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

CLAS Welcomes New Faculty

CLAS has 10 new faculty this fall, 3 of whom received PIN positions. We welcome the following individuals:

- Mark Baguma-Nibasheka, Biology
- Maria Wallack, Chemistry
- Heather Amthauer, Computer Science
- William Koehler, Music
- Heather Gable, Nursing
- Kay Lenhart, Nursing
- Kara Platt, Nursing
- James Walker, Philosophy
- Joanne Budzien, Physics and Engineering
- Tony Sumaryada, Physics and Engineering

In addition, four faculty were converted from full-time contractual to PIN positions. These were Mike Flinn (Computer Science), Paul Bernhardt (Psychology), Darrell Rushton (Theatre and Dance), and Robert Hein (Visual Arts).

History Alumnus Receives ACE Award

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recognized Ron Forrester (1967 History graduate) during this year's Career Expo, presenting him with the Alumni Circle of Excellence Award.

Ron is currently a Senior Military Analyst for Science Applications International Corporation supporting the Director for Operations, U.S. Joint Staff, Department of Defense, in the Pentagon. He spent 26 years in the United States Air Force as a missile and space operator, had two tours as a detachment and squadron commander and retired in the grade of Colonel in 1993 while serving in the Pentagon. Ron graduated in 1967, Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a History major and a Psychology minor. As a student, he was a Freshman Senator, Vice President of the Sophomore Class, Alpha Delta Chi Fraternity Founding Father/Secretary, and President of the Student Union his senior year. He also received the History Departmental Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement his senior year. Currently, Ron serves as the President of the FSU Alumni Association and is a strong financial supporter of the FSU Annual Fund and the FSU Foundation.

The Alumni Circle of Excellence award is presented to select individuals within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who have demonstrated

sustained excellence and leadership in their career field. To nominate an alumnus, email Linda Steele (lsteele@frostburg.edu).

Sustainable Energy Research Facility Receives \$856,000 Federal Grant

FSU's Renewable Energy Center has been awarded an \$856,350 appropriation from the U.S. Department of Energy to fund the final steps in the establishment of its Sustainable Energy Research Facility (SERF), a green, self-sufficient, off-the-grid building designed for educational research on renewable energy in the Appalachian region.

Obtained with the assistance of Maryland Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-6th), who also helped secure the initial funding for the construction of the building, this money will make it possible to purchase research equipment and computer hardware and software, as well as to employ researchers and student assistants.

SERF, a residential-size green building completely supplied by various renewable energy sources, will be built in the Allegany Business Center at FSU, close to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences Appalachian Laboratory. The building will be completely functional in fall 2010 and accommodate the FSU Renewable Energy Center to conduct research, education and outreach programs.

The research planned at SERF will study the effectiveness of sustainable energy resources in Appalachia. Using sensors to record wind and solar energy data at numerous locations, the data will be collected at SERF for processing and analysis used to model, design and control integrated renewable energy supply systems. The goal will be to develop a knowledge-base for renewable and clean energy resources available in the region.

SERF will accommodate the FSU Renewable Energy Center to conduct extended research, education and community outreach programs on renewable energy applications developed by FSU faculty and their project partners. The facility will also serve as an example of a self-sufficient off-grid building for homeowners, farmers or entrepreneurs who seek energy security in Western Maryland or similar locations.

For info, visit www.frostburg.edu/renewable or email Oguz and Hilka Soysal at renewable@frostburg.edu.

Ethnobotany Initiative Grows with Federal Grant

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin announced recently that FSU's Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies has received \$550,000 in federal funds for its black cohosh research project.

"Frostburg State University's Ethnobotanical Center will help bring economic development to Allegany County and it will also build our scientific knowledge of important plants and how they affect our health and well being," said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

The Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies is a partnership of Frostburg State University, West Virginia University, and the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. This collaborative, inter-institutional effort is devoted to the study of native plants with medicinal or other useful properties and promotes the conservation of Appalachian ecosystems where they grow. For additional information, visit the website at <http://www.frostburg.edu/aces>.

Kennedy Receives USM Women's Forum Award

Erica Kennedy (Psychology) recently received a \$1000 faculty research award from the University System of Maryland Women's Forum. This was one of only two faculty research grants awarded throughout the system. Her work with the Tamarin colony on campus was one of the factors directly contributing to this award. Congratulations, Erica!

Creative Writing Center Moves to Lyric Building

The Center for Creative Writing has moved into the Lyric Building on Main Street and will be open to the community with limited programming in early November.

Gerry LaFemina will be hosting a book group called Creative Reading, which will be held the first Monday of the month at 1-3 pm. Three other book groups are being planned that will start after winter break: a poetry book group, a science fiction/fantasy group, and a novel/film adaption group.

The Center will also be hosting writing workshops. The first will be a bi-monthly Monday evening workshop that will serve as an informal introduction to writing workshops for community members who have not had much previous workshop experience. For the second, the Center will be working with the Cumberland YMCA to establish a workshop for their Girl's Group Home. In addition, the Center is working with the Frostburg Public Library to begin a short, four week writing workshop for high school students.

A free Music and Writing workshop will also be held on campus Saturday November 7th. The workshop will include three discussions on Using Music as Muse, Song and Lyric Writing, and Critical Writing about Music.

For additional information, contact the Center for Creative Writing at 301-687-4024.

Leadership Minor Plans New Activities for the Year

The Learning to Lead learning community will host a multidisciplinary leadership symposium open to the university community on Thurs., Nov. 19 from 6-7 p.m. in Lane University Center 141. The panel will feature a leadership scholar from each academic college: Dr. Ken Witmer, Dean of the College of Education; Professor Kathy Powell, Associate Professor of Social Work; and Dr. Jeff McClellan, Assistant Professor of Management,

will speak on the scholarship and practice of leadership in their respective disciplines.

Additionally, the FSU-TV3 production LEAD-TV continues with Gira Campus to Community Grant support. FSU-TV3 Manager Melanie Lombardi and Dr. Elesha Ruminski are working with Mass Communication students Justin Blount and Jasmine Clark on the production, which features leadership education, activities, and opportunities at FSU. Upcoming episodes will feature leadership scholar Paul Loeb's visit and interviews with campus and community leaders, including students from the President's Leadership Circle.

This Spring the Department of Communication Studies, the Leadership Studies Minor, and the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement plan to bring journalist Liza Featherstone to campus **March 22-25** as the leadership scholar-in-residence. This collaborative event will include a session with faculty interested in social justice, organizing, and activism; classroom and dinner meetings with Leadership Studies Minor students, the GOLD learning community, the President's Leadership Circle, and other student leaders; as well as an academic forum for the university and local community at large on organizing for activism for economic and social sustainability.

For more information on any of these events or opportunities, please contact Dr. Ruminski at elruminski@frostburg or x4480 or Ms. Carter at acarter@frostburg.edu or x4210.

Sustainability Minor Under Development

The CLAS Sustainability Planning Group is developing a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in sustainability. The minor will consist of different focus areas and electives that will allow students in the natural sciences, social sciences, arts or humanities to complete the minor. The proposal will be presented to the CLAS Chairs for feedback at a meeting this semester. It will then go through the governance system in spring for approval.

In addition to work on the minor, progress has been ongoing to develop a toolbox of literature and skill sets for faculty. The working group distributed a survey to all faculty in September, asking for feedback on the types of resources that are needed in the area of sustainability. The survey is being resent this month to try and improve the response rate.

Other sustainability initiatives under consideration include a summer reading program for incoming freshmen, an intensive summer course with a field experience in sustainability, and an incentive program for faculty to incorporate sustainability into their courses. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.