conferences.

Several of her former students have achieved placement in master’s programs and doctoral programs in psychology and other fields of study. The Psychology Department established a Web site in her memory: www.frostburg.edu/dept/psyc/chrismarie.html. One former student wrote simply, “She was a great educator, scientist, mentor and friend.”

Alumni

1925 Chauncey M. Friend Nov. 26, 2007
1930 Albert B. Johnson Aug. 18, 2007
1938 Alex Deamore Apr. 29, 2007
Wilbur Scott Hoopengardner Apr. 10, 2007
1939 James M. Gross June 15, 2007
1942 Dorothy Conrad Apr. 19, 2007
1950 Donald L. DeVore June 21, 2007
1952 Robert T. Thomas Sept. 28, 2007
1953 Drummond Orr March 28, 2007
1961 Charlotte Sigler Nov. 25, 2007
1965 Marion H. Trepanski June 25, 2007
1969 Mary M. McLane Powers Sept. 2, 2007
1971 Corby W. Hickle July 7, 2007
Mary Jane Beckman Rice Nov. 8, 2007
1975 Edward J. Eichleon March 15, 2007
1978 Robert Carroll Hesson Nov. 25, 2007
1985 Tamara J. Brode Bradley Sept. 1, 2007
1986 Calvin Darvis Harbaugh Aug. 19, 2007
2004 Katherine Ann Ciflon July 3, 2007

Friends of the University

Chrismarie Baxter Jan. 28, 2008
Kenneth Michael Berry May 7, 2007
Jacqueline E. Clarke May 26, 2007
Eleanor Drake-Lewis May 12, 2007
Elizabeth L. Hayek Dec. 26, 2006
Howard E. Hughes Nov. 23, 2007
Mary A. Leptic July 14, 2007
Richard Francis Mayo July 11, 2007
Cora Prosser Myers Oct. 28, 2006
Walter R. Rice May 31, 2007
Richard Carlton Sloop Aug. 17, 2007
Carol Helen Verhovsek Snyder July 24, 2007
Kenneth A. Stevens Aug. 8, 2007

Alumni events

March 28-30, 2008
9th Annual Sloop Institute for Excellence in Leadership
Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort
Cumberland, MD

April 1, 2008
Bayer MaterialScience Chemistry Lab Dedication
3rd Floor, Compton Science Center
3:30 pm

April 17-19, 2008
Alumni Association Board of Directors Annual Spring Retreat
Savage River Lodge
Frostburg, MD

The Board of Directors will be voting on a new slate of officers and directors for 2008-2009.

June 7, 2008
Golden Anniversary Celebrating the Class of 1958
FSU Campus
11 am – Meet & Greet; 104 Old Main
Noon – Lunch; 201 Lane Center
1:30 pm – Motorized Campus Tour

October 3–5, 2008
Homecoming & Leadership Weekend
FSU Campus

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Shannon Gribble at 301.687.4068; e-mail alumni@frostburg.edu or visit the Web site at www.frostburg.edu/admin/alumni/events.cfm.

Homecoming Scrapbook
Alum Leads Gallaudet Back into Varsity-Level Football

By Noah Becker

Gallaudet, the world’s only liberal arts university that designs all its programs to accommodate the deaf and hearing impaired, has had a football team since 1883, but the sport had languished in recent years, dropping from varsity to club status in the 1990s.

When Gallaudet decided to bring its varsity football program back up to full varsity from the depths of club status, there were numerous hurdles to cross. The Bison hadn’t seen that level of competition in nearly 13 years and hadn’t had a winning season since 1990.

Hottle, who was hired in 2005 at age 32 to lead the program back to NCAA Division III status, had two of his own challenges to overcome. He didn’t know any sign language, and it was his first head coaching gig.

“I had been at the collegiate level before as an assistant and after talking with family, I decided to apply for the position and see what happened,” Hottle says. “I enjoy the college game a little more than the high school level because it’s more intense, and I love the recruiting aspect.”

His resume included stints as an assistant at Frostburg, Denison and Wesley before becoming a high school head coach at nearby Calveri Hall prep school.

As for the sign language, then-athletic director Jim DeStefano enlisted Hottle in a two-hour daily sign language tutorial that July.

“We relied on the players to get through the communication problems at the beginning,” Hottle says. “Even now, I feel comfortable to ask a player about sign language or how to sign a word. Most coaches are set in their ways and would never rely on a player for help and advice. Here at Gallaudet, the coaches and players have an open trust because of the communication barriers.”

Hottle had just two years to revitalize a program that had suffered since becoming a club team in 1994. Student-athletes typically aren’t interested in playing for a club program at the university level, plus the school hadn’t funded the program well, nor had it employed a full-time head coach, he says.

“Despite having just 23 guys show up for my first meeting with the team, we turned in a 15-2 record in the two seasons at the club level, so the guys know what it’s like to win.”

Just over two years after his arrival at Gallaudet, Hottle completed the return by taking his team on the road to St. Vincent (Pa.) for the school’s first game in over a decade as an NCAA team. They won, 32-12.

To the casual football fan, the game’s score didn’t mean much, but to Gallaudet and the deaf community as a whole, the victory was enormous. It also ended losing streaks against NCAA Division II teams – 34 games – that had remained intact since the last time the team competed at the varsity status.

“Going into St. Vincent and getting that first win was huge for the program. That afternoon was truly special as our president and the administration were there watching. It was a great atmosphere and great game,” Hottle says.

Bob Colbert, the opposing coach in that first varsity game, had coached at Gallaudet in 1975-71, so he brought a unique perspective to his observation of Hottle and his team.

“Ed has the dedication and commitment to make Gallaudet competitive as a Division III football team. He understands his players and they respond to him,” Colbert says. “I appreciated the effort that goes into developing a team at the school. It takes patience and leadership. Ed appears to have both of those qualities.”

Gallaudet followed up that win against St. Vincent with another a week later to start the season 2-0. The Bison pummeled Walter Reed 44-0 behind 526 yards of total offense – all by a team that was in just its second varsity-level game.

Gallaudet would suffer losses in its next four games against Greensboro, Denison, Case Western and Beater, but Hottle was still pleased with his team’s performance.

“In the games against Greensboro and Case Western, we played well in the first half and hung tough, we just struggled a bit on the wrong end of the score. Case Western advanced to the NCAA Tournament second round, so it was nice to see our guys keep up with them,” he says.

In week seven, the Bison collected their third win of the season. Gallaudet downed Williamson Trading 49-26 on Homecoming in front of 2,577 fans. The Bison fell behind 19-12 but scored 28 consecutive points to rally for the win.

Gallaudet would end the season dropping two of its final three games. In its second-to-last contest of the fall season, the Bison earned their fourth and final win of the year, a 28-13 victory over Maritime.

“It was pretty good stepping back into Division III,” says Hottle. “We won two (NCAA) Division III games and ended a 34-game losing streak in the process. We are very excited about the future.”

At the conclusion of the season, the Bison also learned that two of the players finished in the top 10 statistically for the first time ever.

“The players learned a lot about what Division III football is all about,” Hottle adds. “It is a high level of competition, and until the guys experienced it first hand, they never really knew what to expect. After the year we had prior to coming into the season with the protocols (when students unhappy with the choice of Gallaudet’s new president that downed the college), we are glad everything turned out the way it did.”

St. Vincent’s Colbert credits the players’ hearts with their success, but he also believes Hottle has what it takes to bring out their best.

“Gallaudet is one of the most unique football programs in the country,” Colbert says. “The players want nothing more than the opportunity to compete on a level playing field against the hearing teams they must play. They play with passion and enthusiasm. They give all the way during the games. Ed will succeed at Gallaudet because he cares about his players and knows how to relate to them.”

Hottle agrees with Colbert’s assessment of his players. “Most teams come to play us and think that we can’t compete or challenge them because we are a handicapped school. Our guys have the same drive and spirit, and they want to prove that they aren’t any different — just they can’t hear as well as most people. I get a kick out of watching the team try and prove that they can play with anyone.”

After a 4-6 season as a varsity level program, Hottle and his players head into the offseason with an extra sense of incentive and motivation. The players want to prove that their four wins weren’t a fluke and that they belong on the same level as the teams on their schedule.

Hottle has a group of core players coming back for the 2008 season, so the future looks bright for Gallaudet.

“We expect to win every game of the season but we are OK with a 4-6 finish in the first season. We are approaching next season with guarded optimism,” he says. “We aspire to be in the NCAA Playoffs but we have to take baby steps to get where we want to be as a team.”
**Fall '07**

**Men’s Cross Country**

Seventh-year head coach Randy Lowe and his men’s squad battled through a tough season this fall. It was one of the youngest teams in recent memory as the Bobcats had only two seniors and one junior. The Frostburg runners captured a pair of runner-up finishes at the Ursinus College Invitational and the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championships. The men also finished 19th out of 41 teams at the NCAA Midlands Regional Championships. Junior Brian Leiter powered the men’s team throughout the season with a first-place finish at the Ursinus meet (27:45) and a second-place finish the AMCC Championships (28:12). At the conclusion of the season, Leiter, senior Chris Mead and sophomore Cory Smith all took home all-conference honors.

**Women’s Cross Country**

The women’s cross country team faced the same problems as the men’s squad. The women’s team was without a senior on the ‘07 roster and had just two juniors. The Bobcats’ best finish of the fall campaign came in a third-place showing at the AMCC Championships. FSU also finished fourth at the Shippensburg Alumni Open in the season-opening meet. Junior Jennifer Patton and seniors Gwen Massey and Christina Aumand earned All-AMCC honors after their efforts during the conference championships meet.

**Field Hockey**

Frostburg began a new era in 2007 when Melissa Grossman was named the 15th coach in the program’s history. She wasted little time getting used to Frostburg as she guided the Bobcats to an 11-6 overall record, turning around a team that won just six games in 2006. FSU’s winning percentage (.647) is the best for a team since the 1999 squad posted a 13-3 overall record and a .722 winning percentage. This fall, the Bobcats ended their season with wins in six of their final seven games. FSU also enjoyed the friendly confines of Bobcat Stadium as the field hockey team enjoyed a 5-2 record at home.

**Football**

The Bobcat football team suffered a 2-7 overall record and an 0-4 Atlantic Central Football Conference mark in 2007. The Bobcats posted second-most wins in the program’s history. After starting the season 0-2, FSU posted 11 wins in the next 12 games. The only non-win during the streak was a 1-1 tie against Catholic. After a 1-0 setback to rival Penn State Behrend, FSU closed out the regular season with three wins, including a 3-0 shutout of Mt. Aloysius. Frostburg earned a bye in the opening round of the AMCC Tournament and defeated Penn State Altoona (4-1) in the semifinals before falling to Behrend in the championship (2-1). In the opening round of the ECAC’s, FSU defeated Carnegie Mellon 1-0 at Bobcat Stadium before being eliminated from postseason play by Swarthmore (3-0). The Bobcats landed seven student-athletes on the All-AMCC team, led by Lauren Russell, who was named the conference’s Newcomer of the Year. Russell and senior Jen Naylor earned Second Team status in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America NCAA Division III Women All Great Lakes Region. It is the first time in the school’s history that two women’s soccer players were selected to an all-region team.

**Women’s Soccer**

The women’s soccer team earned yet another trip to the postseason with its second-straight trip to the ECAC Championships. The Bobcats were 16-5-1 overall and 8-1 in the AMCC, tying for the conference mark in 2007. The Bobcats posted a 5-3 AMCC slate. FSU managed a four-game winning streak during the fall season with a first-place finish at the Garnett Classic and three wins at the season opening EMU Invitational. Four Bobcats earned All-AMCC honors, highlighted by head coach Peter Letourneau and player Brooke Winstel. Letourneau earned Co-Coach of the Year honors, his first award in his four years with FSU, while Winstel was named the league’s Player of the Year.

**Men’s Soccer**

The men’s soccer team accented the 2007 season with a run to the 2007 ECAC South Region Championship. While the Bobcats fell in the title game to Swarthmore (3-2), FSU posted an opening round victory over Carnegie Mellon (3-2) and a semifinal victory over Penn State Altoona (2-1). The Bobcats finished 12-9-1 overall and posted a 5-3 AMCC mark. FSU managed a four-game winning streak over the final three regular-season games and the first game of the AMCC Tournament. During that run, Frostburg posted a 16-0 win over Mt. Aloysius, a school record for goals. The Bobcats earned a spot in the AMCC Tournament semifinals for the sixth-straight year after denying La Roche, 1-0, in the tournament’s first round. Six players were named to the All-AMCC soccer team, led by Adam Gracia, a first-team selection.

**Women’s Tennis**

The women’s tennis team endured a 2-13 overall record this fall. The Bobcats, 1-4 in the AMCC, posted wins over Bethany (4-1) and Penn State Altoona (6-3). In the season-ending Goucher Invitational, Sarah Eisl led FSU with a third-place finish at the No. 1 singles competition and Caroline Shields finished sixth at No. 2 single.

**Volleyball**

The volleyball team resumed its seat atop the AMCC with its eighth conference crown in the league’s 13-year existence. The Bobcats posted a 21-11 overall record and a 8-1 AMCC mark. Despite being upset in the regular season by Lake Erie, Frostburg earned the top seed and right to host the league’s tournament at home in Bobcat Area. The Bobcats avenged their earlier loss to Lake Erie with a 5-0 shutout victory over the Storm in the tournament semifinals and captured the title with a 3-2 come-from-behind victory over Penn State Altoona. In the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, the Bobcats fell 3-0 to No. 1 ranked Wittenberg.

Throughout the season, FSU posted 14-3-1 overall. The Bobcats also gathered a runner-up finish at the Garnett Classic and three wins at the season opening EMU Invitational. Four Bobcats earned All-AMCC honors, highlighted by head coach Peter Letourneau and player Brooke Winstel. Letourneau earned Co-Coach of the Year honors, his first award in his four years with FSU, while Winstel was named the league’s Player of the Year.

**Women’s Track & Field**

The women’s track & field team finished just two seniors and three juniors. The Bobcats’ best finish of the season with 224 yards and three touchdowns. Frostburg earned its second win of the season over Union, 28-7, on Homecoming. The Bobcats posted their second-best rushing output of the season with 224 yards on the ground and three scores. FSU also managed a touchdown through the air on its second possession. At the end of the season, nine Bobcats captured all-ACFC honors led by Nicholas Payne, a first-team selection. Payne was also named to the D3moosbl.com All-South Region Third Team.

**Student Spotlight**

Sarah Stephens was one of nine Bobcats to earn All-ACFC honors. As every good athlete, Stephens is excited for the upcoming season and ready to see how good the Bobcats can be. "It was nice playing for the coaches this year. They are very knowledgeable about the game, and their marriage of coaching and studying — that’s something I really appreciate. It’s what helps me prepare this fall. It’s a pleasure to be a Bobcat." She says.

Sarah Stephens, a senior Apparel & Merchandising major, was named to the All-ACFC team. Letourneau earned Co-Coach of the Year honors, his first award in his four years with FSU, while Winstel was named the league’s Player of the Year. — NB

Volleyball Standout Sarah Stephens ‘Digs’ Frostburg

To most people, Sarah Stephens is a fine student-athlete on the Frostburg volleyball team, but to those in her backyard of Western Maryland, she is a multi-sport athlete with worlds of talent who could finish her FSU career as one of the top volleyball players in the program’s history.

After a senior year at Southern Garrett High School that included numerous awards — Sports Shoppe Volleyball Player of the Year, WNYL Conference and All-District Player of the Year award in both basketball and volleyball and state finishes in the high hurdles at the 1A level in track and field — most student-athletes would have a hard time deciding what sport — or sports — to pursue in college.

However, for Stephens, the decision was easy.

“I chose Frostburg because it is close to home and the demand for my (volleyball) position both on offense and defense was there,” Stephens says.

And what a year she had, helping the team to its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2004.

The FSU coaching staff also helped Stephens make the decision. The Letourneaus, head coach Peter and assistant coach Barbara, have been married for four years and provide a stability seldom seen on collegiate coaching staffs.

“It was nice playing for the coaches this year. They are very knowledgeable about the game, and their marriage provides a balanced staff that helped me make a nice transition into the college game,” she says.

As every good athlete, Stephens is excited for the fall season and ready to see how good the Bobcats can become. This season’s squad consisted of 16 freshmen or sophomores.

“The future for the team is very good, considering we are so young.” Stephens says. “We have a lot of youth that is willing to work hard and improve all the time.”
Some things never change.

Snowball fights, tray-sledding, sweaters and boots have been fixtures at Frostburg since the earliest days. By the time they graduate, all FSU students have been told that Frostburg was not named for its weather, but for a real fellow named Frost. But being able to laugh in the face of a Frostburg winter becomes a badge of honor at The 'Burg, and the weather is what they remember as alums. As chilly as the weather can get, plenty of FSU memories are warm ones.

Amber Wolfe, seated and pictured amid a cloud of flying snow, bears the brunt of an ambush on Gary Wolfe II and her from April Tritsch, left, and an unidentified attacker. Photo courtesy of FSU student J.J. Fox.