

# CLAS News

DECEMBER 2015

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 16

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## CLAS to Initiate Study on Possible Restructuring

At the request of the Interim Provost, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is initiating a research study on possible college restructuring. Dean Hoffman has worked with the CLAS Dean's Advisory Council (DAC) along with the Chair of Faculty to devise a process for the study. The charge is to investigate alternatives to the current CLAS organizational structure as well as to examine the current model.

To date, some initial research has been conducted on the structures of similar regional comprehensive institutions. A survey was sent to CLAS faculty and staff, with 74% indicating that they are in favor of initiating a study on potential CLAS restructuring. As a result, a Reorganization Study Steering Committee (RSSC) has been formed, comprised of faculty from all four divisions within CLAS including Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and STEM. Associate Dean Scott Fritz will chair the committee, with Linda Steele representing staff and Mike Murtagh, Chair of the Faculty, also serving.

During the next few months, the steering committee will be soliciting input from all

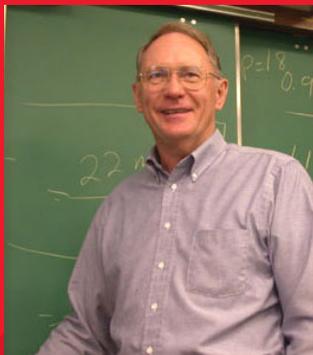
CLAS faculty/staff via public forums and anonymous written input. The RSSC will be responsible for identifying alternative models to the CLAS model, then forming subcommittees of faculty to examine each of the potential models plus the current CLAS structure. A draft report will then be shared with CLAS faculty/staff soliciting further input. The RSSC will then submit a final report with recommendations to the Dean, Interim Provost, and Interim President by May 1, 2016.

During this restructuring study, there will be multiple opportunities for CLAS faculty and staff to provide input on potential models as well as the current structure. Input from everyone is essential and welcomed during this process. Any questions, suggestions, opinions, or comments can be directed to an RSSC member. Periodic updates on steering committee developments will be shared with faculty and staff.

## Health Science Major Offered This Fall

The recently approved B.S. in Health Science is being offered for the first time this semester. The program was designed to provide students with an alternative to the biology or chemistry programs that students have traditionally used as pathways to professional schools. This is the only program in Maryland specifically designed to prepare students for graduate or professional schools in a broad range of health-related fields. All of the rigorous coursework typically taken in a natural science program is included in this program with the flexibility

to select natural, social, and health science courses reflecting the student's interest. The program also offers the student the opportunity to take more health-related courses and electives than traditional degrees to suit individual career and graduate or professional school prerequisite requirements. There are currently 57 majors of which 37 are freshman. The program has a core of seven advisors which will be expanded as the program grows.



**William Pegg**  
Associate Professor  
of Biology



**Bob Doyle**  
Associate Professor of  
Physics and Engineering



## Long-Time CLAS Faculty Members Retiring

Drs. William Pegg and Robert Doyle, both faculty in the sciences at FSU, will retire in December with over 40 years of service each.

Dr. Pegg began his career at what was then Frostburg State College in the fall of 1971, and is retiring after 44 and 1/2 years. A native of Wetzel County, West Virginia, Bill received his Bachelor's Degree from Alderson-Broaddus College and his Masters and Doctorate from West Virginia University. His research interests include water quality assays; physiological effects of acid waters on fishes, chemical and physiological action of pollutants; limnological aspects of lakes and streams; acid mine reclamation; and physical, chemical and biological monitoring of ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers. The Departmental General Ecologist and Limnologist, Bill has been involved in the publication of several papers, grant-related projects, and has served as a committee member on several departmental masters' theses. He has taught, and must hold a record for, teaching summer school General Ecology for nearly 40 straight years. This summer course offering, in particular, which affords the ability to include a three-day field-trip to the Eastern Shore with visits to Patuxent Wildlife Center, Wetland Project Oxford NOAA, Blackwater, Deal Island, Assateague Barrier Island, DNR at Sinepatuxent Bay, and Ocean City, has been a valued and treasured experience that is mentioned by our current students and alumni alike. Bill has been involved and participated in numerous community service projects including scoutmaster to the Boy Scouts, guest lecturer at Garrett College and the New Germany State Park Naturalist Program, as well as Homes for Humanity. A valued member of the Department, he will be a tough act to follow.

Dr. Bob Doyle retires from FSU with 40 years of service. He came to FSU with a B.S. in Physics from Georgia Tech, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from University of Virginia. Over the years, Dr. Doyle has taught a range of courses including introductory physics and astronomy, as well as interdisciplinary seminars and honors courses on the topics of Energy and the Environment, and Science and Religion.

Dr. Doyle has spent countless hours engaged in community service and outreach to the public schools. For many years, he conducted weekly visits into the Allegany County Public Schools with his portable StarLab planetarium, presenting an average of 100 programs yearly. In addition, Dr. Doyle served as Director of the FSU Planetarium in Tawes Hall from 1975 until 2011, and subsequently directed programming in the Multi-Media Learning Center located in the Gira Center for Communication and Information Technology. His weekly Sunday programs were well attended by both FSU students and members of the community.

Dr. Doyle is the author of columns for several regional newspapers. He has written weekly for the Cumberland Times-News since 1976. He also writes monthly columns for the *Bedford Gazette*, *Meyersdale New Republic*, *Oakland Republican*, and *Hancock News*. His four minute radio program has aired weekly on WFWM since 1992.

We congratulate both Dr. Pegg and Dr. Doyle and wish them the best in their well-deserved retirements.

## Frostburg Grows Expands Training, Begins New Grant Projects

Frostburg Grows (FG) staff and partners offered their first intensive training program in sustainable agriculture this past summer. The August training included a series of workshops offered at the FG high tunnel greenhouse site, and at area farms and organizations. At the FG site, workshops covered soils and soil testing, plant nutrition and diseases, grafting of tomatoes, season extension, high tunnel construction and operation, renewable energy, and irrigation with rain water. In conjunction with tours of five area farms, Evergreen Heritage Center, and Shift Restaurant, workshop participants learned about specialty crops, mushrooms, farming with horses, livestock and meat production, value added products, canning and preserving food, business plans and strategies for success in local foods. The training was developed and offered with the assistance of University of Maryland Extension and many area farmers and with funding from the Rural Maryland Council. To celebrate the end of the training program, FG hosted a blue grass music concert. FG plans to offer the sustainable agriculture training program in summer 2016 and have it be available as an FSU summer course.

FG has also been working on projects funded by two recent grants. The Town Creek Foundation funded a project to create the Western Maryland Food Council

and do a food system assessment for the three western counties in Maryland. The new Food Council will serve to bring together stakeholders from all sectors of the food system to help achieve systemic change for a more sustainable food system that helps improve human health and environmental quality. FG staff also have been working to design and install a new water collection system with a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). Since the FG site – a former coal mine – has no well or municipal water supply, all the water for irrigating crops and trees must be captured from rain. The CBT grant is funding a network of French drains and 40,000 gallons of water storage to allow stormwater, and rain and snow during the wet seasons, to be stored as supply for the dry months when water is most needed to irrigate tomatoes, lettuces, cucumbers, peppers and other crops in the high tunnels.

Two FSU students have been assisting FG this fall while also learning. Monica Spitzer, a Geography major, has contributed marketing, outreach and research as part of her internship course (SUST 494) in sustainability studies. She created a tri-fold brochure, updated our contacts database, helped with a GoFundMe campaign for winter project funding, researched food banks and local food, and more.



*Grand Ole Ditch performs at a Frostburg Grows summer concert and site tour*

Joseph Linsalata, who is majoring in Ethnobotany and Environmental Analysis and Planning, has contributed valuable GIS skills to assist with the Western Maryland food assessment research as part of his work study role.

For more information on Frostburg Grows, contact Corey Armstrong ([cbarmstrong@frostburg.edu](mailto:cbarmstrong@frostburg.edu)) or Dan Fiscus ([dafiscus@frostburg.edu](mailto:dafiscus@frostburg.edu)) or call 301-687-3136.

## History Majors Develop Display Memorializing FSU Alumnus

History majors William Fey and Madison Wilson contributed to the completion of a display memorializing FSU alumnus James Graham. During their summer internship with the FSU Foundation, Fey and Wilson conducted archival research and interviews investigating the life of 1963 graduate James Graham, who went on to serve as a captain and commanding officer during the Vietnam War, earning a Medal of Honor and Purple Heart for his service. Working closely with Ann Townsell, graphic designer in the Office of University Advancement, history students Fey and Wilson integrated their research into a four-panel memorial display that is currently exhibited in the Lane Center. Fey and Wilson's work offers a unique glimpse into college life at FSU during the 1960s,

as well as the positive impact that FSU made on one of its most successful students, Captain James Graham.

For more information on the project or internship program, please contact their internship coordinator, Dr. Natalie Schuster.



*A four-panel display memorializing FSU alumnus James Graham now on exhibit in the Lane Center*



## Shelter Animal Social

Dogs and cats from the Allegany County Animal Shelter were brought to Frostburg State University to interact with the campus community, as part of the first Shelter Animal Social held in May 2015. The goal of the event was to help socialize the animals, making them more adoptable, and to alleviate students' stress during final exam preparation. Students from the "Animals in Society" course, taught by Dan Moorehead, helped with the event.

The event was a huge success, with over 400 students participating. Feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of making the social an annual event.

Bob Moore, chair of the Sociology Department, stated, "The creation of this event here on campus was a positive example of the benefits of experiential learning. Working with the Animal Shelter, students in Dr. Moorehead's Animals in Human Society class were able to see how what is learned in the classroom can be applied directly to everyday life circumstances."

## Roundabout Theatre Presents for Local Children

This November, the Department of Theatre and Dance brought Barbara Park's popular Junie B. Jones series of books to local children with Junie B. Jones the Musical, adapted for the stage by Marcy Heisler (books and lyrics) and Zina Goldrich (music).

Directed by Professor Mairzy Yost-Rushton as part of the Roundabout Children's Theatre with Music Direction by Sean Beachy, the cast featured Theatre majors Jasmine Proctor as Junie B. Jones with Alex Serrano, Stephanie Taubert, Alexandra West, Michael Mobley, Melani Finney, and Habtamu Anderson in a variety of supporting roles.

As part of Arts for the School Day, Theatre and Dance partnered with the Cultural Events Series during three days of on-campus performances, for which students were brought to campus to see the production. Following the CES collaboration, the Roundabout Children's Theatre took to the road and toured local elementary schools, reaching an estimated 5,500 children during the tour and on-campus performances.

In addition to performing, FSU students took on major leadership roles as part of the creative team: Erin McEldowney

(Choreographer), Jenny Willingham (Stage Manager), Kim Lartz (Scenic and



Properties Design), Anecia

Whitehead (Costume Design), and Austin Hueg (Lighting Designer).

The Roundabout Children's Theatre presents a unique opportunity for FSU students to experience the demands of working on a staged tour while also building curriculum connections through the powerful storytelling ability of theatre.

## SMACS Chapter Receives Award for Outreach Activities

The Student Members of the American Chemical Society were recently recognized by the American Chemical Society as one of 99 Commendable student chapters nationwide for outreach activities during the 2014-2015 academic year. SMACS performed chemistry demos for more than 300 K-12 students, handed out almost 100 DIY lava lamps at STEM Festival (and were featured in a YouTube video), and sent two members to present at the ACS National Meeting in Denver (March 2015).

The ACS's Society Committee on Education selects student chapters to receive recognition on the basis of their programs and activities, as described in their chapter reports. Awards are classified as outstanding, commendable, and honorable mention.



*SMACS members helping students and parents make lava lamps at the 2015 STEM Festival*

## The Sociology of Harry Potter

Fascinating questions and arguments about the lives of wizards and muggles are topics for discussion in a sociology class offered at Frostburg State University: The Sociology of Harry Potter.

“The basic idea of offering a course based on Harry Potter came out of my love for the Wizarding World. I was able to immerse myself in a different culture without leaving the comforts of my own sofa. And I wanted to share that love and excitement of a different culture with my students,” said Dr. Mandy Vandivier, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology who is teaching the 400-level, three-credit course.

“My students have had a great time debating gender, race and stratification of the Wizarding World and comparing that to the Muggle World (our society) because we do have significant differences even though we are both very similar at first glance. My students have evaluated both societies and discovered great links between the two, comparing the Death Eaters to the KKK or the SS of the Nazis and comparing the pure-blood, half-blood, and Muggle born mud-bloods to the racial inequality that we see in the Muggle World. I have been very blessed to be part of such creative discussions on the issues that impact society,” said Vandivier.

The course is being offered to students based at both the Frostburg campus and at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.

Zachary Yeager of Calvert County was excited he could take the course at Frostburg.

“The class is very interesting and fun. I did not expect a small university like Frostburg to offer classes like this, because I usually see these types of classes in big D1 schools,” said Yeager.

The class also attracted students who weren’t Potter fanatics, but who were intrigued by what the course offered.

“I didn’t think I would like this class as much as I do because I didn’t have an extensive knowledge of Harry Potter before I took it,” said sociology and psychology double major Maame Ackon.

Ackon has not read any of J.K. Rowling’s books but saw some of the Potter movies. The class actually sparked her interest to revisit Potter.

“We have Harry Potter nights with my friends, and we do a game together when we watch the movies,” said Ackon, a College Park resident. “It’s pretty fun.”

“Some issues that have been discussed in class include stigma, how people with mental illness are seen in both worlds, criminal justice or the comparison of werewolves in the Harry Potter world to those with HIV in the real world,” Vandivier said.

Yeager pulled from his law and society studies and compared criminal justice in the U.S. with Potter’s society, looking at the frequency of death and murder as well as prisons. He was just as interested in a classmate’s argument about Squibs – someone without magical powers despite having parents with magical powers.

“They brought up how they’re the outsiders of the Harry Potter world because they don’t have magic and can’t really do anything,” Yeager said. “The student compared Squibs with people who have diseases in the real world because they’re looked at like outcasts. I would have never thought of that.”

Ackon said she feels connected to her online classmates through replying to each other’s posts on discussion boards.

“It’s all completely interactive, and we all ‘talk’ to each other,” said Ackon, who also completed another special topics course in the spring, The Sociology of Reality Shows.

To bridge the two campus communities, as well as bring the online students together in real life, the class organized several events, including a Quidditch match played on the Upper Quad on the Frostburg campus. Students from campus were all smiles, running from end to end with broomsticks between their legs in a hectic game that combines elements of handball, dodgeball, soccer and tag.

The Quidditch game was so successful that students have expressed interest in



*Members of the Sociology of Harry Potter class participate in the Frostburg Halloween parade*

starting a Quidditch club.

Students also marched in the Frostburg Halloween Parade. In Hagerstown they joined together for a costume party, furthering the celebration of Potter.

Vandivier is also thrilled that Harry Potter’s story is continuing, creating new source material for when her class is offered again in fall 2016. A new play, “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I & II,” debuts next year, serving as the eighth story in the Potter series.

Vandivier will also offer Social Movements of Harry Potter in the spring 2016 semester, examining the movements of Hermione Granger’s Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.), Dumbledore’s Army and other aspects. “We will be able to compare and contrast these social movements with Muggle World social movements such as the Civil Rights Movement and the Disabled Americans Movement,” said Vandivier. “I don’t want to go into too much more detail because I don’t want to spoil all of the fun of discovery!”



FSU engineering students at the Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center work on Animatronic Jack-O-Lanterns as part of a class project

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Have any interesting news items about faculty, staff, or students in your department? Submit them to Linda Steele (Lsteele@frostburg.edu) for the next issue.

## Music Students Attend Educators Conference

On October 16, 2015, the Maryland Music Educators Association held their annual Fall In-Service Conference at Long Reach High School in Columbia, Maryland. Music education students, accompanied by music faculty members, Dr. Rebecca Birnie, Dr. Phil Klickman, and Dr. James Reddan, attended the conference. Students attended workshop and conference sessions centering upon a variety of music education topics relating to teaching instrumental, choral and general music. Students also experienced sessions in music technology, performances, attended exhibit sessions and networked with practicing music educators. Dr. Birnie is the President of the Maryland General Music Teachers

Association of the Maryland Music Educators Association, and Dr. Klickman is the Collegiate Membership Chair, also of the Maryland Music Educators Association.



## University-Community Partner in Regional Social Change

Students in Dr. Kathleen Powell's SOWK 471 class are partnering this semester with a citizens' advocacy organization, Engage Mountain Maryland (EMM), that is based in Garrett County. EMM's mission is "to grow the region's socioeconomic position to ensure the future stability of the region's unique heritage and quality of life" ([http://www.engagemmd.org/#!/about\\_us/c14e3](http://www.engagemmd.org/#!/about_us/c14e3)). SOWK 471 is a required class in the undergraduate social work curriculum at FSU. Its focus is on community and organizational change within a framework of generalist social work practice. The class is structured around a semester-long experiential learning project that varies semester to semester. This fall, students are working in two teams to conduct applied research that will inform EMM's future efforts. One team is investigating ways to engage more youth in electoral politics and the other team is researching faith communities in Garrett County to learn more about their theological teachings and congregational make up.

Dr. Ann Bristow, a founding member of Engage Mountain Maryland and professor emeritus from FSU's Department of Psychology, consulted with Dr. Powell in designing the students' experience.

For more information, please contact Kathleen Powell at [kpowell@frostburg.edu](mailto:kpowell@frostburg.edu) or by phone at 301-687-4695.



## CLAS by the Numbers

- **2/3** of FSU students are enrolled in a CLAS major, and **2/3** of university faculty members reside in CLAS
- **70%** of the degrees awarded at the University in 2014 were in CLAS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences