

CLAS News

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Interim Dean Campbell Reflects on First Semester at FSU



During her first semester at FSU, Dr. Dorothy (Dee Dee) Campbell has focused on being supportive of faculty, while balancing the needs of the university. Dr. Campbell describes

her approach as very student-centered, and she has found that the culture at FSU very much supports this philosophy.

"I appreciate the welcome that I have received and all of the things that faculty, staff, and students here do to make the campus the cornerstone of the community," said Campbell. "It is evident that faculty, staff, and administrators are helping students daily to change their lives."

In addition to the excellent teaching taking place, Dr. Campbell appreciates the focus that faculty at FSU place on student learning. During her time here, Dr. Campbell will continue to look for

additional ways to help students in CLAS, including placing more emphasis on advising support. One recent change related to advising was the move of the Social Science major, which traditionally was housed under the College of Education, to CLAS. Linda Steele is now providing coordination and advising students in that major.

Dr. Campbell is very much enjoying her time in the Frostburg community so far, especially the "down-home friendliness." "Coming from an urban area, that really is very refreshing," Campbell added.

The search for a permanent CLAS dean will be taking place soon and will include substantial faculty input. In the meantime, Interim Dean Campbell is committed to moving forward faculty and student initiatives and programs in a proactive manner.

CLAS Hosts 17th Annual Dean's Colloquium

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recently honored seven students who were nominated by their respective departments for outstanding projects. A dinner was held where the students shared an informal description of their work with each other, as well as Interim Dean Campbell and Associate Dean Herzog. The goal of the event is to create potential for cross-fertilization of ideas and to foster interdisciplinary understanding and respect. The students were presented with a certificate of recognition, and their project abstracts were published in a booklet to be shared on the college website.

Those recognized were Justin Alexander (African American Studies), Brian Day (Chemistry), Noah Manges (History), Margaret McBride (Communication), Michelle Brodbeck and Daniel Adams (Visual Arts), and Jha'Neal Stoute (Theatre and Dance).



Jason Speights Earns USM Regents Award for Excellence in Mentoring

Congratulations to Dr. Jason Speights in the Department of Physics and Engineering. Jason received the USM Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring in recognition of his work with the Multimedia Learning Center as well as in supporting student projects within and outside of the classroom. Jason was presented his award at the April 20 Board of Regents meeting and will be recognized at the FSU Honors Convocation in May.

“All of my greatest successes trace back to great mentors in my life, so it’s enjoyable to give back those experiences,” Speights said.

Speights joined FSU in 2012 and helped with the transition of the FSU Planetarium from its longtime home at Tawes Hall to the newly constructed MLC and Planetarium inside the Gira Center. In 2015, as associate director of the MLC, Speights guided students to help assemble and program components and new software for the rooftop observatory to capture deep space images. These hands-on opportunities allowed students to develop skills for research as well as prepare public planetarium shows. In 2016, Speights became director of the MLC and Planetarium at FSU following the retirement of Dr. Robert Doyle. Speights also advises the Phys-

ics and Engineering Club.

Dustin Ullery said his time with Speights at the MLC was invaluable, helping to pave his way to graduate school. “He helped teach me how to bring astronomy and astrophysics to a non-academic crowd through the planetarium shows each week,” Ullery said. “Not only was he instrumental in driving my love of sharing physics with the world, but he also gave me the opportunity to set up and characterize the Frostburg State observatory.”

Speights’ approach to mentoring is to empower students by providing guidance to answers, allowing them to come to their own conclusions. That made a lasting impression on Ullery. “The biggest help to me was teaching me to find the answers through critical thinking rather than being handed the results,” he said. “This set me up for a lot in life. Without Dr. Speights and his mentorship, I would not understand that simple fact that life does not always provide a direct answer.”

Speights has mentored nearly 40 students in the last three years in a variety of roles and disciplines, with several students recognized for national achievements and acceptance to graduate and doctoral programs.



As much as Speights challenges students with academics, it’s his welcoming, warm approach imparting sage life advice that students grow to value.

“I could speak for quite some time about the impacts of Dr. Jason Speights on my life, but when I look at the lasting effects he has had on my life, I could not be more proud to have met him and had an experience so rich with the mentoring he provided,” said 2015 alumnus Adam Bosley, who also earned his Master of Arts in Teaching at FSU in 2016.

Health Science Graduate’s Microscopic Image Earns Award

Logan Cheshire ’17 received recognition at the recent BioArt Scientific Image and Video Competition – a contest designed to celebrate the art of life sciences – with a striking electron microscope image he made in the course of his research on mealybugs.

Cheshire captured the winning image, one of 15 in the national Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) competition, in his Advanced Microscopy class with Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Rebekah Taylor, making use of the Carl DelSignore Foundation, Inc., Microscopy Suite. Taylor and Cheshire share the award.

“It was really cool to see my name, along with Frostburg State, among the names of other winners from such prestigious schools and institutions,” Cheshire said. “If you look at the other BioArt competition winners, you’ll see entries from Yale, Harvard, the National Institutes of Health and many other research-intensive institutions,” Taylor said. “I think Frostburg State can be very proud to be among them

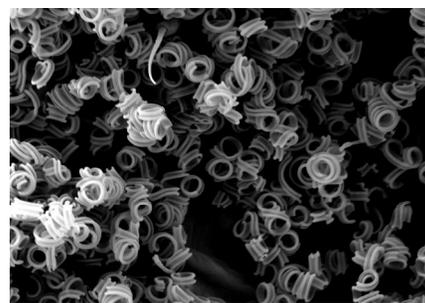
as a winner of the BioArt competition.”

Cheshire’s winning picture, captured with Frostburg’s scanning electron microscope, found natural beauty in an unlikely place: the protective coating of “Pseudococcus affinis,” a common mealybug. To the naked eye, the insect’s waxy powder is unremarkable, but 1,800X magnification revealed the beauty.

Cheshire attributed his success in part to luck. He collected unremarkable specimens of immature mealybugs, which have no waxy coating. As the semester progressed and the mealybugs matured, they began secreting their coating.

Taylor expected that Cheshire would see random “chunks” of wax on the mature bugs’ surfaces. Yet when Cheshire looked closer with a standard light microscope, he realized the coating might be more interesting. Then he prepared his samples for a real close-up.

“Once I started to look closer at these bugs on the scanning electron microscope,



I was blown away by the results. The end result was definitely unexpected, but it was pretty astounding to see,” said Cheshire. “I think that’s why Dr. Taylor’s microscopy class is so successful: She challenges her students to look at things you wouldn’t typically look at in a regular science course.”

All of the BioArt-winning images can be viewed at www.faseb.org.

CLAS Students and Faculty Participate in Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference

On March 2-3, Frostburg State hosted the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council (MCHC) conference. More than 70 students from 2- and 4-year campuses throughout the state of Maryland gave presentations. From FSU, honors students Madison Fick, Ngozi Alia, Andrew Wall, and Andrea Constant presented research projects of their own, while 4 FSU faculty members -- Dr. David Puthoff, Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas, Dr. William Wetherholt, and Dr. Greg Wood -- chaired several sessions at the conference. Dr. Cindy Herzog of CLAS kindly supervised the welcome table and greeted the many visitors to the campus.



Social Science major Andrea Constant presents her poster on "Mass Incarceration and Prison Privatization"

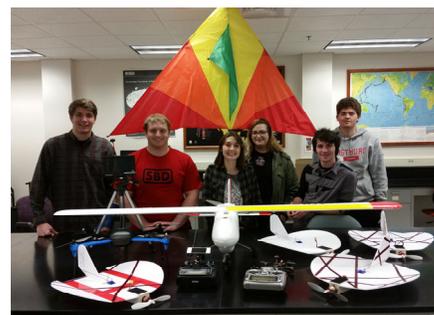
Visual Arts Student Wins Contest for Spaceflight Patch Design

Advanced Illustration student Donovan Carter was recently announced as winner of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program—SSEP Mission Patch Design Competition. His patch is representing University System of Maryland in SSEP Mission 12 to the International Space Station and a print-out of the patch will be flying to space this summer. Donovan will receive the patch once it comes back from space and it will include a certificate stating that it was at the International Space Station.



Geography Students Constructing Drones

Students in GEOG 420, Topics in the Mapping and Geospatial Sciences, are spending the spring semester constructing various types of drones, under the direction of their instructor, Dr. Francis (Bud) Precht. They have built four small fixed wing aircraft for training purposes, one six-foot wingspan airplane intended for aerial photography, and three camera self-leveling suspension systems for attaching cameras to kites. The drones will be used to investigate how a small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) can be used to collect geographic data in support of a variety of projects. To date, the students have flown a micro-sized quadcopter and a racing drone, gotten some flight time on a flight simulator, and will be building a hexacopter drone in the next few weeks. In addition, students are hearing lectures on material related to preparing them to take the FAA test to earn their FAA Remote Pilot Certificate-Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems rating (i.e. drone pilot license).



Pictured above: GEOG 420 students with their projects; Ben Oelke working on his Picavet kite suspension system

Ten CLAS Faculty Granted Tenure

CLAS is pleased to announce that ten faculty were recently approved for tenure, effective for fall 2018: Eleanor McConnell (History), Rebekah Taylor (Biology), Kara Platt (Nursing), Lisa Morshead and Chris Masciocchi (Psychology), Wudyalew Wondmagegn (Physics and Engineering), Liangliang Xiao (Computer Science and Information Technologies), Brent Weber (Music), Travis English (Visual Arts), and Justin Dunmyre (Mathematics).

In addition, Tom Lambert (Biology) was promoted to Associate Professor and three faculty were promoted to Professor: Marc Michael (Mathematics), Sydney Duncan (English and Foreign Languages), and Peggy Biser (Chemistry).

Communication Students Gaining Real-World Experience Through Multiple Projects

Several exciting projects are taking place within the Department of Communication giving students a range of practical, real-world experiences.

Under the direction and production of Annie Danzi, a documentary entitled *Life's A Stage* premiered in March at the Frostburg Palace Theater and at the Ocean City Film Festival. *Life's A Stage* is a documentary that explores the importance of performing arts education through the extraordinary work of educator, Gwen Lehman. As public high schools across America suffer from lack of support for the arts, one school on the eastern shore of Maryland, Stephen Decatur High School, defiantly thrives because of the dedication and vision of one exceptional educator. For almost 50 years, Gwen Lehman gave her all to the theatre program that she built from scratch and to the students who have become her legacy.

This film was crewed entirely by Frostburg State University undergraduate students. Annie Danzi is an Asst. Professor at FSU and created this film production as an experiential learning opportunity for her students. The project was partially funded by FSU PELEF grants and a Faculty Development Project Grant and gave over 40 students, over 7 semesters, the

opportunity to work on a professional documentary production and the promotional events surrounding the release of the film. This film will continue to compete in film festivals nationally for the next 12-18 months. For more information, visit: www.facebook.com/lifesastagedocumentary.

MCOM487, Advanced Video Production, which is taught by Asst. Professor Annie Danzi, has partnered with Latin-E, on a documentary show for the international streaming channel. The pilot episode will focus on the Hispanic experience in Western Maryland and will be a blend of original documentary content and studio talk show elements. Students will conduct extensive pre-production to identify prominent themes/issues, and then they will film supporting footage based off the research. Students will also be responsible for casting a host for the studio portion, as well as writing, filming and editing everything. The completed documentary will be available to stream on all major streaming devices, through the Latin-E channel. This in-depth project provides students with the opportunity to work with a professional company and create content that will be aired internationally, thus strengthening their skills and directly contributing to their career paths.

A team of five Mass Communication majors and one graduate are currently interning with Rainmaker Music Management, one of the top promoters of live music performance and recording artists. The students have been working remotely with a manager from Rainmaker to write promotional content specifically customized to social media. Duties include research and strategy, social media marketing, and interpreting analytics.

In describing his experience, Demetrius Farley stated, "I am ecstatic to be a part of this social media internship program. It was always my dream to be able to work within the music industry, and now I'm living my dream. I have learned so much on planning a promoting a music festival; not only that, but I have learned the business and marketing side of it as well. Rainmaker has been open to all of our ideas and input. It's been a great experience for us all."

CLAS Faculty Members Initiated into New Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

On Friday, March 16, FSU formally installed its new chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. As part of the Installation ceremony, several CLAS faculty members on the steering committee -- Dr. Sally Boniece, Paul Charney, Greg Wood (president), Kara Rogers Thomas, Kevin Kehrwald, and Michael Mathias -- were initiated into the organization, as well as several administrators: Dr. Elizabeth Throop, Dr. Boyce Williams, Dr. Sudhir Singh, Dr. Doris Santamaria-Makang, Dr. Johnston Hegeman, and Dr. Thomas Bowling. Interim Dean Campbell transferred her lifetime membership to FSU. The first initiation for invited students from throughout the campus will occur on Saturday, May 19. The top 7.5 percent of juniors, the top 10 percent of seniors, and the top 10 percent of graduate students will be invited every spring to join Phi Kappa Phi.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's old-

est and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. The installation of the Frostburg chapter comes after a thorough chartering process and approval from the Society's board of directors. To be eligible, an institution must be a regionally accredited four-year college or university with an established reputation of excellence and an expressed commitment to upholding the values of the Society.

"The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is pleased to welcome Frostburg State University to its community of scholars," said Society Executive Director Dr. Mary Todd. "Frostburg stands out as a public institution focused on developing civic learning and democratic engagement in its students." Officers elected by the chartering group to serve the newly installed chapter include President Dr. Gregory Wood, President-elect Dr. Natalie

Schuster, Secretary Dr. Cindy Herzog, and Treasurer Dr. Heather Gable. Frostburg's Phi Kappa Phi chapter is coordinated by Dr. Gregory Wood, associate professor of history and director of FSU's Honors Program. For more information, email him at gwood@frostburg.edu.



History faculty Paul Charney and Sally Boniece pictured at the Installation ceremony



Students from the Communication Leadership Lab, coordinated by Eleshia Ruminski, facilitate a discussion on *Civility in Action*

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

Day of Civility Events Held at FSU



As part of the first Allegany County Day of Civility on April 12, FSU student leaders facilitated discussions of *Choosing Civility*, a book by P.M. Forni, with students, faculty, staff, and community members. Two separate discussions of the book were led by students in the CMST 345 Conflict Management and LEAD 401 Citizen Leader classes. At 5 p.m., students in the President's Leadership Circle organized a presentation, "Do Good: A Road to Social Change." This was followed by an interactive forum organized by the Communication Leadership Lab, featuring the following panelists discussing "Civility in Action":

- Allegany College of Maryland students Antonio Cummings and Chris Banks
- FSU students Parwon Kamei and Niki Elliot
- Carmen Jackson, NAACP local branch
- Pastor David Ziler, Union Rescue Mission
- Chief Cynthia Smith, University Police
- Christopher McGee, Allegany County Library System

Alumni Career Experiential Summit (ACES) Planned for November

FSU is starting a new program this Fall to help students improve their job search and networking skills while showcasing the achievements of our alumni. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors from CLAS and CoB are eligible to apply for this one-day event in downtown Washington, DC. FSU alumni will address key topics in landing a great job or applying to graduate school such as "The Art of Interviewing", "The Importance of Internships and How to Get One", and "Social Media Dos and Never Do's".

The students chosen for this program will receive personal guidance on their resumes and be able to network with alumni in their majors in the afternoon sessions. During the Fall semester, students will attend preparatory events on etiquette, networking, and dressing for success.

The program will be held on Friday, 16 November, 2018, at the offices of Wayne Scott, the VP of Internal Audit at USAC

(Universal Service Administrative Company) near the White House. This program is a collaborative effort of the Provost's Office, the College of Business, CLAS, the Alumni Office, The Beall Institute, Undergraduate Student Government, and the Office of Student Development.

Applications will only be accepted on line from 16 April until 7 September, 2018. The application is available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACESApplication>

For further information, or to refer excellent alumni from your department, please contact Joan Serafin Andorfer, POSC, at 301.697.9723.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

