Move begun for FMU to offer nursing program

A move is under way for Francis Marion University to assume administrative control of the baccalaureate nursing program being offered on its campus by the Medical University of South Carolina.

The leaders of FMU and MUSC have agreed in principle to transfer the administration of the program to FMU within the next few years.

MUSC has operated the satellite nursing program as an adjunct program at Francis Marion since 1982.

FMU President Fred Carter has appointed a seven-member committee to assist with the transition of this nursing program to FMU.

The community-based Health Sciences Development Committee appointed by Carter will make recommendations to help with that transition as well as examine the feasibility of creating other allied health care programs that would be consistent with the mission of FMU.

Florence physician and chairman of the FMU Foundation, Dr. Sompong Kraikit, will chair the committee. Vice chairman is FMU provost Richard Chapman, who oversees all of the university’s academic programs.

Other members of the committee are Bradley Callicott, executive director of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation; William Coleman, Florence businessman and FMU trustee; Jay Kispet, vice president for business affairs at FMU; Sylvia Lufkin, vice president for patient services and administrator of Wilson Medical Center in Darlington, a division of McLeod Health; and James F. O’Loughlin, CEO of Carolinas Hospital System.

“There is a nursing shortage throughout South Carolina,” said Carter in announcing the appointments. “As part of our academic mission, we want to make sure we are meeting the demands of our primary service area.

“There is a need within the Pee Dee region for more bachelor-prepared registered nurse professionals,” he added. “The feedback we’ve gotten from the region is that there is wide support for FMU to produce more health care professionals. With our strong science programs, it is natural for us to move in this direction.”

“The Medical University of South Carolina’s College of Nursing shares Francis Marion University’s goal of increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses to serve the citizens of our state,” said Gail Barbosa, associate dean for academics at the MUSC College of Nursing. “We support their efforts and would be pleased to assist them in the transition.”

According to a 2001 study produced by the S.C. Colleagues in Caring Project, only 34 percent of South Carolina registered nurses have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 44 percent nationally.

However, only 22 percent of total registered nurses in seven Pee Dee counties have a bachelor’s degree, according to 2002 data from the Office of Research and Statistics of the Budget and Control Board.

Carter said this move is supported by the two hospital systems headquartered in Florence, McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System, as well as hospitals throughout the region.

MUSC began the satellite nursing program on the FMU campus in 1982 with five students enrolled. Today, there are 61 students enrolled as undergraduate nursing majors, taught by five faculty members.

Over the last 22 years, 435 students have earned degrees through this program. While those degrees were awarded by MUSC, those students completed many courses taught by FMU faculty.

In addition, there are currently 204 pre-nursing majors enrolled at FMU, more than a 100 percent increase since 1999 and up 37 percent since last year.

FMU National Art Education Association chapter receives recognition

The Francis Marion University National Art Education Association (NAEA) student chapter recently finished third in competition for the Retired Art Educators Association (RAEA) Outstanding Student Chapter Award among North American universities.

The award recognizes dedication to the development of future professional members. FMU finished behind Purdue and Brigham Young universities.

Other nominees for the award were the University of Florida, Winthrop University, West Virginia University, and the University of Tulsa.

The Francis Marion University NAEA student chapter is made up of 35 members and is active on a number of levels, including fund raising and advocacy. Student chapter members also attend the South Carolina Art Education conference on a yearly basis.

The current officers of the student chapter are Travis Allen of Florence, president; Krystal Gause of Florence, vice-president; and Beth Parker of Smyrna, Tenn., secretary.

With more than 22,000 members, the National Art Education Association is an organization dedicated to promoting art education in North America.
Damian Von Franck, visiting assistant professor of economics, attended the 31st annual meeting of the Academy of Economics and Finance in Biloxi, Miss., Feb. 11-14.

He presented his research, “Does Unionization Impact the Incidence of General Training and Firm-Specific Training Differently?” He was also the discussant for two papers, “Promotional Effects and The Impact on Welfare and Employment in Successive Monopoly,” and “Voter Participation Rates in NLRB Union Certification Elections: Evidence from Selected States.” In addition, he attended a Teacher Training Program at the conference.

Research conducted by Ken Kitts, associate provost and associate professor of political science, has received national attention. Kitts’ study of the relationship between presidential power and national security decision-making is cited in a Feb. 13 article by FindLaw contributing columnist, John W. Dean, former legal counsel to President Nixon.

FindLaw is considered the premier portal for legal research on the web. Dean’s column may be accessed at http://writ.news.findlaw.com/dean/20040213.html.

Donna Goodman, professor of art education, will have an opening reception for her exhibit, “Pee Dee Eulogies,” March 3 at 7 p.m. The exhibit and reception are at the Florence Museum, 558 Spruce St. For more information, call 662-3357.

Michael Hughes, assistant professor of finance, recently attended the 2004 Academy of Economics and Finance conference in Biloxi, Miss. He presented the paper “What is the Source of Different Levels of Stock Index Volatility? The Intraday U-shaped Pattern or Time-series Persistence,” which was co-authored with Drew B. Winters of the University of Central Florida. The paper has been submitted to the Journal of Economics and Finance for possible publication.

Francis Marion University presented its 2003-2004 alumni awards at an Alumni Appreciation Dinner, Feb. 19.

The Outstanding Alumnus is 1979 School of Business graduate Hal Campbell. This award was chosen by the Alumni Association’s Past Presidents’ Council. Campbell is the president and CEO of ACS Technologies of Florence (formerly Computer Dimensions), a provider of software and services to faith-based organizations.

Founded in 1978, ACS is the country’s leading producer of administrative software for churches, private schools, and nonprofit organizations. With 300 employees and more than 12,000 clients nationwide, ACS serves clients primarily through its main product, Automated Church Systems.

“In all of this success today, it is hard to imagine that the company did not realize its first profit until 1986 after it was $1.1 million in debt,” said Campbell.

In 2002, the owners of ACS (Hal Campbell, Billy Campbell, Marvin Owen, and Tom Rogers) were named South Carolina’s Small Business Persons of the Year.

In 1994, Campbell was presented the FMU School of Business Outstanding Graduate Award, and in 1996, he was recognized as one of the 25 Distinguished Alumni by the Alumni Association in celebration of the university’s 25th anniversary.

A past president of the FMU Alumni Association, Campbell continually supports his alma mater in a variety of ways, including serving as secretary of the FMU Foundation and employing a significant number of FMU graduates.

The Benjamin Wall Ingram III Young Alumnus is 1995 biology graduate Surgener Crawford. She completed further studies at Emory University, Howard University, the University of South Carolina, and Mercer University. She holds a master’s degree in healthcare administration and policy and a doctoral degree in health administration and research.

Currently, Crawford is the Southeast region medical consultant for the pharmaceutical firm Adventis. Prior to that, she was assistant director of continuing physician medical education and public health for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Before that, she served as assistant administrator for Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health.

Crawford has assisted FMU by serving as a recruiting partner with the Alumni-in-Admissions program. She has been helpful in generating interest among alumni in the Atlanta area.

The Alumni Volunteer of the Year is Devenney Mazell, a 1984 political science graduate. This award was chosen by the Alumni Association’s executive officers and Alumni Office staff.

Mazell serves as a contact for S.C. Lowcountry-area events and helps encourage alumni to attend. She is a past member of the Alumni Advisory Board and currently volunteers as a recruiting partner for the Alumni-in-Admissions program.

Since graduation, Mazell has served as an unofficial “alumni ambassador,” sacrificing her personal time to drive to campus to provide tours for prospective students throughout the year. She has personally recruited many students to FMU.

Currently, Mazell is a child development teaching assistant at Windsor Hill Elementary School in Dorchester County. Recently, she was recognized as a finalist for Classified Employee of the Year. Prior to this, she spent 17 years in the restaurant business. She is a faithful supporter of Alumni Association activities and volunteer programs.
Three professors named Trustees’ Research Scholars

John A. Britton, professor of history, Larry J. McCumber, professor of biology, and Benjamin Woods, professor of music, have been named Francis Marion University’s Board of Trustees’ Research Scholars.

They were honored at a luncheon following the Feb. 20 Board of Trustees meeting and at a reception Feb. 24 at the Wallace House.

The Research Scholars designation signifies outstanding scholarly achievements and the promise of continued scholarly activity in the future.

“I am pleased that these three outstanding faculty members are being named trustees’ research scholars,” said FMU President Fred Carter. “Each of them has achieved distinction as prolific researchers and extraordinary professors.”

The appointment as a Research Scholar is for a three-year term and is renewable. The Board of Trustees’ resolution provides that six Research Scholars would be named. Currently, there are five as Fred David and Lorraine de Montuluzin were named the university’s first two research scholars in 2002.

Britton was cited for his extensive scholarly work, primarily in 19th and 20th century international history, especially the relationship between Latin America and the United States in the areas of intellectual and media history.

A native of Jackson, N.C., Britton has been a member of the FMU faculty since 1972. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his master’s and doctorate from Tulane University where he taught before coming to FMU. He holds the Suzanne and Benjamin Gasque Professorship in history and is coordinator of FMU’s International Studies program and the pre-law program.


Britton was the winner of the 2003 FMU Faculty Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship. He also has conducted research on the history of McLeod Regional Medical Center and McLeod Health.

McCumber’s research interests include the mechanism of recognition of self from non-self in invertebrates, comparative immunology, and primary structure of proteins. His most recent research involves antibacterial activity and normal flora of the crayfish.

During his career, McCumber has been awarded research grants totaling nearly $600,000. He has published 21 research papers, made numerous presentations at professional science meetings in the United States and Europe, and serves on an advisory panel for reviewing grants for the National Science Foundation. He received the 1992 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Science.

A Mullins native and Lake City High School graduate, McCumber has been a member of the FMU faculty since 1982, where he is the Palmetto Professor of Biology. Prior to that he was an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

He received a bachelor’s degree in biology at USC and earned master’s and doctoral degrees in immunology and medical microbiology from the University of Florida. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas.

Woods has given numerous solo piano concerts across the country, including Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress and Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City where he made his debut in 1985. He has performed many faculty recitals, chamber music and solo concerts at numerous other colleges and universities, and performances at community concert series and festivals. With the Florence Symphony, the Mississippi Symphony, the Baylor University Symphony and the S.C. Philharmonic, he has performed concertos of Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin.

He was one of 12 national finalists in the U.S. Information Agency’s Artistic Ambassador Competition, and one of 10 finalists in the Beethoven International Piano Competition.

Besides performing chamber music in the Woods Family Ensemble with his wife, Sherry, violinist, and their children, Christopher, violinist, and Adrienne, cellist, he has collaborated in recital with the Firenze String Quartet, and with artists Sue Orr, soprano, Roland LeRoy Skinner, bassoonist, and William Mills, pianist.

He has conducted concerts of the FMU Chorus and the Florence Symphony Orchestra Choral Society. He conducted the Florence Masterworks Choir and Orchestra in performances of the Poulenc Organ Concerto with William Mills, organist, and a performance of the Vaughn Williams From Unknown Regions, and the Haydn Lord Nelson Mass.

A guest conductor before his appointment, Woods was named music director and conductor of the Florence Symphony, and served from 1996 to 2002, where one of his greatest triumphs was conducting a joint venture of the Masterworks Choir and the symphony, with the assistance of the West Florence and Wilson High School choruses, in a performance of the monumental Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.

A native of Port Arthur, Texas, Woods has been a member of the FMU faculty since 1972. He earned a bachelor’s degree in piano performance and music education at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, a master’s degree in music from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and a doctorate in musical arts from the University of South Carolina.
S.C. Physics Scholars Institute held at FMU

Twenty-nine South Carolina high school seniors participated in the first S.C. Physics Scholars Institute at Francis Marion University, Feb. 19-21.

The program focused on nuclear physics, astronomy, laser physics, and computational physics. Students were introduced to the methods of thought and understanding that are used in physics and astronomy.

They performed experiments, analyzed data, and were encouraged to make sense of their observations in a scientific manner.

Numerous academic and social activities were also held. The event kicked off with a welcoming reception that was hosted by the faculty and students of the FMU Department of Physics and Astronomy.

The core academic experience of the institute was participation in 10 advanced experiments in physics and astronomy.

Participants received tours of FMU’s signature laboratories, and there were group activities in the FMU observatory and Dooley Planetarium.

All participants were nominated by their high school physics teachers, and have demonstrated aptitude in science and mathematics.

“The FMU Department of Physics and Astronomy was pleased to host some of the state’s brightest high school seniors for this event,” said David Peterson, FMU physics professor and director of the institute. “These outstanding students learned more about all areas of physics through a variety of experiments and other academic activities.”

Woods to perform for First Tuesday arts event

Francis Marion University’s First Tuesday Chamber Music Series will feature pianist Benjamin Woods, March 2.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the Hyman Fine Arts Center’s Kassab Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Woods will give a lecture recital on Rachmaninoff’s Opus 32 Preludes. Woods is a professor of music at FMU and a former conductor of the Florence Symphony Orchestra.