

Patriot Digest

The Francis Marion University Faculty and Staff Newsletter June 30, 2006

Leatherman secures \$7 million for performing arts center

The final piece of the puzzle for construction of a downtown Florence performing arts center fell into place today (June 28) 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.

Ken Jackson, chairman of FMU's board of trustees, announced the university's representatives on the board. They 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.

Smalls, headquartered in New York, is the chief administrative officer for three networks and their ancillary businesses, coordinating and directing

financial resources, personnel, and facilities for their New York, Los Angeles, Orlando and international offices. Zeigler is a partner with Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd law firm and is chairman of the Francis Marion Trail Commission. Anderson is an associate professor of graphic design, printmaking and drawing at FMU.

Florence Mayor Frank Willis announced the city's members of the board. They are Billy D. Williams, Florence City Councilman; Shirley R. Imbeau, long-time community arts activist; and Michael O. Blakeley, senior vice president and city executive with Sentry Bank and Trust.

Williams has served on the Florence City Council since 1998 and presently is mayor pro tem. He is a current member of the Downtown Development Board, the Boys and Girls Club, and the advisory board of the National League of Cities. He is a past member of the National League of Cities Board of Directors and a past president of the State Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Imbeau has lived in Florence since 1980 and has served on the steering committee for the Center for the Arts and on the board of the Women's Symphony Guild. An accomplished photographer and former substitute teacher, she is a member of the Junior League, the Forget-Me-Not Garden Club and the missions board of the Church at Sandhurst.

Blakeley has been with Sentry Bank and Trust since 2000. Prior to that he was with Wachovia Bank for 10 years and South Carolina National Bank for 20 years. A native of Andrews, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He is active in numerous community organizations, including serving as treasurer of the Florence Chamber of Commerce and a

member of the Downtown Florence Ad-Hoc Task Force.

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. Mayor Frank Willis said that today's announcement is a huge boost to the city's plans to revitalize the downtown area and afford the city unmatched cultural venues.

"The performing arts center will draw people from the community and beyond into downtown Florence for a range of cultural and entertainment activities," said Willis. "It will become part of the infrastructure that the city needs to attract both people and investment."

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.

Marion High School students to participate in business camp

Francis Marion University will host 16 students from Marion High School for a weeklong business camp, July 15-22.

The camp is being conducted by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), and is being sponsored by Wachovia. NFTE has conducted business camps at schools including Duke University and New York University.

During the residential program, the students will learn business principles through classroom instruction as well as competitions and games. Guest speakers will also make presentations to the campers. In the evenings, students will participate in fun events

such as attending a Florence RedWolves game, watching movies, and visiting Mr. Mark's Fun Park.

The students will also prepare a business plan as a major project during the camp. At the end of the camp, four business plans will be presented and a winner will be chosen during a closing reception in FMU's Lowrimore Auditorium.

"Thanks to the generosity of Wachovia, we are able to test this program this year," said Joe Aniello, an FMU business professor and executive director of the university's Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute. "If it proves successful, our hope is to have a camp every summer, exposing it to

more schools in the Pee Dee."

Through entrepreneurship education, NFTE, which is also referred to as Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, helps young people from low-income communities build skills and unlock their entrepreneurial creativity. Since 1987, NFTE has reached over 120,000 young people, trained more than 3,700 Certified Entrepreneurship Teachers, and continually improved its innovative entrepreneurship curriculum.

For more information about the business camp, contact Joe Aniello at 1430 or janiello@fmarion.edu.

FMU to host entrepreneurship training for local teachers

Francis Marion University will host a three-day program of entrepreneurship training for local teachers, July 12-14.

The training is sponsored by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). The training includes 21 hours of instruction and participation, meals, and a "goody bag" of materials that teachers can use to incorporate entrepreneurship in their classes.

Teachers will learn several aspects of entrepreneurship, and will participate in activities such as putting together a business plan. The teachers can return for further sessions this summer to earn three hours of graduate credit.

The program will begin Wednesday, July 12, with a

breakfast at the Cottage on the FMU campus. Program participants, local legislators, and NFTE representatives will attend.

"Research shows that entrepreneurship is a spirit which is best sparked at a young age," said Joe Aniello, an FMU business professor and executive director of the university's Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute. "By helping to instill an entrepreneurship philosophy in our Pee Dee teachers, we hope to better prepare students who wish to study entrepreneurship in college."

Twenty-nine area teachers are currently registered for the three-day training.

Bruce and Lee Foundation donates \$200,000 for 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 nearly complete thanks to a \$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."



Andrews named director of publications and marketing

Kathy Andrews has been named director of publications and marketing in the communications office at Francis Marion University, effective June 1. She replaces Eunice Rabon who resigned.



Andrews

Andrews has a wide-ranging communications background, mostly in Washington, D.C., but the last three years in Florence. 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.

From 2001 to 2003, she managed public relations for the United Negro

College Fund, one of the nation's top nonprofit organizations supporting 65,000 students at 900 universities and colleges. Prior to that, she was senior producer for America's Voice and a reporter for WJLA-TV (ABC) in Washington.

A 1982 graduate of Howard University, she's also an accomplished photographer. Throughout her career, she has interviewed national business and political figures and covered many major events as a reporter, including working the red carpet at the Academy Awards and Grammys as nine-year host/producer of a nationally broadcast show "Screen Scene" on BET network.

She also was Hilton Head Island bureau chief for South Carolina ETV for six years.

Since returning to Florence in 2003, she's handled communications

for the nonprofit Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault as well as serving as a communications and marketing consultant to a number of other organizations.

Andrews' appointment follows some reorganization within the communications office. She will work out of the department's office in 116 Stokes Building.

Michael Hawkins will be relocating to the Athletic Department in the Smith Center with his new assignment as associate athletic director for media relations and marketing.

Frank Larrimore has been promoted to director of the printing area and will be responsible for overseeing the print shop and mail functions. Theresa Christie has joined the department as mail clerk.

Davis returns to FMU as director of facilities management

Francis Marion University 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, 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 Sodexho Campus Services at South Carolina



Davis

State University. Previously, he was operations department manager for Sodexho 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.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Ralph Davis' experience and character to join our staff during this time of dynamic change for the university," said John J. Kispert, FMU's vice president of business affairs.

Bishara included in financial planning publication

Mak Bishara, professor emeritus at Francis Marion University and the financial planning consultant for the Southern Medical Association of South Carolina, has been notified by the Consumers' Research Council of America of his inclusion in the "Guide to America's Best Financial Planners" 2005 edition.

Consumers' Research Council of America is an independent research company based in Washington, D.C., that evaluates professional services throughout America. The publication

"Guide to America's Best Financial Planners" 2005 edition is available to consumers in a new downloadable e-book format at www.consumersresearchcncl.org.

The selection process is based on a point-value system that awards points for education, years in practice, and affiliations with professional associations. No fees, sponsorships, donations or advertising are accepted from financial planners, CPAs, or any financial institutions, to ensure an unbiased selection.

Bishara has been a board-certified financial planner since 1989, and is a registered investment adviser by the office of the attorney general of South Carolina, and a certified technical specialist by Entaire Global University for Account Receivable Protection and Benefits Maximization through Entaire Global Companies' Enshield program. In addition, he has been a licensed risk management and real estate broker-in-charge since 1979.

Bishara and his wife, Nabila, live in Mullins.



Annual Sankofa Festival to be held tonight

The FMU African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition and the Sankofa Festival Committee of Florence are co-sponsoring the 6th annual Sankofa Festival, today (Friday, June 30).

The event will begin at 8 p.m. in the Ervin Dining Hall and will feature James "Tootie" Hogan and Band of Charlotte.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For tickets, contact Yvonne Davis at 1303.

The celebration will continue tomorrow (Saturday, July 1) at Timrod Park with free performances by dance troupes and jazz artists.

Patriot women sign two basketball players

Francis Marion University women's basketball coach Valecia Tedder has announced the signing of Erin Cook of Princeton, N.J., and Chelsea Quinlan of Camp Lejeune, N.C., to national letters of intent to attend FMU and play for the Patriots this fall.

Cook, a 5-8 guard, is a product of Princeton High School, where she played for coach Nikki Inzano.

Last season, she was the second leading scorer in the CVC Conference at 19.8 points per game, while leading the conference in three-point shooting. She ended her career as Princeton's second leading scorer with more than

1,000 points.

Quinlan, a 5-7 guard, is a graduate of Lejeune High School, where she played under the direction of coaches Debbie Bryant and Jackie Wagner.

This past season, she set school records for scoring (21.9 ppg) and assists (6.9 assists per game). She earned Player of the Year honors for her conference and was an All-Area selection (for the second consecutive year), while helping guide the Devilpups to the Coastal Plains Conference Tournament championship game and a spot in the 1-A playoffs.

Jobs On-Campus

(as of 6-29-06)

- Grant Writer for Center of Excellence Activities (Part-time, Temporary)
- Part-time Instructor of Biology
- Part-time Press Operator
- Human Resources Assistant (Part-time, Temporary)
- Instructor/Assistant Professor of English (Composition)
- Director of Facilities Engineering and Maintenance
- Senior Accountant – Financial Reporting
- Administrative Assistant – Admissions
- Chief Information Officer
- Media Production Assistant
- Accountant – Student Receivables
- Instructor of Physics (August 2006)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Accounting - Managerial/ Cost Accounting (August 2007)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Accounting -Financial Accounting (August 2007)

Visit Human Resources, SAB 105, or call 1140.

Coming Up On Campus

JULY

- through July 27 Art Gallery Series: "Seen/Unseen -- A Textured Life," by Angela Ketcham, HFAC gallery
- through July 27 Art Gallery Series: Feather Pottery -- Sasha and Tari Federer, HFAC gallery
- through July 27 Art Gallery Series: "The Quilting Way," by the Swamp Fox Quilters Guild, UC gallery
- 4 University closed for Independence Day holiday
- 6 Summer I classes end; exams
- 9 3 pm Dooley Planetarium public show: "The Evening Sky," CEMC
- 13-14 Orientation for new students
- 23 3 pm Dooley Planetarium public show: "Footprints on the Moon," CEMC
- 26 noon Staff Awards Luncheon, Ervin Dining Hall

AUG.

- 3 Orientation for new students

Patriot Digest deadlines

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Submit articles via e-mail at thudak@fmarion.edu. Questions or comments? Contact Todd J. Hudak at 1227.

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