Frank B. Lee Nursing Building to be dedicated today

Francis Marion University will dedicate its new Dr. Frank B. Lee Nursing Building today (Aug. 15).

The event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include tours of the building. A ceremony will be held in the building’s main foyer, where a plaque of Dr. Lee will be unveiled.

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.

“This new nursing building is a tremendous resource for our students, as well as the community,” said FMU president Fred Carter. “The facility boasts state-of-the art classrooms, labs and equipment that will be used to educate nurses to serve the Pee Dee. The building also allows for continued expansion of our nursing program.”

“This building stands as a testament to the generosity of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation, which provided the bulk of the funding,” added Carter. “We are also indebted to the local medical community for their support, especially Carolinas Hospital System and McLeod Health.”

The building has primarily brick exterior with precast accents to match other buildings on campus. The structure also includes a 135-seat auditorium, a computer lab with distance-learning capability, two seminar rooms, two con- The Dr. Frank B. Lee Nursing Building.

Nursing program earns National League of Nursing accreditation

The baccalaureate degree nursing program at Francis Marion University has received its initial accreditation from the National League for Nursing.

The notification came this week in a letter from Patricia R. Forni, chair of the NLN accrediting board of commissioners. The accreditation is in effect through spring 2011.

“This is another indication of the superb job that department chair Sylvia Lufkin and the nursing faculty have done in putting together this program over the last two years,” said FMU President Fred Carter. “Obtaining NLN accreditation in such a short period is a remarkable accomplishment. It means that our nursing program meets high standards and is respected nationally.”

The FMU nursing program has already received all state approvals, including the State Board of Nursing.

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national accrediting body for all types of nursing education programs.

In the notification letter, Forni thanked Lufkin and her colleagues “for your commitment to quality nursing education.” She continued, “By choosing to have accreditation by NLNAC, your nursing program demonstrates a continued interest in having the program measured against the highest national standards of quality in nursing education.”

Accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process by which non-governmental associations recognize educational institutions or programs that have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality.

Accreditation also assists in the further improvement of the institutions or programs as related to resources invested, processes followed, and results achieved. The monitoring of certificate, diploma, and degree offerings is tied closely to state examination and licensing rules, and to the oversight of preparation for work in the profession.

The commission has authority and accountability for carrying out the responsibilities inherent in the application of standards and criteria, accreditation processes, and the affairs, management, policy making, and general administration of the NLNAC.

The Medical University of South Carolina began operating a satellite nursing program at Francis Marion in 1982. Carter and MUSC President Raymond S. Greenberg agreed in 2004 to transfer control of the program to FMU. Lufkin was hired that year to head FMU’s new Department of Nursing, and she has led the effort to hire faculty, develop the curriculum and library resources, recruit students and obtain all necessary state approvals.
McLeod Health donates $100,000 to 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.

FMU to begin 37th year with start of fall classes

Francis Marion University officially begins its 37th year with the start of fall classes in this month.

A new faculty orientation is scheduled Friday, Aug. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Lowimore Auditorium. Housing for new students opens at 8 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 19, and housing for continuing students opens at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 20.

Last-minute students will be able to attend an orientation session Monday, Aug. 21. Students also will be able to meet with their advisers for open registration and pay their fees on Aug. 21.

FMU president Fred Carter will welcome all faculty members back to campus with a breakfast on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 8:30 a.m. in Ervin Dining Hall. A luncheon for new faculty and mentors will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the dining hall.

The first day of fall semester classes is Wednesday, Aug. 23. Late registration and drop/add will be held Aug. 23-25 and Aug. 28-29.

A number of events will welcome students back to campus. At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22, Baptist Collegiate Ministries will sponsor a “Welcome Back Cookout” on the Smith University Center lawn.

A New Student Organizations Fair will be held in the university center commons from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 23. The fair will introduce new students to many of the organizations, clubs, departments and activities available to them at FMU.

A magic show by Jason Bishop will begin at 7 p.m. in the McNair Science Building auditorium on Aug. 23. A “Welcome Back Jam,” sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will be held beginning at 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 24, in the university center commons. Area business will provide information about their services to students at a community fair Aug. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the university center commons.

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 will provide an additional dining option for students throughout the day and evening. The menu will include 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.

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.

Through a partnership between FMU and the City of Florence, the university plans to construct a performing arts center in downtown Florence that will be partially funded through a $10 million grant from Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation. FMU’s fine arts program will use the center for theatrical and musical performances, and the facility will include office and instructional classroom space. The project is scheduled to be complete in late summer 2008.

Several other major projects are in the works. Planned for the 2006-2007 year is construction of phase two of Forest 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.
Building continued from Page 1

ference rooms, and faculty and administrative office space. In addition, the building has a clinical care lab area with 16 patient care stations and three special needs procedural teaching areas. Classroom space includes two tiered classrooms with a seating capacity of 56 students each, and two tiered classrooms with a seating capacity of 64 students each.

Formerly 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 building is named for Dr. Frank B. Lee, chairman of the board of trustees of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation. A native of Scranton, Dr. Lee practiced medicine in Florence for more than 50 years. He is a 1939 graduate of the University of South Carolina and earned his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1942.

An auditorium in the nursing building is named for Dr. John M. Thomason, a longtime Florence physician. Dr. Thomason has served as vice chairman of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation board since its inception in 1995.

The building’s clinical laboratory is named in memory of the late Elizabeth Williamson Barnes, a distinguished nurse practitioner and educator who was vice president of nursing for the Bruce Hospital System upon her death in 1990.

The computer lab is named in memory of Janie Fields Bruce, a McBee native who worked as an office nurse, hospital nurse, and surgical nurse at Bruce Hospital beginning in 1945. She became director of nurses, a position she held for 26 years until her retirement in 1972. She died in 1979.

New smoking policy takes effect with start of semester

Francis Marion University has instituted a new smoking policy that takes effect with the opening of university housing for the fall 2006 semester.

Under the policy, smoking is prohibited in all buildings owned or controlled by FMU, except limited areas within residential buildings.

Smoking is also prohibited in the areas surrounding buildings unless the area is designated as a smoking area. Areas in which smoking is allowed are clearly marked with signs.

The Housing and Residence Life office has designated certain locations and housing assignments as non-smoking. Smoking is prohibited from all interior public areas of the residence halls and apartment buildings. Specific residence halls – or floors within them – are designated as non-smoking.

Applicants who indicate a desire to smoke on their housing application will be assigned to a residence hall room in which smoking is allowed based upon availability. In campus apartments, students will be assigned to apartments based upon their smoking preference and availability.

Apartments are designated as non-smoking unless all residents in the unit agree for it to be designated as smoking during the application/assignment process.

Housing for new students opens at 8 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 19, and housing for continuing students opens at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 20.

E-mail faculty and staff news to thudak@fmarion.edu
Joe Stukes History Series at library

The fall 2006 Joe Stukes History Series begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, with Dan Carter, Emmy Award-winning author, whose topic will be “Presidential Leadership: From Abraham Lincoln to Ronald Reagan.”

A University of South Carolina history professor and author of “Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South” and “The Politics of Rage: George Wallace,” Carter has won many accolades including the Bancroft Prize, Robert F. Kennedy Book Prize and numerous other literary awards. He was born in Florence, the son of Dewey L. and Lalla (Lawhon) Carter.

Stukes, a retired FMU professor, continues with his “American History by the Decade” series by presenting “Herbert Hoover Reviews the Decade of the 1920s” on Thursday, Sept. 21. On the following Thursday, Sept. 28, Stukes will portray Paul Robeson as he completes a review of the decade of the “Roaring ’20s.”

Clay Brown, a well-known local soloist, will contribute a selection of Robeson’s greatest hits. These events begin with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and programs starting at 7 p.m.

The Joe Stukes History Series, sponsored jointly by First Federal and the Friends of the Library, is held in the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Library’s main meeting room. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Friends at 665-1700.

Correll picked as Patriot softball assistant coach

Francis Marion University women’s softball head coach Stacey Johnson Vallee has announced that Emily Correll of Newton, Ill., has joined the Patriot 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.

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