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<http://www.frostburg.edu/colleges/clas/index.htm>

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

CLAS Welcomes New Faculty

CLAS has 8 new faculty this fall, 5 of whom received PIN positions. We welcome the following individuals:

- Ben Norris, Chemistry
- David Stern, Communication Studies
- Wenjuan Xu, Computer Science
- Richard Russo, Geography
- Melissa Hendricks, Mass Communication
- Kay Lenhart, Nursing
- Christopher Masciocchi, Psychology
- Jonathan Simon, Visual Arts

Geography Faculty Host Summer Camp for Teachers

Matt Ramspott and Phillip Allen of the Department of Geography, in collaboration with specialized teacher/trainer and technology staff from the Boards of Education of Allegany and Garrett Counties, worked to develop another installment of the "Earth Science Rocks" Teacher Academy in early August. This week-long professional development Academy was attended by approximately 20 teachers currently working in public and private schools in the two counties, in grade levels ranging from Elementary to Junior High.



Activities this time around included instruction in the geological, hydrological, and atmospheric sciences. Teachers practiced mineral and rock ID exercises, utilizing scientific methods of observation. They also practiced collecting and validating weather data for classroom activities. Teachers received specific instruction relating to plate tectonics, geological mapping, global atmospheric and oceanic circulation, and other topics. They learned how to utilize GoogleEarth to build student-driven hands-on

computer demonstrations of geosciences-themed topics. The Academy culminated in a field trip to collect fossil specimens from Sandy Mile in Washington County, MD, and to visit Crystal Grottoes Caverns in Boonsboro, MD.

As part of the Academy, the teachers participated in a variety of lecture-based and hands-on activities designed to emphasize fundamental knowledge in the earth science subject area, while also sharpening vocabulary and scientific and quantitative reasoning skills, developing ideas for practical classroom application, building technology skills, and building teaching resource and reference toolboxes.

Funding for this project was provided by a Math/Science Partnership grant administered by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Mass Communication Faculty Member Films “A Lesson on Love”

Hollywood came to Western Maryland this summer with the filming of Micheal McAlexander’s independent production “A Lesson of Love.” The movie is set in the mountains of Appalachia and is the story of Thomas Aquinas Moore, a professor from Los Angeles recruited to teach at a small-town college who falls in love with Abigail Meeks, a deeply religious local woman. The unlikely love is torn apart by one’s commitment to faith and the other’s devotion to reason. They both must overcome deep-rooted fears and age-old prejudices to hold on to the love they both desperately need.

Filming began in mid July and lasted about two weeks. It included location shoots on the FSU campus, in downtown Frostburg, at Penn Alps in Grantsville, in Meyersdale, PA, and at Evergreen Heritage Center in Mt. Savage.

Seven FSU students had the rare opportunity to work as production assistants on the film, while receiving credit for their work as members of a special topics class. Junior Jared Ritchey described the experience as “The hardest, but most rewarding thing I’ve ever done. A bad movie no longer exists now that I know how much work goes into creating one.”

McAlexander, who is also the project’s writer, is backing the film personally. Micheal will be busy over the next six months editing the picture, creating the sound design, and working with a Los Angeles-based composer to create an original score for the movie.

For more information, including a behind the scenes video diary, visit the website at <http://alessonoflove.com/>.

Appalachian Festival, Trident Conference Collaboration Proves Successful

The fifth annual Appalachian Festival was held at FSU on Sept. 16-18. The event kicked off with the two-day Trident Initiative conference “Appalachian AdVentures: Celebrating the Region’s Entrepreneurial Spirit.” The conference focused on entrepreneurship with a distinctly regional “sense of place” flavor and 178 individuals participated. College of Business

Associate Dean Sudhir Singh touted the benefits of the collaboration, stating "The dovetailing of the Festival with the Conference was perfect and, I believe, provided a truly superior model for collaboration between the Colleges of Business and Liberal Arts and Sciences for the future. It showed in some very visible ways the integrated nature of entrepreneurship that seamlessly cuts across disciplines, and how a robust perspective of the role of small business should span across the spectrum of the arts, the professions, and the sciences."

The Festival itself was held on Saturday, with activities including two music stages, artisans, storytelling, living history, hands-on workshops, discussions, and children's activities. New this year were the Affrilachian Poets, a group of African-American writers who come from Appalachia, defying the all-white stereotype of the region. Festival Director Kara Rogers-Thomas was pleased with the attendance numbers, stating "It seemed like folks came out earlier in the day than in the past, and they tended to stay for several hours. All of our special programs, presentations and performances had a solid audience. In fact, several people mentioned that the program was so full they had a hard time deciding which program to attend. We were especially delighted to have had the opportunity to bring in participants from as far away as Kentucky and Tennessee to honor and recognize Appalachian diversity."

Mountain Herbalist Series Announces Fall Schedule

The Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies has announced the fall schedule for its Mountain Herbalist Series. These free workshops are open to the public and held on select Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Mountain City Traditional Arts on Main Street. Fall workshops will include:

- October 11 – Making Skin Salves
- October 25 – Alien Invasion
- November 8 – Herbs and Immunity
- November 29 – Herbs for Cold and Flu

For more information, contact Mimi Hernandez at 301-687-3136 (mhernandez@frostburg.edu).

Western Maryland Science and Engineering Festival at FSU on Oct. 23

Frostburg State University will be the site of a satellite event of the national USA Science and Engineering Festival on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. The satellite event will be held on the Upper Quad of the Frostburg campus, and demonstrations will take place at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg. A shuttle will be available to transport individuals between the two sites.

The event is open to K-12 students in public or private schools and their parents. There will be numerous hands-on activities, including wildlife forensics, origami and math, build a bat, geocaching and a critter corner. Students can also participate in the challenge events of egg drop, paper airplane design, catapult and forensic mystery. The Allegany County event

is sponsored by FSU, Allegany County Public Schools and UMCES Appalachian Lab.

For more information, contact Karen Bundy at karen.bundy@acps.k12.md.us, Kristen Lennon at kalennon@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4397, or Dr. Eric Moore at ejmoore@frostburg.edu or 301-687-4500.

Frostburg to Prague

Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon completed her fourth tour of the Czech Republic this summer as Organist for the International Dvorak Society's American Spring Festival. As a featured artist for this annual, Czech music festival, Joan crisscrosses the country, often performing in a different city every night and up to 22 concerts in a month. Venues include churches, cathedrals, museums, concert halls and schools. She notes, "The second year of the festival, they asked if I would play two concerts in one day. I said, 'no.' The next year they didn't ask, they just double booked the dates!"

She adds, "One of the biggest challenges is playing on the older, baroque organs. I typically have at least one concert each year on an instrument dating from before 1700. On these instruments, the bass octave of keys is incomplete and the notes are transposed to locations unlike a standard piano keyboard. Imagine playing a musical instrument where E plays the pitch C, F-sharp sounds a D, and G-sharp plays the note E. It makes life interesting! As a result is that you must tour with more than one concert program. The baroque organs are tuned in unequal temperaments and anything composed with more than one sharp or one flat sounds horrible!"

Joan's concert programs feature music by Czech and American composers. She was also a guest lecturer at the Brno International Organ Festival's 30th Anniversary Conference at the Janacek Academy in Brno. Similar repertoire was featured in several US concerts, including summer performances in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Maryland.

Frank Ammer Honored by Wildlife Society

Frank Ammer of the Biology Department was selected for the national 2010 Student Chapter Adviser of the Year by The Wildlife Society. He was honored at the 73rd Annual Awards Ceremony in Snowbird, Utah, Oct. 3.

The Wildlife Society awards the title of Student Chapter Adviser of the Year to an adviser who demonstrates admirable work in devotion to wildlife, natural resources and students pursuing careers in the field.

Frank was nominated for the award by members of FSU-TWS. He advises graduate and undergraduate students, often encouraging undergraduates to participate in graduate students' projects. When his students are required to present their projects, Frank actively advertises the presentations. From talking about conservation to discussing career goals, he is known for his willingness to share his time with students.

Ammer is also a passionate and active conservationist. He is a member of numerous conservation organizations and has seen the FSU-TWS active membership grow from less than 10 to nearly 60 active members as of this

year. Ammer even oversaw the development of the Chapter's website, <http://organizations.frostburg.edu/wildlife/index.html>.

Foreign Language After School Program Now in 10th Year

This fall, Frostburg State's After School Program in Foreign Language for primary school K - 5th students enters its second decade of service. During the first five years of operation, starting in September 2000, advanced FSU students of Spanish taught the language twice a week to a group of 25 to 30 youngsters at Frost Elementary. In the last five years, the After School Program in Spanish moved from Frost to Beall Elementary School. In the last two years, thanks to the volunteer work of several international students from Hunan Normal School, the program has expanded its offerings, and now includes Chinese.