

CLAS News

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Heather Gable Named Regents Award Winner

Dr. Heather Gable, chair of Nursing and an associate professor, has been awarded the Regents' Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest honor that the University System of Maryland Board of Regents bestows to recognize exemplary faculty achievement. She will be honored at the April 15 meeting of the board.

In the six years that Gable has led the nursing program, enrollment has grown from five students to more than 450 in fall 2015. Recently, new pathways have been developed to ensure enrollments and recruit unique student populations. The Associate to Bachelor's option was developed with Community College of Baltimore County in 2015, and funding was awarded in 2015 to expand this initiative to include five additional community colleges in Maryland.

In support of efforts to develop nursing curricula, the Nursing Department, under Gable's leadership, has secured more than \$3.5 million in funding from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The most recent grants will be used to support the planning of the nurse practitioner program, develop Associate to Bachelor's options with Maryland community colleges and develop a collaborative BSN model with Allegany College of Maryland.

In 2014, the team in the Department of Nursing, under Gable's leadership, received approval to implement a new master of science in nursing program, scheduled for initial accreditation in spring 2016. Gable is now collaborating with her faculty to develop curricula and full proposals for Doctor of Nursing Practice and Nurse Practitioner programs. She serves as a critical member of FSU's Health Sciences team that is planning further programs for



development, including a Physician's Assistant program.

"Under her leadership, FSU has seen unprecedented growth of transfer student enrollments and increases in grant funding," said Dr. Joseph Hoffman, dean of FSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Dr. Gable's creativity and willingness to consider, build and implement new programs are an instrumental part of the University's achieving growth and distinction in the Health Sciences."

Gable serves as a mentor to her faculty, remaining intimately involved with all of the nursing programs. She makes time to work individually with faculty on an ongoing basis to ensure they are meeting the high standards within the department.

Kelly Rock, an assistant professor in FSU's Department of Nursing, refers to Gable as an "unequal leader." "In my humble opinion," she said, "transparency, honesty, integrity, genuine concern for those entrusted to their leadership, leading by example and commitment to the entirety of a position are some of the qualities that I take into consideration when defining a leader. Using my definition, Dr. Gable is a leader."

Congratulations to Dr. Gable!



Three CLAS Faculty To Retire in May

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be losing three of its faculty this spring, as Charlie Ewers (English and Foreign Languages), Craig Caupp (Geography), and Tyra Phipps (Communication) are set to retire in May.

Charlie Ewers has devoted fifteen years to FSU as a teacher, scholar, and mentor. He has taught in the department since 2001 and served as chair for several years. During his time at FSU, he has served on the English Department's evaluation, assessment, and curriculum committees; chaired search committees; organized the annual English Colloquium; created new courses to meet the writing and grammar needs of students; headed the English 101 Advisory Committee; and served as chair for the regional College English Association annual conference. Charlie is known in the department for his willingness to assist others. Whether his students needed him for advice on their writing or colleagues need him to guide work, he always accepted the task and completed it thoroughly and efficiently. His wry sense of humor and generosity will be sorely missed.

Craig Caupp retires from the Department of Geography after serving FSU for 29 years. He started at FSU in fall 1987 and has contributed substantially to the planning profession, the Geography Department, and the University. During his first year, he taught courses in what was then the Mine Reclamation Program and immediately assumed responsibility for developing a broad based Environmental Analysis and Planning (EVAP) program. Craig has served as the Director of the Western Maryland GIS Center and departmental representative on several grants. He served as Department Chair from September 2007 to May 2011. Craig's work in and out of the classroom with the EVAP program has positively impacted countless students. Through his mentorship, graduates of the program have gained employment in a variety of environmental and engineering fields and performed well in graduate school. Although he will be greatly missed, the Geography Department wishes him the best of luck and a very enjoyable retirement.

Tyra Phipps joined the FSU community in 1988 and has been an important member of the Mass Communication program ever since. During her time at FSU, Tyra has advised and mentored hundreds of students including Emmy award-winner Gregory Thomas Garcia ('92). In the classroom, Tyra has always pushed her students to excel. Within the department, she continually pushed faculty and staff to make the Mass Communication program better. Dr. Phipps remained active in the mass communication field through various research projects and a sabbatical project that allowed her to update technical skills within the radio industry. She also published a novel entitled, *Folded Notes*, a story of a young female tennis pro stricken with Multiple Sclerosis. More recently, Dr. Phipps has become an active blogger and advocate on issues regarding long-term health care.

A graduate of FSU, Tyra Phipps competed on the men's tennis team and was, in fact, the first woman to play official intercollegiate athletics at FSU. In 1983, she became the first woman inducted into the Bobcat Hall of Fame.

Best wishes to all of our retirees.

Research Symposium Set for May 6

The fifth annual College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held Friday, May 6, 2016, 11AM-2PM, in the Lane University Center. This year's event will include 127 presentations. Of these, 98 are posters, three are physical displays, and 26 are oral presentations. A total of 198 students are presenting, with 23 additional students contributing. Projects are originating from 16 CLAS departments, with 73 faculty and staff member serving as mentors.

Communication and Leadership Students Host Cross-Cultural Dialogue

FSU students enrolled in the LEAD 101 and CMST 350 classes this spring have been working in committees to plan and host “Eat, Learn, Shift,” a cross-cultural potluck dialogue session featuring Middle Eastern cuisine held on April 6.

Blaine Siegel, social practice artist and Education and Outreach Director of Conflict Kitchen of Pittsburgh, served as the Leadership Studies Leader-in-Residence, partnering with the students and SHiFT restaurant to organize the event. It was a cuisine-based cultural exchange that centered around international food-preparation and dialogue – in this case featuring Middle Eastern fare. Students invited community members to the event to share their local heritage.

As part of their planning for the event, students took a field trip to Conflict Kitchen, supported by the FSU Foundation. Conflict Kitchen is a take-out restaurant that serves food from countries with which the U.S. is in conflict and educates diners about issues in other countries.

Student Tiku Nguasong enjoyed the

Iranian food served on the day of the field trip, stating that she would definitely recommend the restaurant to friends and family. When asked about the experience, Tiku stated, “On the field trip, I learned that conflict is not necessarily a negative thing and, in fact, is healthy for human interaction. Conflict is simply difference; in opinions, in values, in perspectives. What I enjoyed most was learning about the amazing power of food and how much easier it is to break down cultural barriers when enjoying a meal with others. Food is an effective and creative way to initiate dialogue amongst those who may not | otherwise do so willingly.”

Planning the “Eat, Shift, Learn” event provided Nguasong with a fresh perspective from a more open mind. “I am ready and excited to give others an opportunity to have a voice and share their experiences to receive lasting knowledge about these unfamiliar groups of people,” said Nguasong. “This is a great way to transcend patterns of avoidance with other cultures and transform relationships that will progress us forward as one community.”

The “Eat, Learn, Shift” event was just one



LEAD 101 and CMST 350 students visiting the Conflict Kitchen in Pittsburgh

part of a two-day Leader-in-Residence agenda for Blaine Siegel. Siegel’s time at FSU included visiting classes, meeting with FSU faculty and staff, and serving as a guest speaker for the annual President’s Leadership Circle selection reception.

The annual FSU Leadership Studies residency program offers opportunities for students, faculty, staff and community members to interact with a leader or scholar to learn about the interdisciplinary nature of leadership. This year’s event sponsors included the Leadership Studies minor, International Studies major, African-American Studies minor, the Department of Visual Arts, and the FSU Office of Leadership and Experiential Learning.

Frostburg Grows Rebuilds After Winter Damage



Frostburg Grows (FG) staff and partners, with enormous help from the Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC), repaired much damage caused by a January 2016 snow storm. The storm dropped over 2 feet of snow and caused 4 of the 6 high tunnel greenhouses to collapse. Over 5 days in February and March, the New Germany State Park MCC crew, with help from other MCC crews from all over Maryland and led by FG AmeriCorps member Gabriel Echeverri, took apart the 4 damaged high tunnels and rebuilt 2 high tunnels from salvaged steel hoops, cross-ties and hardware. On April 15, they re-installed the plastic roof on high tunnel

#1 with help of many FSU student volunteers. They are running about a month behind, but will soon be planting spring crops.

FG made progress on formation of the Western Maryland Food Council, a project funded by the Town Creek Foundation. They convened stakeholder meetings in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties with help of University of Maryland Extension staff and economic development staff in each county. Participants identified the top priorities for food system change, including needs for bringing back agriculture education in Allegany County schools, addressing institutional barriers to buying more locally grown food, forging better links between local farmers and the food bank network, and helping new growers get started and become financially profitable and self-sustaining. The WM Food Council will launch in June, beginning to develop a strategic plan and collaborate to implement initial projects.

In addition to leading MCC crews and FG site repairs, FG AmeriCorps member Gabriel Echeverri, has done many high energy creative projects. Gabriel made a proposal to the Johnny’s Seeds company which resulted in donations of over \$300 worth of vegetable seeds. He also won a grant from the FSU Student Sustainability Fee fund to support sending two students to the Appalachian Studies Association conference in Shepherdstown, WV in March. With Dan Fiscus, Gabriel co-presented a talk on FG as a model Appalachian sustainable development project at the conference. Gabriel also worked with students and teachers at Mountain Ridge High School to start vegetable crop seeds in their school greenhouse.

FG is now working on plans for the summer sustainable agriculture training program, linked to the new FSU course SUST 350, Sustainable Agriculture. For more information, contact Corey Armstrong, cbarmstrong@frostburg.edu.



Art Professor Exhibits Photography in Hagerstown

Robert Hein, Department of Visual Arts, will have a solo exhibition at the Engine Room Art Space in Hagerstown from May 5-29. The exhibit, "Stillness Between," is a series of black and white photography.

According to Hein's artist statement, "The every-day becomes a meandering path that began with certainty, but ends somewhere unexpected. I am interested in what is still in the moments between busy every-day life and the plans for future events. In this work I find connections with subject matter that revolves around the people and spaces I love to those moments of still and quiet I seek. These images explore those connections."

The Engine Room, located at 36 North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, is a place for the community to exchange ideas and form new perspectives of what art can be and what art does. Engine Room Art Space welcomes local emerging artists to showcase art that presents challenging ideas or processes; to serve as a platform for artists of outstanding talent and quality.

Winter Markets Become Community Staple

The Frostburg Winter Market at Mountain City Traditional Arts has become a community staple, giving people the opportunity to buy local food and products during the winter months. Over the past two years, the market has offered bread, cheese, meat, vegetables, fruit, soap, and other products from local vendors such as Savage River Farm, Goodness Grows, Hidden Hollow, and High Country Creamery. This year, even more vendors have begun to be represented at MCTA, including Basecamp Coffee. These biweekly markets have attracted local musicians and community members, providing a space to share local art and to foster a dialogue about our community and the importance of local foods.

The winter market began in October of 2014 and has run fall to spring on the first and third Saturdays of the month for the last two years. A total of 23 markets will



be held by the conclusion of this season, with the final market scheduled for May 21st, 10am to 1pm. Attendance over the past two years has always ranged between 50 and 200 people, with most markets drawing at least 100 in attendance.

The market has become an anticipated and embraced part of the community and hopefully will continue for years to come.

Five CLAS Faculty Granted Tenure

CLAS is pleased to announce that five faculty were recently approved for tenure: Dan Moorehead (Sociology), Ben Norris (Chemistry), Wenjuan Xu (Computer Science and Information Technologies), Jill Morris (English), and Shoshana Brassfield (Philosophy). Congratulations!

Xunyu Pan Faculty Achievement Winner

Xunyu Pan from the Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies is the recipient for this year's Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching.

Since joining FSU in Fall 2012, Dr. Pan has taught 12 different courses. In the classroom, Dr. Pan is passionate about teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students to reach their full potential and become future leaders. He has incorporated cutting-edge research topics into his courses, implementing lab projects and case study samples either designed by himself or distributed from National Science Foundation sponsored workshops.

With significant public and private funding support over the last three years, Dr. Pan has led research projects with intense participation from undergraduate students, to help them successfully present high



quality research papers on international stages and gain hands-on experience with commercial products.

Dr. Pan and several students from the Honors Program have been working to create a digital photo forensics system. This work has been shared through research talks and academic publications across the region and around the world.

Congratulations on this deserving recognition.

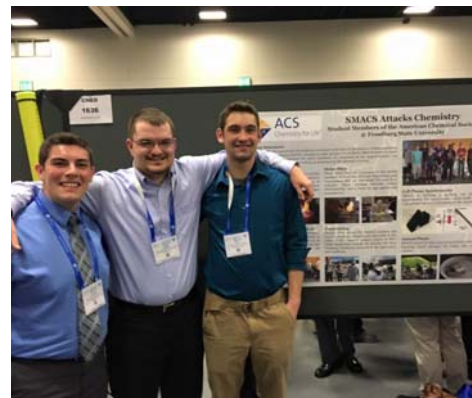
Chemistry Students Attend American Chemical Society National Meeting

Four Chemistry students presented at the 251st American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, CA, on March 13-15, 2016. Senior Steven Lowery (Ellerslie, MD) presented his research project “Developing a Safer, Optimized Method for Determining Lead in Paint” at the Analytical Chemistry Poster Session. Steven’s project involved replacing hazardous assays with a microwave digestion procedure followed by analysis with atomic absorption spectroscopy. Senior Connor Riahin (Annapolis) also presented a research project, “Comparison of metal ion selectivity of fluorophore 1,4-bis(2-quinolyl)-2,3-diaza-1,3-butadiene in THF/water and acetonitrile,” at the Undergraduate Research Poster Session. Connor’s work compared two competing findings about the ability of a fluorescent sensor molecule to be selective for either mercury or copper depending on the solvent. Connor was only partially able to reproduce the results of the previous studies given that the sensor molecule was insoluble in one of the reported solvents.

Steven joined sophomore Brian Day (Keedysville, MD) and junior Christopher Lodder (Dunkirk, MD) to present the educational outreach and professional development activities of FSU’s chapter of the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) at the Successful Student Chapters Poster

Session with a poster entitled “SMACS Attacks Chemistry.” Brian and Christopher also accepted an award from the ACS to the FSU SMACS chapter for its activities and outreach in the 2014-2015 academic year. FSU’s SMACS chapter was one of 314 student chapters recognized at the event and one of only 97 to be recognized with a Commendable Award, which is one step lower than the highest award category of Outstanding.

The outreach activities for which SMACS was recognized include participating in more than ten chemistry demonstrations for K-12 students in the region, two of which were new schools from outside Allegany County: Frankfort Intermediate School in Mineral County and Crellin Elementary School in Garrett County. SMACS also participated in the Western MD STEM Festival where they helped attendees make homemade lava lamps from soda bottles (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfSkqmvusSg>). In addition, SMACS students assisted the Western MD Section of the ACS to host a National Chemistry Week event on the theme of “The Sweet Side of Chemistry” which was a finalist for a ChemLuminary Award from the ACS. Finally, SMACS helped judge poetry submitted by K-12 students in the region as part of the national ACS poetry contests for National Chemistry Week and Earth Day.



From left: students Steven Lowery, Christopher Lodder, and Brian Day present their SMACS chapter outreach activities

While at the conference, the students attended presentations by leading chemists in fields such as nanotechnology and computational chemistry, exchanged outreach ideas with members of other student chapters around the country, attended a career fair, and learned about exciting new products and technologies in the chemical sciences at an industry exhibition.

Funding was provided through fundraising by FSU’s chapter of SMACS, from the Department of Chemistry, and through grants from the President’s Experiential Learning Enhancement Fund, the Student Government Association, the Western Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society, and the American Chemical Society.

Geography Seniors Place Third in World Geography Bowl

Seniors Andrew Boch and Spencer Truszkowski were members of the Middle Atlantic Division (MAD) Geography Bowl team, which took third place at the World Geography Bowl competition held at the American Association of Geographers conference in San Francisco, California on April 8, 2016.

MAD finished the nine round Geography Bowl competition with a win-loss record of 7-2, thus tying the Southeast Division for second place. Southeast had accumulated more points in the nine rounds, and thus advanced to (and won!) the Championship against first place finishers, the Pacific Coast region. Pacific Coast had a win-loss record of 8-1, having lost Round

1 to MAD.

The six member MAD team was selected through a Regional Geography Bowl between FSU, Towson, George Washington, and Salisbury universities. This competition featured 23 students, competing to earn one of the six spots on the MAD team at the World Geography Bowl.

Tracy Edwards, FSU Geography, served as coordinator for the Regional Bowl, as well as a faculty sponsor for the MAD team in San Francisco.

Congratulations on a job well done!



MAD Geography Bowl team: Rachel Sapienza (Salisbury U), Patrick Nahhas (GW), Spencer Truszkowski (FSU), Jamie Shiplet (Towson U), Andrew Boch (FSU), Kean McDermott (GW), Tracy Edwards (FSU, faculty sponsor)



Congratulations to Hank Bullamore, Geography Department, on being named a board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

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

Discovery Center Initiates Name Change

On March 24th, the name of the Frostburg Science Discovery Center was officially changed to the Museum of Natural History at Frostburg State University. The change was made to better define the center's scope, collections and exhibits, as well as to define a niche for seeking grant funding.

The new Museum of Natural History plans several exciting initiatives for the coming months. Pending approval, the Museum will partner with a wildlife artist from Kenya, Arthur Ogada, to have his art pieces available to the public through donation.

The Museum is also pursuing partnerships with other area programs and museums, and in the coming seasons anticipates exhibit exchanges and hosting of traveling exhibits. These will include cultural, biological, and conservation based themes.

Finally, the newest addition to the museum's collection is a stunning tiger mount donated from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Exhibit interpretation, including habitat maps and conservation explanations, is currently underway.

Center for Literary Arts Announces Summer Programs for Adults and Children

The Center for Literary Arts enters its summer 2016 programming with two major educational opportunities for youth and adult writers.

The ninth annual Nightsun Writer's Conference is scheduled for Thursday, July 28th, through Sunday, July, 31st, in Downtown Frostburg. The Conference will feature workshops with Nance VanWinckle (poetry, author of *Ever Yrs.*), E. Ethelbert Miller (creative non-fiction, author of *The 5th Inning*), Andy Duncan (sci-fi, fantasy, and horror, author of *Pottawatomie Giant and Other Stories*), and Patricia Henley (Fiction, author of *Friday Night at Silver Star*).

The program provides participants with workshop opportunities, individualized feedback on their work, readings, craft sessions, and a positive, nurturing environment for writers of all skill levels and ages. The conference is designed to generate new material for publication, hone the craft of creative writing, and initiate a larger writing community for participants. K-12 teachers in the state of Maryland can get two continuing education credits for attending the program.

The cost of participation is \$350 plus accommodations and some meals. There is a \$50 discount for returning Nightsun participants. There is also a 50% discount for Frostburg students and recent alumni.

The Frostburg Center for Literary Arts is

also happy to announce the dates for this summer's WordQuest day camp in creative writing for middle school students in grade 6 through 8. The program will run from August 1-5th from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and feature an opportunity to study the arts of poetry and story writing with a group of dynamic writing instructors. Students will work on their own poems and stories, explore their community as they seek inspiration, and develop confidence in expressing themselves. This program is sponsored in part by the Allegany Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Frostburg State University.

Center director Gerry LaFemina says about WordQuest: "This program is designed to be both fun and educational, and to help young people develop a love for writing and reading. Students get the opportunity to express themselves and discover the joys of language and creating with language."

Designed to have small student-to-instructor ratios, registration in the program is limited. Cost for the week is \$75, which includes snacks and instruction. Parents need to register their children by Friday, July 15th 2016. For more information, visit the Center website at www.frostburg.edu/cla, email cla@frostburg.edu or call 301.687.4340.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

