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# FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

## The Crier

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## JUNE 2009

### Sayre named Campus Safety Officer of the Year

While most people encounter police in a negative crisis situation, there is an important part of the Francis Marion University campus police force dedicated to programs that build positive relationships and deter crime.

Officer Alan A. Sayre represents this breed of police officer who embodies the spirit of preventive policing. For his efforts, Sayre was recently named the 2009 Campus Safety Officer of the Year by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE).

Sayre was recognized for earning this honor at the 2009 joint conference of the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation (SCHEF), South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA) and South Carolina Campus Law Enforcement Association



(SCCLEA). He received the award at the May meeting of the SCCHE.

“Many of us have long recognized that Alan is one of the best police officers in the state. This award simply confirms it,” said FMU President Fred Carter.

Sayre, who joined the FMU campus police force in 2006, has been a key member of FMU’s alcohol education program, which teaches students that their actions have consequences. He was responsible for the installation of emergency lighting systems in all campus patrol vehicles. To enhance officer safety, Sayre obtained prisoner barriers through a donation by one of FMU’s sister police agencies. Based on his previous experience, Sayre trains all student dispatchers and emphasizes the importance of obtaining accurate and concise information to relay to patrol officers.

In addition to his service to the campus community, Sayre serves on two community task forces: the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Network (LEN) and the Alcohol Enforcement Team, Circle Park Prevention Services. These groups work to improve the safety of students and the Florence area community.

FMU Campus Police Chief Richard J. Austin describes Sayre as an energetic member of FMU’s Campus Police Department who goes beyond the call of duty in keeping the FMU community safe.

“His patrol style is aggressive but tempered by his ability to interact with the public in a way that some more seasoned officers may find difficult to emulate,” Austin said. “Officer Sayre has a knack for dealing with members of the off-campus community, as well as faculty, staff and students at Francis Marion, by going out of his way to help whenever possible.”

Written by [SHIREESE BELL](#)

*Morning News Reporter*

*Photo by John Russell*

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The morning of Feb. 17 started out as a regular day for both Kelley Moore, a junior nursing student at Francis Marion University, and Joe Sallenger, manager of Francis Marion’s Department of Fine Arts.

The two would soon find out that it wasn’t an ordinary day and that their actions would save someone’s life.



At 8:20 a.m., Moore was driving into parking lot F located behind the university’s Hyman Fine Arts Center when she noticed a young man lying face down on the ground.

Moore said she thought the man had fallen and would get back up. As she made her way to a parking space, Moore realized the young man, who she would later find out was British exchange student Christopher Sonni-Ali, hadn't moved.

As she ran over to Sonni-Ali, Moore said, she realized he was having a seizure. She rolled Sonni-Ali over on his side so he wouldn't choke and immediately dialed E-911. While on the phone, Moore said Sonni-Ali stopped breathing and convulsing. She checked for a pulse and couldn't find one.

By that time, Sallenger had parked his car and approached the scene that had drawn about 15 other students.

Moore said she asked if anyone in the crowd knew how to perform CPR, but no one did. Sallenger immediately began to assist Moore by rolling Sonni-Ali onto his back. Moore began chest compressions and Sallenger assisted with the respiration.

The two continued administering CPR for at least two minutes before Sonni-Ali started breathing again. Moore said she tried to talk to him and tell him the ambulance was there. But just a few seconds after Moore stopped chest compressions and before EMS personnel could get out of the ambulance, Sallenger said Sonni-Ali again lost consciousness and had no pulse.

The two immediately resumed CPR until EMS personnel and the campus police reached them. Sallenger said EMS workers tried to restart his heart with a portable defibrillator, but that didn't appear to work. They continued CPR while getting Sonni-Ali ready for transport to the emergency room and continued to perform CPR as he was loaded onto the ambulance. Sonni-Ali was rushed to McLeod Regional Medical Center and admitted to its Intensive Care Unit, where he was listed in critical condition.

Sallenger said the two weren't hopeful as he continued on to work and Moore went on to her first class of the day.

"I was depressed walking away from there," Sallenger said. "I didn't think they managed to get his heart started because they were still doing compressions when they loaded him into the ambulance.

"I did some quick Internet research and learned that bystander-administered CPR is seldom successful, so I was all the more elated to learn that the young man was making remarkable progress toward recovery," he said.

Moore said she visited Sonni-Ali while he was in the hospital.

Sonni-Ali has since been released, returned to London and is doing well, both Moore and Sallenger said.

For Moore's heroic act, Francis Marion University has waived her tuition and fees for the fall and spring semesters, FMU President Dr. Fred Carter said.

"We're very proud of Ms. Moore," Carter said. "There are dozens of people who would walk by a scene like that and simply take notice and go on about their business.

"Kelley Moore chose to stop, get involved and, as a result of that, she literally saved a young man's life," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of Kelley. I think her actions certainly reflect on herself and provide a wonderful prelude to the career that she's chosen to prepare herself for."

Carter said the university is equally proud of Sallenger's actions.

"Joe (Sallenger) is a wonderful employee," Carter said. "He represents this university so well in so many different ways.

"He's certainly one of the hardest-working people on campus and Joe's actions were equally laudable that morning," he said.

Moore said she was speechless when hearing of the waiver and she couldn't ask for a better family than the one at Francis Marion University.

Three months later, both Moore and Sallenger still can't believe what happened that morning.

In fact, Moore said, she can't believe it actually happened.

"Thinking back on it, I really don't know what I was thinking," Moore said. "It happened so quick. Everything just kind of came natural.

"If I would've taken a few minutes to think 'What do I do?' there wouldn't be any point in doing anything because, at that point, it probably would be too late," she said. "Whenever I got my CPR certification, I never thought I would have to use it. And, even now, it's still crazy to think all of that happened. It almost seems surreal."

Sallenger said he had experience with people who had a hypoglycemic attack or diabetic seizure, but never dreamed he would come across someone whose heart had stopped. He said he doesn't think the outcome could've been any better — but it would've been much, much worse had Moore not been there.

"Kelley is the type of student that most departments would like to have major in their program," Sallenger said. "She was on her way to a graphic design class at the time. Had she not had that class in this building at that time, poor Chris might not be here."

Moore's experience has inspired her to pursue an instructor CPR certification so she can teach others on campus how to perform the life-saving procedure.

The daughter of Blake and Kaye Moore of Olanta, Moore is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in nursing and has plans to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

### **FMU Center of Excellence to hold Summer Institute, June 29**

The Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty at Francis Marion University will hold its summer institute Monday, June 29, featuring Marsha Greenfeld, senior program facilitator for Johns Hopkins University's National network of Partnership Schools, and James C. Ellerbe, principal of Spring Lake Middle School in Fayetteville, N.C.

The COE Summer Institute is an event designed to provide participants with practical, research-based information focusing on the needs and abilities of children of poverty. The program includes two keynote addresses and more than 30 breakout sessions. This all day event will take place from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Chapman Auditorium in McNair Science Building.

The theme of the COE Summer Institute is *"How 2: Classroom Strategies that Work!"*

Greenfeld provides professional development to build and sustain comprehensive partnership programs that positively impact student success. Armed with a master's degree in education, she mainly assists schools and districts located in the eastern region of the country.

She worked the Baltimore City Public School System as a classroom teacher and a district facilitator for School Family Community Partnerships. As a district facilitator, Greenfeld assisted Action Teams for Partnerships to build partnership programs linked to school improvement plans. She also worked as a partnership coordinator for Communities In Schools National and in the Technical Assistance Branch of the Office of Federal Grants Programs in Washington D.C.

Greenfeld will explore what we know about how to make schools and classrooms more family-friendly and how to create a school atmosphere that welcomes all families.

Ellerbe has been an educator for 16 years and is currently pursuing the Ed.D. at North Carolina State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in middle grades education with a major in math and minor in English and a master's degree in school administration from Fayetteville State University. A native of Marion, Ellerbe has successfully worked in both high poverty and affluent school districts and has earned a reputation as a Turn-Around Schools leader.

While principal of Spring Lake Middle School in Fayetteville, N.C., a high poverty school that was academically and socially challenged, Ellerbe has seen the school transform into one which meets "high growth" standards, and is a model for North Carolina Turnaround Schools Program.

Ellerbe, through his keynote address, “How to Have a Great Classroom,” will be facilitating a discussion on using Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with an emphasis on the 3 R’s - *Relationships, Relevance, and Rigor* to create a safe, orderly, academically sound and positive emotional environment.

Greenfeld will address the group from 10:55 – 11:55 p.m. while Ellerbe will speak from 3 – 4 p.m.

Admission is free for Partner District Educators and all university and college students. There is a \$10 registration fee for the public. To register with the Center of Excellence, call 843-669-3391, ext.28, or e-mail the Center at [COE@fmarion.edu](mailto:COE@fmarion.edu). Seating is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

S.C. Department of Social Service credit is awarded for Early Childhood Education sessions. Professional Development Recertification hours will be awarded to all participants.

The FMU School of Education was awarded a five-year grant that established on campus the Center of Excellence. The grant includes a component that supports staff development and in-service training for teachers in the Pee Dee region.

Visit the center’s website at [www.fmucenterofexcellence.org](http://www.fmucenterofexcellence.org) for additional information.

### **Recent FMU News**

#### **FMU hosts field school for archeology**

Francis Marion University is hosting a field school for underwater archaeology on campus through June 20.

As part of the University of South Carolina’s archaeology project, USC is working in partnership with East Carolina University and FMU. The Maritime Studies Program at ECU is conducting the field school at Mars Bluff to support state underwater archaeologist Christopher Amer and his team’s research and excavation work. They are being housed on the campus of FMU. [→more](#)

#### **Degrees awarded at FMU commencement exercises May 9**

Three-hundred-and-forty-five degrees were awarded during commencement exercises at Francis Marion University on May 9.

These included 313 undergraduate degrees and 32 graduate degrees awarded by Francis Marion.

The William H. Blackwell Award was presented by William W. Coleman Jr., a member of the FMU Foundation board, to **Ryan Adam Melton of Wallace, Megan Emily Sanders of Johnsonville, Mary Elizabeth Waddell of Effingham and Jessica Lynn Wall of Johnsonville.** [→more](#)

## Other news

- Three FMU employees – **Gerald Carraway** (Physics), **Rebecca Culbertson** (Human Resources), and **James McLeod** (Building Maintenance) recently completed the S.C. Master Gardener course of study through Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service. The trio graduated on May 18, 2009 at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center.

Are there other Master Gardeners among our FMU faculty and staff? If you have completed the program, contact Becky Culbertson at [rculbertson@fmarion.edu](mailto:rculbertson@fmarion.edu).

- The FMU African American Faculty and Staff Coalition's slate of officers for 2009-10 are as follow:
  - President - Steven Sims
  - Vice-President - Yvonne Davis
  - Secretary - Janet M. Pearson
  - Treasurer - Ann Williams
  - Parliamentarian - Ralph Davis
- The Francis Marion Trail Strategic Plan received the Honor Award for Planning and Analysis from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The awards ceremony will be held Saturday, June 6 in Aiken.

*The Crier keeps the campus community, business and community leaders and friends of FMU informed about the university. The Crier is published monthly and distributed on the first of each month. Submit copy to the editor by June 26 for the July 1 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at [acrosland@fmarion.edu](mailto:acrosland@fmarion.edu) or at ext. (843) 661-1227.*