

FMU hosts first Pee Dee Fiction Festival, Nov. 9-11

Francis Marion University will hold the first Pee Dee Fiction Festival, Nov. 9-11.

The three-day festival will celebrate the book. All scheduled events will be held in the Caughen Educational Media Center's Lowrimore Auditorium on the FMU campus. Admission is free and open to the public, and registration is required by Nov. 7. To register, call the FMU Department of English, Modern Languages and Philosophy at 843-661-1371.

The event will feature authors Andre Dubus III, Ellen Gilchrist, and Dinah Johnson, as well as panel discussions, readings, and book signings. Many fiction topics will be covered, including screenwriting, Christian fiction, "front porch stories," and regionalism. Two screenings of the film "House of Sand and Fog," based on Dubus' book of the same name, will also be shown.

The festival is being organized by FMU English professors Ed Eleazer and Lynn Kostoff. Several other FMU English faculty will participate in the events as well.

Dubus is the author of a collection of short fiction, "The Cage Keeper and Other Stories," and the novels "Bluesman," and "House of Sand and Fog." The basis of a major motion picture (starring Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly) and published in 25 countries, "House of Sand and Fog" was an Oprah Book Club Selection and No. 1 New York Times bestseller.



Gilchrist's first book was a book of poetry, "The Land Surveyor's Daughter" (1979). She followed it up with "Riding Out the Tropical Depression: Selected Poems, 1975-1985" (1986). She attracted critical and popular accolades from the publication of her book of short fiction, "In the Land of Dreamy Dreams," in 1981.

Johnson, a native of Charleston, graduated from Spring Valley High School in Columbia. She also graduated from Princeton University, and earned a Ph.D. from Yale University. She teaches at the University of South Carolina. Johnson's primary research interest is African-American children's literature.

For more information about the Pee Dee Fiction Festival, visit the festival's website at <http://alpha1.fmarion.edu/~pdfiction/>.

Francis Marion University begins 37th year

Francis Marion University officially began its 37th year with the start of fall classes in August.

FMU students have a new venue where they can socialize with classmates, grab a snack, and just relax. The Grille, a 4,770-square foot activity center, also will be available for use by student groups for special events. Located next to the outdoor pool, the Grille provides an additional dining option for students throughout the day and evening. The menu includes grill items such as hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, wings and fries; deli items such as subs, wraps and salads; pizza and pasta; and breakfast items.

The dining area seats approximately 90 people, and tables and chairs on the outdoor porch and patio will provide additional seating. With the opening of the Grille, the University Center Café has been closed permanently.

The new Frank B. Lee Nursing Building opened this fall. The 30,000-square-foot facility is located on the north side of the campus pond. Until recently a satellite program of the

Medical University of South Carolina, the stand-alone FMU nursing program has been in the process of expanding to provide more baccalaureate-degree prepared nurses. The program will increase the number of nursing majors this year by 50 percent, from 32 to 48. The facility will provide space for this expansion including classrooms, an auditorium, a clinical care lab area, and a computer lab.

In June, FMU dedicated Hanson Park, located between the Cottage and Wallace House, in memory of longtime faculty member and administrator Gary Hanson who died last year. The 1.5-acre park has a garden-like atmosphere with footpaths, water pools and picnic tables where students and employees can find a quiet place for an outdoor lunch or to read and reflect. The park was designed in-house and all work was completed by FMU physical plant staff.

Several other major projects are in the works. Planned for the 2006-2007 year is construction of phase two of Forest

FMU receives \$7 million for Performing Arts Center

The final piece of the puzzle for construction of a downtown Florence performing arts center fell into place in June with the announcement by Sen. Hugh Leatherman of a \$7 million state appropriation to Francis Marion University.

In a news conference held at the future site of the facility, Sen. Leatherman said he was delighted that the S.C. General Assembly, in the recently passed state budget, provided the necessary funds to help with construction of the estimated \$17 million facility.

"The performing arts center will serve the entire Pee Dee area, thereby expanding the cultural opportunities for all our residents," said Sen. Leatherman, who earlier had obtained \$1 million in downtown redevelopment funds for the project.

FMU will partner with the City of Florence to build the facility to be named the Francis Marion University Center for the Performing Arts. This building will be located on 3.93 acres of land at the corner of Dargan and West Palmetto streets.

Also announced was the seven-member governing board, four appointed by the university and three by the city, which will set policy for operating the facility.

The university's representatives on the board are FMU President Fred Carter, who will serve as chairman; Marva Smalls, executive vice president of public affairs and chief of staff of Nickelodeon, Nick at Nite, TV Land, Noggin and Spike TV; Ben Zeigler, a Florence attorney; and Larry Anderson,

chairman of FMU's Fine Arts Department.

The city's members of the board are Billy D. Williams, Florence City Councilman; Shirley R. Imbeau, longtime community arts activist; and Michael O. Blakeley, senior vice president and city executive with Sentry Bank and Trust.

Carter said he was thankful to Sen. Leatherman for securing the additional construction funds. "This is another example of how the senator's influence is benefiting the people of the Pee Dee region," he said. "This facility will play a pivotal role in boosting cultural enrichment and educational excellence throughout the region."

Both the land, currently owned by the city, and the performing arts center building will be deeded to FMU, which will act as fiduciary agent for construction and operation of the center and will employ the center's director. FMU and the City of Florence will share operational and maintenance costs.

The performing arts center will have space for theatrical and musical performances, and office and instructional classroom space. The completion date is projected for late summer 2008.

In January, FMU received a \$10 million grant from Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation toward building a performing arts center in downtown Florence. That was part of a multi-partnership agreement that included land exchanges involving the City of Florence, Florence County, McLeod Health, Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation and Francis Marion University.

FMU's 37th year

Continued from page 1

Villas apartments, which will add another 200 beds to campus housing.

Also planned for this year is construction of the Center for the Child, a \$3 million project to be located next to the Pee Dee Education Center, property that was recently deeded back to the university. The center will be an important teaching facility for the early childhood education and psychology programs

and will enable students to get firsthand experience in dealing with small children. In addition, it will serve as a daycare facility for children of employees and students.

Also on the drawing board is a \$16 million building to house the School of Business and School of Education. This approximately 61,000-square-foot building will be built on the south side of the campus pond. Funding is expected to come from a state bond package.

The View is a quarterly publication by the Office of Communications Services and the Office of Community Relations and Alumni Affairs at Francis Marion University for alumni, friends, and the university community. Submissions and suggestions are welcome. Contact:

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Design by Janie K. Williams

Francis Marion University offers equal opportunity in its employment, admissions, and educational activities.



Virginia Ridgill, left, and Otis Nichols, right, pictured with FMU president Fred Carter, were named outstanding staff employees of the year at FMU. The awards were presented July 26 during the staff awards luncheon, which also honored FMU employees for length of state service.

Wireless network installed at FMU for fall semester

The Francis Marion University campus is going wireless. When students returned to the campus in late August to begin the fall semester, the first phase of a centrally managed, wireless computer network was operational.

The wireless network allows students to access the Internet from 10 locations scattered across the campus. Each location has been identified as a public gathering site where students congregate.

Students using computers with wireless cards can access the network and Internet in these locations. Students may use the Internet as a 'guest-user,' or can log-in to the campus network for higher levels of access and services.

The system will be managed by FMU's Academic Computing Services. The wireless network consists of Cisco wireless access points, the Cisco Clean Access system and other networking equipment to provide users mobile access to the Internet.



In order to connect to the wireless network, students must have an operational wireless network card, an updated operating system, agree to university policies while connected and have updated antivirus software installed to protect their computer and the network from Internet viruses.

Signs are being installed so students can identify the wireless access points around campus. Locations will include Rogers Library, the Lee Nursing Building, Smith University Center, the breezeway and lounges of Founders Hall and Cauthen Media Center, Ervin Dining Hall, the residential area and Forest Villas apartments, Stanton Academic Computer Center, and the Grille and outdoor swimming pool area.

Academic Computing Services will provide wireless technical support for students using the wireless network.

FMU Trustees approve \$41.7 million budget, tuition increase

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees adopted a \$41.7 million operating budget for the university's 2006-2007 fiscal year during its quarterly meeting June 2.

The trustees also increased tuition 8 percent per semester. The increase means that full-time South Carolina resident undergraduates will pay \$3,256 per semester, up \$239 from last year. Tuition for the FMU nursing program was set at \$5,049 per semester, an increase of \$372 from last year.

Full-time out-of-state undergraduate students will now pay \$6,419.50 per semester, and out-of-state nursing students will pay \$10,005.50 per semester. Full-time South Carolina graduate students will pay \$3,356 per semester, while out-of-state graduate students will pay \$6,619.50 per semester.

Also approved by the board, and included in the above totals, is a \$25 hike in the student activity fee to support growth in student related programs.

In other business, the trustees adopted a university-wide strategic plan and reinstated the Francis Marion College medallion to be used for ceremonial occasions. The board also thanked Joe Heyward, vice president for student affairs, who retired in June, for his 30-plus years of service to FMU.

FMU's \$41.7 million projected budget includes \$16.3 million in state appropriations, \$23.7 million in student fees and \$1.7 million in other revenue. The biggest part of the budget goes for personnel costs set at \$32.1 million, \$9 million for operating expenses, and about a half million dollars earmarked for specific new programs.

During their August retreat at Santee Cooper's Wampee Conference Center in Pinopolis, the trustees heard reports on campus facilities and future development, academic affairs, the Swamp Fox Writing Project, the Pee Dee Fiction Festival, the Center for the Child, the Center of Excellence, student affairs, athletics, the FMU Foundation, community relations and alumni affairs.

During their quarterly board meeting, the trustees approved resolutions authorizing FMU to offer a bachelor of science degree in middle level education (grades 5-8), authorizing construction of new apartments for 200 students in the Forest Villas complex, and accepting conveyance of six parcels of land from the City of Florence and McLeod Health to develop the FMU Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Florence.

FMU hosts ceramic surfaces symposium

Francis Marion University hosted the Southern Fried Ceramic Surfaces Symposium, July 27-29.

The event was a regional conference of the Potters Council, a nonprofit subsidiary of the American Ceramic Society. The conference featured presentations of ceramic surface techniques from local and national artists. Local presenters included Patz Fowle of Hartsville and Sasha and Tari Federer of Florence. FMU ceramics professor Doug Gray, who currently serves as vice president of the Potters Council Board of

Directors, organized the conference and was also a presenter. Gray said that approximately 70 artists attended the event.

"Francis Marion University was very fortunate to host this symposium which featured a handful of the talented ceramic artists from South Carolina and across the states," said Gray.

Other presenters included Jim Connell of Winthrop University, Dave Finkelnburg, Rikki Gill, David Hendley, Mel Jacobson, Dannon Rhudy, Virginia Scotchie of the University of South Carolina, Stephani Stephenson, and Kurt Wild.

FMU makes key appointments

Francis Marion University has recently made several key faculty, staff and athletic appointments.

Darryl Bridges has been promoted to vice president of student affairs. Bridges, of Florence, replaces Joe Heyward, who retired after 33 years of service to FMU. Bridges' responsibilities will include providing leadership for the university's Division of Student Affairs. He will oversee all departments in the division, including the Dean of Students' Office, the Office of Counseling and Testing, Student Health Services, the Office of Career Development, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Office of Student Affairs. Bridges will also serve as a member of the President's Cabinet.



Bridges

Since coming to FMU in 1997, Bridges has served as director of residence life, director of student life, and most recently as dean of students and assistant vice president for student development.

Teresa Ramey replaces Bridges as dean of students. As dean of students, Ramey will supervise the offices of Student Life, the University Center and Campus Recreation, Residence Life, Student Development, and International Student Affairs. She will also administer the student judicial system, serve as an adviser to the Student Government Association, supervise the cheerleading advisers, be involved in new student orientation, and respond to general issues concerning students.



Ramey

Ramey, of Stone Mountain, Ga., comes to FMU from Spelman College, where she served as interim dean of students and associate dean of students. Prior to that, she was assistant dean of students at Texas Tech University, as well as coordinator of judicial affairs. She has also worked at Aiken Technical College, Case Western Reserve University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Thomas L. Fitzkee has been named chair of the FMU Department of Mathematics. He replaces Bill Fox, who has left FMU to pursue a position elsewhere. Fitzkee joined the FMU faculty as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1998. He was appointed an associate professor in 2004. Prior to coming to FMU, he was a business support specialist for Boeing/McDonnell Douglas Aerospace at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.



Fitzkee

Kathy Andrews has been named director of publications and marketing in the communications office. She replaces Eunice Rabon who resigned.

Andrews has a wide-ranging communications background, mostly in Washington, D.C., but the last three years in Florence. Since returning to Florence in 2003, she's handled communications for the non-profit Pee



Andrews

Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault as well as serving as a communications and marketing consultant to a number of other organizations. A native of Pamplico, Andrews has more than 20 years in the communications and public relations field, including print, broadcast, website, special events, marketing, advertising and fundraising experience. A 1982 graduate of Howard University, she's also an accomplished photographer.

Michael G. Hawkins has been named associate athletic director for media relations and marketing. Hawkins, 43, has served as sports information director and news writer within the university's Office of Communication Services for the past 21 years.



Hawkins

Hawkins is a past chairman of the Peach Belt Conference SIDs Committee, and is a longtime member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). During his time at Francis Marion, he has worked at numerous Peach Belt Conference and NCAA championship events. The Porterville, Calif., native is a product of Florence's Wilson High School and earned the B.S. degree in mathematics from Francis Marion in 1985. He served as student SID at FMU from 1981 to 1985.

FMU alumnus **Ralph Davis** has been named director of facilities management at the university.

Davis will oversee operation of the university's physical plant, including new construction, building maintenance, custodial services and grounds maintenance.



Davis

Davis, a 1983 graduate of FMU with a B.S. degree in mathematics, also earned an M.S. degree in engineering management from Kansas State University.

Most recently, Davis was facilities manager for Sodexo Campus Services at South Carolina State University. Previously, he was operations department manager for Sodexo at Virginia State University. He has also held a number of supervisory engineering positions at Wellman Inc. in Florence, Marion and Johnsonville.

A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Davis has served on active and reserve duty in Charleston, S.C., and Norfolk, Va., where he held a variety of positions in the areas of ship operation, maintenance and management. He also completed naval nuclear power training and naval electrician school.

Emily Correll of Newton, Ill., has joined the Patriot women's softball staff as an assistant coach. Correll will assist in on-field coaching, serve as first base coach, and help in the areas of recruiting and academics. She spent this past spring as an assistant coach at Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

FMU announces addition of 28 new faculty members

Officials at Francis Marion University have announced the addition of 28 new faculty members for the 2006-2007 school year.

They are: **James D. Christian** of Columbia, instructor of speech communication; **Kenneth E. Crocker** of Perrysburg, Ohio, professor of marketing; **Erin M. Eaton** of Charleston, assistant professor of biology; **Larry P. Englehardt** of Ames, Iowa, assistant professor of physics; **Heather E. Epes** of Carrboro, N.C., assistant professor of English and assistant director of the FMU Writing Center; **Elena N. Eskridge-Kosmach** of Cheraw, assistant professor of history; **Donna S. Estes** of Effingham, instructor of nursing; **Nathan E. Flowers** of Florence, assistant reference librarian and instructor; and **Charles Jeffcoat** of Memphis, Tenn., assistant professor of graphic design.

Also, **Daljit Kaur** of Gastonia, N.C., assistant professor of education; **Christopher M. Kennedy** of North Providence, R.I., assistant professor of history; **Joseph A. Kennedy** of Plymouth, N.H., assistant professor of English; **Timothy K. Lance** of Cornwall On Hudson, N.Y., assistant professor of mathematics;

Cheryl O. Lane of Central, assistant professor of education; **Maria del Rosario Lara** of Fayetteville, N.C., assistant professor of Spanish; **Nicholas W. Loudon** of Lafayette, Ind., instructor of physics; **Latha M. Malaiyandi** of Lexington Park, Md., assistant professor of biology; and **Ronald T. Murphy** of Malden, Mass., associate professor of psychology.

In addition, **Hari K. Rajagopalan** of Charlotte, N.C., assistant professor of management; **Danielle Rowell** of Myrtle Beach, instructor of political science; **Shawn Smolen-Morton** of Turners Falls, Mass., assistant professor of English; **David C. Szurley** of Clemson, assistant professor of mathematics; **Peter W. Tinsley** of Clinton, assistant professor of chemistry; **Matthew W. Turner** of Philadelphia, Pa., assistant professor of philosophy; **Sharon A. "Mandy" Watts** of Oxford, Ohio, instructor of English; **Amy R. Whicker** of Florence, assistant professor of computer science; **Valerie G. Williams** of Florence, instructor mass communication; and **Nancy L. Zaic** of Columbia, assistant professor of English.

For more information about FMU's new faculty, go to <http://www.fmarion.edu/news>.

FMU obtains military commission document of Francis Marion

Francis Marion University has obtained the congressional military commission of Revolutionary War hero and university namesake Francis Marion.

The document commissions Francis Marion as lieutenant colonel in the Second South Carolina Regiment of the U.S. Army, effective Sept. 16, 1776.

The document was purchased with private funds from Charleston attorney C. Allen Gibson Jr., a descendant of Francis Marion's sister, Rebecca Marion. The commission, which has been appraised at \$11,500, was passed down through the family for generations.

The commission was purchased below market value, with the remaining value given as a gift by the family to the

university. The document measures 30.5 by 18.5 cm, and its condition is "very good," according to the appraisal.

"With so few artifacts relating to General Marion in existence, we are thrilled to have obtained this rare historical document," said FMU president Fred Carter.

For more information about Gen. Francis Marion, go to www.fmarion.edu/news/generalmarion.



Francis Marion Commission

Three new members added to FMU Foundation Board

Mark Avent Sr. of Bennettsville, Allie Brooks Jr. and Benjamin Zeigler of Florence, have been elected to the Francis Marion University Foundation Board.

Each began his initial three-year term July 1. Board members may be elected to subsequent terms.

Avent is executive vice president of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. He is also active as board chairman of Care Resources Inc., is a member of Rotary, and is a member of the National Beverage Association and the South Carolina Beverage Association.

Brooks retired from Florence School District One last year after more than 35 years of service. He was principal of Wilson High School from 1974 to 2005. His community service includes membership on the BB&T Bank Advisory Board, the

Board of Directors of the Florence Boys and Girls Club, and the Editorial Board of the Florence News Journal.

Zeigler is an attorney with the firm of Haynsworth, Sinkler and Boyd P.A. His numerous community activities include service on the boards of the Pee Dee Land Trust, Friends of the Florence Stockade, Florence County Progress, Florence Center for the Arts, and Francis Marion Trail Commission.

"We are excited to welcome Mark, Allie and Ben to the FMU Foundation Board," said Jay Dowd, executive director of the FMU Foundation. "All three are tireless community advocates in the Pee Dee, and we look forward to their contributions to the board."

Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation funds nursing scholarships

The Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation has donated \$200,000 to Francis Marion University to continue funding the nursing scholarships it established in 1998.

The money will be used to renew scholarships for eligible students and to attract new students to the nursing program. Students from Florence, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, Williamsburg, Clarendon and Marlboro counties are eligible for the scholarships. Students who maintain the required grade point average may renew the scholarship for subsequent years.

During the 2005-06 academic year, 49 FMU students received assistance from the scholarships.

FMU has assumed control of the bachelor of science in nursing program, which was previously a cooperative program between FMU and the Medical University of South Carolina. Construction on a new facility to house the program is complete thanks to a \$5.5 million gift from the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation.

The foundation also contributes funding to the Non-Profit Leadership Institute at FMU, which graduated its fourth class in April. The mission of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation is "To advance the general welfare and quality of all life in the Florence, S.C., area by providing economic support to qualified programs and non-profit organizations."

"I cannot say enough about the generous support – both financial and otherwise – that Francis Marion University receives from the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation each and every day," said FMU president Fred Carter. "Through these nursing scholarships and a new state-of-the-art nursing building, the foundation is ensuring the availability of qualified local nurses, which in turn will benefit the healthcare of thousands of Pee Dee residents for years to come."

McLeod gives \$100,000 to FMU nursing program

McLeod Health has once again partnered with Francis Marion University to support the university's nursing program.

McLeod Regional Medical Center administrator Marie Segars, McLeod Health chief nursing officer Stephanie McLeod, and FMU nursing graduate and McLeod registered nurse Lindsey Ward were on hand Aug. 8 to present a \$100,000 gift to FMU officials.

"We are pleased that McLeod Health is generously continuing its longstanding support of our growing nursing program," said FMU President Fred Carter. "This gift will help increase the number of local baccalaureate-educated nurses, thereby reducing the area's shortage of nurses and improving health care in the Pee Dee."

This donation by McLeod Health reflects continued financial support of the nursing program at FMU, in addition to McLeod's previous contributions to nursing education through the Medical University of South Carolina satellite nursing program at FMU over the past six years. This is the second consecutive year that McLeod has provided this level of support directly to the nursing program at FMU.

The new stand-alone FMU nursing program has been in the process of expanding to provide more baccalaureate-degree prepared nurses. The program will increase the number of nursing majors this year by 50 percent, from 32 to 48.

"This gift recognizes the university and its nursing program for their commitment to the development of outstanding health care professionals for the Pee Dee region, which helps to offset critical shortages in nursing, both statewide and nationally," said Stephanie McLeod.

Alumni Association names four members to board

The FMU Alumni Association has named four new members to its Alumni Board of Directors.

New members are Darryl Burns, Jeremy Groom, Johnny "Brent" Tiller, and Rachel Turner.

Burns is a 2005 political science graduate. He is a magistrate in Marion County and a member of the South Carolina Judges Association. Burns resides in Marion with his son Khyle.

Groom, of Florence, is a two-time graduate of FMU. He received a management degree in 1998 and an M.B.A. in 2000. He is employed with First Reliance Bank in Florence as a vice president, business banker. Groom is active in the Lion's Club and First Baptist Church in Florence.

Tiller graduated in 2000 with a B.B.A. degree in marketing. He is a partner and sales representative with Pinnacle Network Solutions. Tiller is a member of the Kiwanis Club. He is married to DeAnn Weatherly, a 1999 FMU graduate. They reside in Florence.

Turner graduated with a B.S. degree in biology in 2000. She was recently appointed the director of marketing and public relations for McLeod Health in Dillon. She is a member of the Junior League of Florence and lives in Florence.

Nine members have rotated off the board. They are: Robert "Bob" Barnett, Craig Dooley, Dr. Edwin Gandy, Rainey Laliberte, Cathy Lee (immediate past president), Ellen Oakman-Black, Melvin Poole, Johnny Stoupenos, and Leigh Anne Watford.

The association serves as a liaison among graduates, the Alumni Office, and the university community. The association is guided by a governing body – the Alumni Board of Directors. Executive officers are Julian Young, president; Stephen Jones, vice president; and Tracy Freeman, secretary.

For more information about the FMU Alumni Association, contact Brandie Hayes at 843-661-1228 or bhayes@fmarion.edu.

1973

Diane DeVaughn Stokes was recently named Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year.

1975

Rick Ostrander and Faith Brown were married April, 8, 2006, at Timrod Park. The couple resides in Florence.

1976

Ernie Nivens, a New York Life insurance agent from Gastonia, N.C., was named an "Annuity Champion" for 2006 for his annuity sales performance. Nivens has been a New York Life agent since 1990 and has been the Agent of the Year for the Charlotte general office for the past 10 years.

1990

Derrick Young and his wife, Lisa, had their second child, Matthew Thomas, on May 22, 2006.

1991

President George W. Bush honored science teacher Melissa Timmons of Johnsonville High School with the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for teaching in these fields. Timmons is the only science winner from South Carolina and one of 100 seventh- through 12th-grade teachers nationwide to receive the award.

1993

Scott and Lisa Richberg had their second child, Emma Julia, on Jan. 4, 2006.

1994

A. Renee Dowdy recently earned a master's degree in education from FMU and is now an instructor of mathematics at FMU.

1995

Paul Romano is on his second tour of duty in the Middle East. Maj. Romano serves as the C1 Plans and Operations Adviser to Iraqi Ground Forces Command. He provides direct training assistance and counsel to the IGFC chief of personnel and his staff in human resources support and military pay operations.

1996

Michael Varn is assistant principal at Powell Middle School in Hernando County, Fla.

1997

Shereca Anderson, formerly of Norcross, Ga., is finance director of Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority in Florence. She will direct PDRTA's financial operations and supervise

accounting and payroll. She is a recent honors graduate of Keller Graduate School in Atlanta with an M.B.A. in project management.

Michael James Falato and Cynthia Leigh Grier (1999) were married June 24, 2006. The couple lives in Columbia.

1998

Rusty Gaskins of Myrtle Beach was promoted to senior account executive for HSBC/Beneficial, Southern Division in October. Gaskins joined the company three years ago as an account executive and has been a supporter of several local charities including Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, and Light the Night. Previously employed as promotions director of Florence Civic Center, Gaskins served as chairman for the Florence Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

Cathy Vimislik is a mathematics teacher in Union County at Porter Ridge Middle School.

1999

Allison Renee Leach and Brian William Wolf were married at First Baptist Church in Florence, April 22, 2006. The couple lives in Myrtle Beach.

Cynthia Leigh Grier and Michael James Falato (1997) were married June 24, 2006. The couple lives in Columbia.

2000

Brian Chiswell graduated from the University of South Carolina in December 2005 with a Ph.D. in chemistry. He recently accepted an offer from Yale Medical School to work in the Department of Pharmacology as a postdoctoral fellow.

Olivia and Brendon Williams recently had their first child, George Landon Williams. The family lives in Hemingway.



George Landon Williams

2001

David Blease received a B.S. degree in physician assistant studies from the Medical University of South Carolina in 2003. He is a physician's assistant at MUSC.

2002

Dr. Sharon Grubb and Dr. Thomas Streeeter were married May 20, 2006, in Crestview, Fla. Sharon is a 2006 graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

2003

Elizabeth "Beth" Winters O'Neal and Scott Allen Hill were married June 17, 2006. The couple lives in Florence.

Anna Lynne Gamble and Martin Thomas Eli Gamble were married July 8, 2006. The couple resides in Sardinia.

Sarah Thorowgood will marry Brian Daniels on Sept. 29, 2006 at her parents' farm in Kentucky. The couple currently resides in St. Louis.

Megan Elizabeth Clark and Jason Kyle McMillan were married at Peace Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, April 22, 2006. The couple lives in Florence.

2004

Whitney O'Neal Buffkin and William Bradley Turner were married April 22, 2006, at the Church of Sandhurst. The couple lives in Florence.

Erin Carter graduated with a Master of Geology degree from the University of South Carolina on May 6, 2006. She is an intern with ExxonMobil Corp. She is engaged to William Maxwell (2001) and the two plan to wed in 2007.

Tiffany Gray Sarvis married Manuel Tran-Ozuna in North Carolina, July 4, 2006. The couple lives in Fayetteville, N.C., and will move to Italy in early 2007.

2005

Marta Davis lives in Charlotte, N.C., and has received a license to operate as a loan officer for Reliable Source Mortgage.

Leann Altman was married to Wes Munn, Nov. 5, 2005. The couple lives in Columbia. Leann is employed in the Student Assessment Office at Midlands Technical College.

Charles Griffin was promoted from personal banker to loan officer with First Citizens Bank in Columbia.

Richard McKenzie Elliott Jr. and Shannon Melissa Davis were married June 24, 2006, at Central Baptist Church in Darlington. The couple lives in Florence.

Heather Ammons married Shane Grant on March 25, 2006, in Murrells Inlet. The couple resides in Myrtle Beach.

Joni Godwin married Kelly Mitchell Alford on March 4, 2006. The couple lives in Andrews.

2006

Patrick Abernathy and Stephanie Marie Bosse were married June 24, 2006.

Monica Cox teaches at Hannah-Pamplico High School. During the summer, she became certified to teach AP calculus by Dr. Roger Allen of the FMU Mathematics Department.

Tamika Hudgens works at Phoenix Center for Behavioral Health as a counselor for drug and alcohol abuse clients.

In Memoriam

Jean Evans, 1984
Desha Cooper, 1996
Nathan J. Wall Jr., 2000
NiShan Huff, 2005



FMU dedicated its new Dr. Frank B. Lee Nursing Building Aug. 15. The 30,000-square-foot facility is located on the north side of the campus pond. The Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation donated \$5.5 million toward construction of the approximately \$8 million building.

Save the date!
Homecoming
2007
is scheduled for Feb. 17.
Make plans now to attend.

Upcoming **EVENTS**

For a complete listing of campus activities, visit us on the web at www.fmarion.edu/calendar

Sept. 7-8 FMU Golf Corporate Challenge
Sponsored by BB&T

Sept. 25 "Othello"
Theatre performance by the National Players

Oct. 3 First Tuesday Arts Event
Benjamin Woods, pianist

Oct. 21 Pee Dee International Festival

Oct. 21 Open House

Oct. 19-21 "Dark of the Moon"
Theatre performance by FMU students

Oct. 31 University Wind Symphony

Nov. 11 Open House

What is the "FMU Fund?"

The FMU Fund is the annual fund-raising component of the Francis Marion University Foundation. Annually, through each academic year (July 1-June 30), we seek unrestricted gifts from alumni and friends to support the immediate needs of the university. These needs can include student scholarships, programs and updated technology.

Previously, this fund was called the Annual Fund. The name change more accurately reflects the purpose of this unrestricted fund -- to help students and programs at FMU.

If you have any questions about the FMU Fund or would like to contribute, contact Brandie Love, Director of Annual Giving and Constituent Relations at 843-661-1218 or bllove@fmarion.edu.

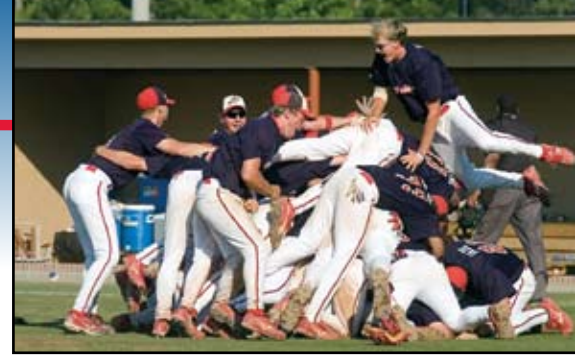
Patriots enjoy best season ever,

reach College World Series

The Francis Marion University baseball team enjoyed its most successful season ever in 2006 by setting a team record for victories with a 41-18 record and by making the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II College World Series. The Patriots also finished the year ranked sixth nationally.

The Patriots finished the regular season second in the Peach Belt Conference with a 37-15 overall mark, but FMU suffered a quick two-loss exit from the PBC Tournament. However, coach Art Inabinet's charges received a bid to the NCAA Tournament, the program's third in four seasons, and the Patriots responded with four wins at the South Atlantic Regional in Milledgeville, Ga., including a come-from-behind 7-4 victory over the host team Georgia College & State University in the regional title game to advance to Montgomery, Ala., for the College World Series.

Matched against the nation's top team in the opening game of the series, Francis Marion dropped a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to the University of Tampa. The Patriots then lost 3-2 in 10 innings to West Chester University, ending FMU's season.



Pee Dee International Festival

**Oct. 21 from 10 am - 5 pm
on the FMU campus**

Music, dance, and food from around the world!

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