

CLAS News

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Interim Dean Campbell Departs FSU Leaving CLAS a Stronger College

Interim CLAS Dean Dee Dee Campbell will be concluding her tenure at FSU at the end of this semester, returning to retirement in the Chicago area.

When Campbell arrived at FSU last January, she said that she was not at FSU just for a job, but that she truly wanted to make improvements in CLAS and make it a stronger college. She has done so in a number of ways, most notably through her efforts to cut expenditures and move CLAS toward a performance-based budgeting model. While decision making in the college has been somewhat data driven, Campbell has always strived to ensure that this was balanced with consideration of the needs of faculty, staff, and students.

When asked to highlight important accomplishments from the past year, Campbell mentioned a number of new curricular initiatives that are emerging. The Physician Assistant program is nearing a decision on accreditation, having so far been successful in the process. Interdisciplinary programs in Criminal Justice and Construction Management are under development, and a collaborative program in pharmacology is in the discussion stages. A number of articulation agreements with community colleges have been developed by the departments of Computer Science and Information Technology, Communication, and Biology.

An important focus for Dr. Campbell has been on student-centered learning. In recent months, CLAS faculty have been analyzing literature and identifying strategies to better

support first-generation students and ensure their academic success.

With regard to faculty, Campbell has been working with administration to ensure that diversity and inclusion is an integral part of the hiring and decision making process in CLAS. Several new faculty have been hired this year, and enhancing diversity in CLAS will continue to be a priority going forward.

Associate Dean Cindy Herzog praised Dr. Campbell for her work ethic, professionalism, and dedication to FSU during the year.

“CLAS Chairs complimented Dee Dee often on her availability, listening skills, sound advice, attendance at departmental meetings and events, and advocacy for departmental needs. Administration was pleased with her efforts to cut expenditures in CLAS, her meticulous attention to detail, and her hard work which extended into late evenings and weekends,” said Herzog.

“Above all, however, those of us in the CLAS Dean’s Office who have had the pleasure of working with Dee Dee on a daily basis know that she genuinely cared about each person she worked with on campus and each of the programs in CLAS. She was respectful in her interactions, appreciative of work that was done to move the college forward, and open to hearing ideas for change. She will be remembered for her positive outlook, kindness, empathy, great sense of humor, support, and her big smile! We feel blessed to have had the chance to work with her, and we thank her for her mentorship,” said Herzog.

CLAS Student Groups Win Majors Fair Awards

Two student organizations within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were recognized at the annual Majors Fair held in October.

Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) were chosen for Most Engaging Crew. Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography) was recognized for Most Informative Display. Both groups received \$100 prize awards and did a great job of engaging students with their displays.

Congratulations to the student members and their faculty/department sponsors.



Members of Gamma Theta Upsilon with their augmented reality sandbox display

FSU and Johns Hopkins Faculty Collaborate on Vapor Sensor Technology

Vapor sensors are critical for modern life, monitoring industrial processes, ensuring air quality, detecting security threats and even aiding in medical diagnostics. One emerging technology offers great promise for cheaper, more versatile vapor sensors: organic semiconductors (OSC). Unfortunately, OSC vapor sensors are not quite ready for widespread use.

Dr. Wudyalew Wondmagegn, associate professor of electrical engineering at FSU, and Dr. Howard Katz, professor of materials science and engineering at Johns Hopkins University, are combining their expertise to improve OSC vapor sensor tech. Their collaborative inter-university research project is supported by a three-year \$438,463 grant from the National Science Foundation, approximately \$160,000 of which will fund research at FSU.

OSCs are small, simple, inexpensive to produce, and as mechanically flexible as plastic. However, environmental factors like heat, humidity and other gases can degrade the current OSC vapor sensors in as little as a few hours, causing readings to drift. That drift renders them unreliable in most real-world situations. Wondmagegn and Katz are developing strategies to overcome or counteract those drifting outputs. "We will be trying to achieve devices and circuits that detect gases with much better performance than we have now," Wondmagegn said. "That's the goal: to advance the current technology to a new level."

The two teams will test changes to the materials and design of individual OSC vapor sensors to optimize performance, collaborating regularly to refine their improvements. At FSU, Wondmagegn's students will deploy computer models to simulate those sensors in service. Wondmagegn and his team will then design circuits of sensors to preserve sensitivity while minimizing output drift. At JHU, Katz's team will physically produce various OSC sensor designs and collect experimental data on actual sensor performance over time. The research project will also include STEM outreach efforts to high school students, both in Western Maryland and in Baltimore.

For more information, contact Dr. Wondmagegn at wwondmagegn@frostburg.edu.

Biology Senior Receives Prestigious Grant from Tri-Beta National Chapter

Kristin Ratliff, a senior Biology major, received a prestigious grant award of \$600 from the national chapter of the Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society to help her complete her independent study project. The national chapter funded, in part, her project that aims to create an edible vaccine for mice against Lyme disease, which is caused by the bacterium "Borrelia burgdorferi." The project will use transgenic technology to insert the ospA gene from "B.burgdorferi" into the Arabidopsis plant. Seeds from the plant will then be fed to mice with the aim to make them immune to the bacterial species that is spread by ticks. By preventing mice from being infected with the bacterium, ticks will no longer be able to transmit it from mice to humans.

Kristin will present an update on her progress at the May undergraduate research symposium. For more information, contact Dr. David Puthoff at dpputhoff@frostburg.edu.

Honors Program Advising Reminders

For academic advisors in CLAS who are working with honors students, please keep in mind the basic requirements for honors. Each student in honors has eight courses (24 cr.) to complete during their undergraduate career:

- 5 honors variants (e.g., HIST 111, IDIS 151, COSC 110, PHIL 112)
- 1 composition (ENGL 111, ENGL 312)

- 2 upper division electives (e.g., IDIS 351, IDIS 491)

In addition, students have a couple of handy tools they can use in terms of completing their honors requirements. They are allowed to complete two "enhancements" of regular courses for honors credit. Honors students should also ask about an

"experiential learning option" allowing them to receive honors credit for an internship, study abroad experience, or student teaching experience.

Any questions about the honors program academic requirements may be directed to Dr. Greg Wood at the Fuller House (email gwood@frostburg.edu).

FSU Honors Program: Academic Requirements

A. Honors Variants (15 cr. required)

ART 111, BIOL 159, COSC 110, ECON 211, ENGL 250, GEOG 113, GEOG 114, IDIS 151, HIST 111, MATH 110, PHIL 111, PHIL 112, PSYC 151, POSC 112, POSC 114, SOCI 111

Course 1 _____
 Course 2 _____
 Course 3 _____
 Course 4 _____
 Course 5 _____

B. Composition (3 cr. required)

ENGL 111 or ENGL 312

Course _____

C. Advanced (6 cr. required)

IDIS 351 Advanced FSU Colloquium, IDIS 491 Honors Seminar, Experiential Learning Option (ELO), IDIS 493 Honors Thesis

Course 1 _____
 Course 2 _____

24 cr. required for Honors in General Education upon graduation ©



Note: Every traditional honors student is allowed to use up to 2 "enhancements" of regular courses for honors credit.

Receive Honors Program updates by checking our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/honors.frostburg

Any questions? Email Dr. Greg Wood, the Honors Director, at gwood@frostburg.edu



Award-Winning Author Andy Duncan Releases New Book

From a gallows in 16th-century England to a show in 1920s New York City, from the mythical Big Rock Candy Mountain to "Beluthahatchie" – the next railroad stop past Hell – award-winning author and Frostburg State University faculty member Andy Duncan takes readers on a dozen fantastical adventures to real and imagined settings in his new book, "An Agent of Utopia: New and Selected Stories."

For his third collection, Duncan's editor declined to gather his latest stories, opting to create something closer to a "greatest hits" collection. "An Agent of Utopia"

features two new stories alongside 10 of the author's favorite previously published tales from 1997 to 2012.

While no two stories are alike in plot, setting or character, Duncan noted that all of the stories are united by a loose thread: things that bother him. Many of the book's fictional stories sprang from actual historical events, personalities or oddities that somehow got stuck in the back of Duncan's mind.

"An Agent of Utopia," published by Small Beer Press, is available now from

online and local booksellers in softcover and e-book formats.





Tree Planting

On Nov. 13, Sunshine Brosi's Dendrology course participated in Frostburg's Tree Maintenance Day, an event organized by the city of Frostburg and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Students mulched and trimmed more than 140 trees along Main, Frost, Ormand, Washington, Beall and Bowery streets.



Latta Wins Arts Award

Greg Latta (Physics and Engineering) won his third Individual Artist Award from the Maryland Arts Council. He was chosen from 367 applicants and awarded for the category Non-Classical Music: Solo Performance. Congratulations!

Danzi Documentary Featured in Film Festival

A film produced and directed by an FSU Communication faculty member, with the assistance of more than 30 FSU students over three years, was featured in October at the Queen City Film Festival.

Annie Danzi had her documentary film, "Life's A Stage: The Gwen Lehman Story" shown during the event.

Producing and directing the documentary, Danzi supervised an all-student crew through three years of production as an experiential learning project. More than 30 Frostburg State Mass Communication students gained real-world experience in roles such as camera operator, associate producers and editors.

The film focuses on the extraordinary career of high school educator, Gwen

Lehman, who devoted 47 years to teaching the performing arts at Stephen Decatur High School in rural Berlin, Md. Danzi, herself part of Lehman's legacy, was a student at Stephen Decatur High School.

"This film shines a light on a remarkable, magnetic educator and the issues that the arts face in the American public-school system," Danzi said. "Working with FSU students on a film about education seemed like a perfect fit to me, and we all learned so much throughout the process."

Congratulations to Danzi and her students on a job well done!

CLAS Faculty Honored as Outstanding Mentors

Frostburg State University presented the Outstanding Mentor Award to two faculty from CLAS at this year's Career Expo luncheon: Dr. Paul Bernhardt of the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Daniel Moorehead of the Department of Sociology.

Bernhardt, an associate professor of psychology, was nominated by 2011 graduate Melanie Rowe-Partridge. Bernhardt was acknowledged for his hard work and dedication to have his students understand his material and succeed in other areas as well. "As an advisor, Dr. Bernhardt was inviting and invested in our success. After taking several of Dr. Bernhardt's classes, I can say that I truly appreciated his commitment to teaching, focus on material and overall enthusiasm in his role as a professor and advisor," Rowe-Partridge wrote.

Moorehead was nominated for his outstanding teaching and support for his students by 2009 graduate Laura Nichols. "He was so endearing and truly cared about students. He was always there to talk if you needed it, whether it be about school work or not," Nichols wrote. Moorehead has worked at FSU for 12 years in the Department of Sociology. He also strives to make a "learning community" in his classrooms, and he genuinely

wants his students to succeed. Moorehead is also involved in school committees, such as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Handbook Subcommittee.

Congratulations to Dr. Bernhardt and Dr. Moorehead!



Dr. Daniel Moorehead, Sociology



Dr. Paul Bernhardt, Psychology

Department of Communication Hosts Peace Dialogues, Walk of Democracy

The Department of Communication hosted two events this semester with discussion framed around Parker Palmer's book *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* (2011).

In September, members of the campus and local community were invited to participate in public peace dialogues in recognition of the International Day of Peace. The theme of the campus sessions was "Healing the Heart of Democracy," with conversations focused around the Parker book. FSU's LEAD 201 Leadership Theories and Practices class, as well as CMST 3350 Intercultural Communication hosted discussion sessions. A similar event was also held at Allegany College of Maryland during the same week. The Leadership Studies program sponsored this literacy-focused dialogue project of the Communication Leadership Lab.

On November 14, Communication Leadership Lab assistants facilitated a "Walk of Democracy" program open to the campus and community at large. This interactive dialogue event was designed to

keep constructive conversations going across political perspectives following the midterm elections. This event was inspired by discussions during the September peace dialogues. Because the purpose of democracy is to distribute power among public voices to build a community where people feel like their perspectives are valued, the "Walk of Democracy" event was designed to provide a safe space for voicing political beliefs and exploring how democracy happens.

Dr. Elesha Ruminski, Coordinator of the Communication Leadership Lab, commended the students leading the discussion for creating "an honest and open sharing by a diverse group of participants on some difficult topics that need to be discussed."

Dr. Dorothy Campbell, CLAS Interim Dean, also attended the event. According to Campbell, "The facilitators and audience members were engaged and did a good job in discussing issues of inclusion."



Students Najah James and Dynia Walker lead the peace dialogue event, with Dean Campbell pictured in the audience.

Students in the LEAD 201 and CMST 350 classes will determine who to lend copies of Parker's book to next to keep the conversation going. If you would like to have your students or group read the book next, contact Elesha Ruminski (elruminski@frostburg.edu). These activities support the Choose Civility initiative within Allegany County, of which FSU is a formal partner. For more information, visit

<https://www.alleganycountylibrary.info/choose-civility/>.

Music Department Continues K-12 Outreach, Hosts Vocal Events This Fall

The Department of Music continued to play a leading role in offering K-12 outreach throughout the state this fall.

On October 8, FSU hosted the first-ever Tenor-Bass Sing Invitational Festival for high school tenors and basses. The day-long event featured learning three combined pieces, guest performances by the FSU Chamber Singers, University Chorale, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and a local Barbershop Quartet, and concluded with a joint concert with the brothers of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (a music fraternity) and the participants. There were nearly 40 participants, and this event is the only one of its kind in the region.

On November 5 & 7, the FSU Chamber Singers, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band went to several high schools in the State of Maryland. The choirs visited a number of schools, including Francis Scott Key High School and Liberty High School in Carroll County, and North Harford High School in Harford County. At North Harford, five choirs from different district high schools

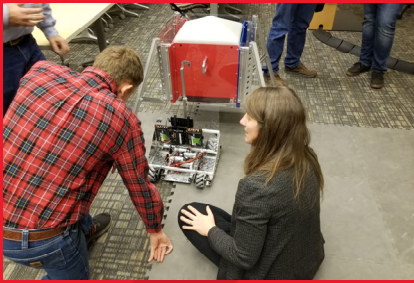
were in attendance. Each event included performances by the Chamber Singers, by the hosting choirs, and a chance for the Chamber Singers to clinic with each ensemble. The FSU faculty and students also made presentations about the university and answered questions about college and careers.

Scott Rieker, a new faculty member in the Music Department this year, gave a clinic to the high school choir at Smithsburg High School on November 20, working primarily on Jewish music.

In addition to conducting outreach, there have been a number of events involving the choir and vocal groups within the department this fall. On November 10 & 11, the FSU Chamber Singers and University Chorale collaborated with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra to perform Mozart's "Coronation Mass," K 317.

Nearly 60 student singers joined more than forty instrumentalists under the baton of Elizabeth Schulze for two well-received concerts. On Saturday, they performed at the Maryland Theatre in Hagerstown. On Sunday, they performed to a sold-out hall in Pealer Auditorium. This event was in conjunction with CES, who provided incredible support. Dr. Joseph Yungen, collaborative pianist, was instrumental in ensuring that the singers were prepared for this event.

The Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed twice in October. On Wednesday, October 24, they were featured as part of the FSU Majors Fair. On Saturday, October 27, as part of Homecoming, they performed for the Donor Reception in the Lane Center.



Robotics and Engineering in Allegany County (REACT) held their annual meeting and sponsor recognition event at FSU on November 26, with students in kindergarten through 12th grade demonstrating their skills. Students, faculty, and staff from the FSU Physics and Engineering Department offered tours of labs and a Planetarium show for the group.

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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.

Nursing and Theatre Investigate Simulated Patient Program at FSU

Last spring, The Departments of Nursing and Theatre and Dance began meeting to research, plan, and implement a Simulated Patient program at FSU. Through this interprofessional collaboration, Theatre and other FSU students will undergo training to become Simulated Patients (SPs) for Nursing students. Collaborators on the project include Kelly Rock, Heather Gable, Jill Buterbaugh, Denise Friend, and Aaron Blough from Nursing and Nicole Mattis and Darrell Rushton from Theatre and Dance.

Together, the group attended conferences and workshops at the University of Delaware, Washington Hospital in Washington, PA, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. They also sponsored visits from Ms. Tonya Lynn, an SP professional from Pittsburgh and Dr. Aaron Anderson, the founding director of VCU's Standardized Patient Program.

This spring, Rushton and Mattis will co-teach a special topics class focused in this area. The enrolled students will train and then perform as SPs in May 2019 for graduate nursing students under the direction of Dr. Jill Buterbaugh.

The Departments of Nursing and Theatre and Dance are excited about using simulated patients as a pedagogical approach to training and preparing nursing students for the field. Likewise, SP training will serve performers, who are frequently hired as SPs by medical programs throughout the country.



Dr. Aaron Anderson of Virginia Commonwealth University pictured with Heather Gable (Nursing) and Darrell Rushton (Theatre and Dance)



FSU faculty at IUP

From left: Kelly Rock, Nicole Mattis, Denise Friend, Rachel Desoto-Jackson (IUP), Darrell Rushton, and Aaron Blough

Rushton Nominated for Broadway.com Award

FSU Theatre Department faculty member Darrell Rushton was nominated for Best Director as part of the Broadway.com regional awards. The nomination is for his direction of the Cumberland Theatre production Fool for Love last February. Overall, the Cumberland Theatre was nominated for over 30 awards this year. Voting is open to the public and is ongoing at:

https://www.broadwayworld.com/baltimore/vote2018region.cfm?fbclid=IwAR0vvXeQGRjGiwrh0ovv8LrUKDnVzPrv75YditQ4iuDSuLDktwWCT_48324

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