

The Crier

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FMU president welcomes faculty, announces record enrollment

FMU President Luther F. Carter welcomed new and returning members of the faculty at a ceremony held recently.

He began his address by commending the campus community for its hard work in the midst of a series of state funding reductions in the previous academic year. Carter also assured the faculty that the security of their positions would be a priority of the university in the current year.

“I believe that it’s my responsibility to be innovative enough to absorb cuts without jeopardizing your jobs or salaries,” Carter said. “I will make you a promise. If we are ever obligated to furlough or layoff an employee for economic reasons, I’ll be the first to go.”

In his address, Carter also praised the enrollment management and admissions staff, led by Kenneth Kitts, FMU associate provost for academic affairs and enrollment management, and James Schlimmer, FMU director of admissions, for the extraordinary recruitment efforts that have resulted in a projected student enrollment increase of more than 7 percent. University officials project a record high overall enrollment of 4,231 students for the fall. This year’s freshman class of 784 students represents a 15 percent increase from last year. Carter credited a significant portion of the 7 percent rise in student enrollment over last year to the quality of FMU faculty and academic programs.

To accommodate this growth, FMU Provost Richard Chapman and

department chairpersons introduced 10 new faculty members for the 2009-2010 school year. [FULL STORY](#)

FMU reaps roughly \$250,000 in nuclear education grants from U.S. NRC

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has awarded more than \$250,000 in grants to Francis Marion University's health physics program. The money will be used to help broaden the pool of candidates needed in the environmental and safety arena of a growing nuclear industry.

"We are proud of our faculty's growing success in obtaining grants that are vital to the university's commitment to teaching, research and public service," said FMU Provost Richard Chapman. "These grants will fund studies to improve the health and well-being of South Carolinians and advance scientific knowledge in areas critical to our nation's needs, including nuclear safety, security and environmental protection."

The Health Physics Scholarship Program at FMU grant of \$152,833 was awarded by NRC to scientist Derek Jokisch, FMU associate professor of physics. [FULL STORY](#)

FMU announces tenure and promotion of faculty

Officials at Francis Marion University have announced tenure and promotion of faculty members for the 2009-10 academic year.

Receiving a promotion to professor is: Bill D. Whitmire, mathematics.

Receiving promotions to associate professor are: Craig C. Alberty, music; Shirley C. Bausmith, education; J. Mark Blackwell, philosophy and religious studies; Kirk E. Dineley, biology; Jo Angela Edwins, English; Jane E. Gower, mathematics; Michael P. Hughes, finance; Jacqueline C. Jones, English; Abigail M. Kiker, theatre and costume design; Meredith A. Love-Steinmetz, English; Jeannette M. Myers, astronomy; Gregory S. Pryor, biology; Kristofoland Varazo, chemistry; and T. Alissa Wartens, political science.

Earning continuous tenure (without a time limit) are: Shirley C. Bausmith, education; J. Mark Blackwell, English, modern languages, and philosophy; Kirk E. Dineley, biology; Jo Angela Edwins, English, modern languages, and philosophy; Bryan L. Fisher, mass communication and speech; Howard J. Frye, fine arts; Michael P. Hughes, business; Abigail M. Kiker, fine arts; Meredith A. Love-Steinmetz, English, modern languages, and

philosophy; Janis McWayne, education; Ronald T. Murphy Jr., psychology; Jeannette M. Myers, physics and astronomy; Gregory S. Pryor, biology; David A. Sacash, mass communication and speech; Yong B. Shin, business; Kristofoland Varazo, chemistry; T. Alissa Warters, political science and geography.

FMU ranked in Top 100 by U.S. News & World Report

Francis Marion University has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report magazine as one of the south's top 100 master's level universities for the ninth year in a row.

"We are pleased to once again be selected as one of the best master's level universities," said FMU President Luther F. Carter.

The rankings will be published in the magazine's book America's Best Colleges, 2010 Edition, which goes on sale Aug. 25. The magazine released the rankings Aug. 20. [FULL STORY](#)

FMU receives grant for writing project

For the tenth straight year, Francis Marion University's Swamp Fox Writing Project has received a continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the National Writing Project.

This year, the grant is in the amount of \$46,000 and will once again be used for continuing education and training of area teachers.

Leading this effort is Rebecca Flannagan, associate professor of English at FMU, who said the project prepares area teachers and instructors for leadership roles by studying effective practices, reviewing research and improving their own work by writing themselves. "The Swamp Fox Writing Project adheres to the principles that the best teachers of teachers are other teachers, and the best teachers of writing are writers themselves." [FULL STORY](#)

FMU receives coveted National Science Foundation MRI grant

The National Science Foundation has announced the award of a grant in the amount of \$124,616 to Francis Marion University to support the work of Tim Shannon and Kirk E. Dineley, associate professors of biology, and Erin Eaton and Latha M. Malaiyandi, assistant professors of biology. The title of their research project is "MRI: Acquisition of centrifugation, refrigeration,

and sterilizing equipment to enhance the research program for faculty and undergraduate students at Francis Marion University.”

The Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program will serve to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and training, improve the quality and expand the scope of research in science and engineering. [FULL STORY](#)