

Patriot Digest

The Francis Marion University Faculty and Staff Newsletter

Sept. 15, 2006

FMU to hold Pee Dee Fiction Festival, Nov. 9-11

Francis Marion University will hold the first Pee Dee Fiction Festival, Nov. 9-11.

The three-day festival will celebrate the book. All scheduled events will be held in the Cauthen Educational Media Center's Lowrimore Auditorium on the FMU campus. Admission is free and open to the public, and registration is required by Nov. 7. To register, call the FMU Department of English, Modern Languages and Philosophy at 1371.

The event will feature authors Andre Dubus III, Ellen Gilchrist, and Dinah Johnson, as well as panel discussions, readings, and book signings. Many fiction topics will be covered, including screenwriting, Christian fiction, "front porch stories," and regionalism. Two screenings of the film "House of Sand and Fog," based on Dubus's book of the same name, will also be shown.

The festival is being organized by FMU English professors Ed Eleazer and Lynn Kostoff. Several other FMU English faculty will participate in the events as well.

Dubus is the author of a collection of short fiction, "The Cage Keeper and Other Stories," and the novels "Bluesman," and "House of Sand and Fog." He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Magazine Award for fiction, the Pushcart Prize, and was a finalist for the Prix De Rome Fellowship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. The basis of a major motion picture (starring Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly) and published in 25 countries, "House of

Sand and Fog" was a fiction finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the L.L. Winship/PEN New England Award, Booksense Book of the Year, and was an Oprah Book Club Selection and No. 1 New York Times bestseller.

Dubus has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and has taught writing at Harvard University, Tufts University, the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and Emerson College. He is married to performer Fontaine Dollas Dubus. They live in Massachusetts with their three children.

Gilchrist's first book was a book of poetry, "The Land Surveyor's Daughter" (1979). She followed it up with "Riding Out the Tropical Depression: Selected Poems, 1975-1985" (1986). But it was as a fiction writer that she has garnered the most attention. She attracted critical and popular accolades from the publication of her book of short fiction, "In the Land of Dreamy Dreams," in 1981.

Gilchrist published her first novel, "The Annunciation," in 1983, and the following year, a second collection of stories, "Victory Over Japan," which won the 1984 American Book Award for fiction. Gilchrist has continued to publish fiction, alternating between short story collections and novels. In 2000, she published "Collected Stories," which features 34 stories from seven different collections spanning her career.

A native of Mississippi, Gilchrist graduated from Millsaps College and did postgraduate study at the Univer-

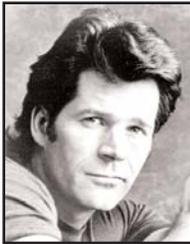
sity of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Johnson, a native of Charleston, graduated from Spring Valley High School in Columbia. She also graduated from Princeton University, and earned a Ph.D. from Yale University. She teaches at the University of South Carolina.

Johnson's primary research interest is African-American children's literature. She edited, along with Catherine Lewis, a special issue of "African American Review" (1998) devoted to black children's literature. She also wrote about Chinese American writer Laurence Yep in "Presenting Laurence Yep" (1995). Her current project with St. Martin's press is a collection of interview-essays with writers, illustrators, editors, publishers and others whose oral narratives are important in fully reconstructing a history of black children's literature.

She has begun a career as a writer of children's books. Her first book, "All Around Town" (1998) consists of a narrative accompanying the photographs of Richard Samuel Roberts, a South Carolina photographer in the early part of the 20th century. Her second book, "Sunday Week" (2000), takes the reader through the week's activities in the black community, culminating in Sunday services at Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Holly Hill. Her most recent books are "Quinnie Blue" (2000) and "Sitting Pretty: A Celebration of Black Dolls" (2000).

For more information about the Pee Dee Fiction Festival, visit the festival's website at <http://alpha1.fmarion.edu/~pdfiction/>



Dubus



Gilchrist



Johnson

Faculty/Staff News

Mary T. Dargan of Pamplico has joined the FMU staff as a custodian.

Jonathan R. Holmes of Florence has joined the FMU staff as an assistant men's basketball coach.

T. Michelle Weaver of Olanta has joined the FMU staff as a Human Resources assistant. She is a 1994 graduate of FMU with a B.B.A. degree.

George L. Gainey of Pamplico has joined the FMU staff as a lead groundskeeper.

Clabo to attend Division II FAR Fellows Institute

Francis Marion University's Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. D. Allen Clabo, has been selected to attend the second-annual NCAA Division II FAR Fellows Institute, Oct. 14-16, in Indianapolis, Ind.



Clabo

Clabo, an associate professor of chemistry at FMU, is beginning his second year as the FAR for the Patriot athletics program.

He is one of 22 FARs from across the nation chosen to attend the institute, and the lone Peach Belt Conference representative.

In addition to the three-day training session, faculty athletic representatives will have an opportunity for an open forum with the NCAA Management Council representatives.

Attendees are expected to stay in their position for some period of time after the institute in order to effectively carry out the objectives of the special joint initiative of FARA (Faculty Athletic Representatives Association) and Division II. They must commit to completing a project after developing an action plan at the institute, and then report on the outcomes of the project. Attendees must also be interested in mentoring other FARs.

A native of Columbia, Clabo

earned B.S. degrees in chemistry and physics (magna cum laude) from the University of Richmond and the Ph.D. degree in physical chemistry from the University of California (Berkeley).

The Faculty Athletic Representative, working in conjunction with the compliance coordinator, is responsible for the oversight of the academic eligibility of all student-athletes. Among his duties, the FAR administers annual recruiting tests to coaches, participates in mandated NCAA education sessions at the beginning of each semester and administers exit interviews to seniors at the end of the year, and reports all secondary and major violations to the NCAA or conference office.

Guidelines issued for President's Undergraduate Research Award

Submissions for the 2007 President's Undergraduate Research Award are now being accepted. Any research accepted by a professional conference or journal during the past year (including last spring semester and extending up to Feb. 15, 2007) that meets the guidelines below can be submitted for the 2007 competition. The following are the guidelines for the research competition:

1. The research must be completed and accepted by a professional conference or journal by Feb. 15, 2007. The intent here is to encourage serious research by high-achieving undergraduates in conjunction with faculty mentors. The conference/journal requirement provides an initial screening for the quality of the research.

2. Either the student or the faculty member may have initiated the project,

and either one may be first or second author. The only expectation here is that the undergraduate student be involved enough to merit, at least, joint authorship on the presentation and/or publication. The student may be either currently enrolled or a recent graduate of Francis Marion.

3. The research may come from any discipline and be in the format that is appropriate for the given discipline. The submission material should include four copies of the same finished product that was presented at the conference or published in the journal (If the submission is a conference presentation, please be sure to include any paper which was made available to attendees to take away from the presentation). Please include in the submission the author(s) name(s); the faculty member(s) involved either as co-

authors or research supervisors; the conference or journal where the work was accepted; and the location and date of the conference or anticipated date of publication.

4. The eventual winner will receive a monetary award (the standard amount given for many of our academic awards), a certificate, and have their name displayed on a plaque kept here at the university honoring their achievement. Funding for conference attendance or publication costs, for both faculty mentors and students, may be applied for through other campus funding sources.

5. Submissions should be sent to Tom Dorsel, Psychology Department, CEMC 109C, any time before Feb. 15, 2007. For further information, call Dorsel at 1634.



Pee Dee International Festival set for Oct. 21

Mark your calendars now! Francis Marion University will play host to the 14th-annual Pee Dee International Festival, Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of the festival, which is free and open to the public, is to foster a better understanding of the cultures represented in the Pee Dee and increase appreciation for the global community. The event will feature music, dance, food booths, cultural displays and activities for children. The festival will be held rain or shine.

This year's festival will feature Brasil Brazil, offering

the best-known standards of classic and contemporary Brazilian jazz. Samecumba, a Latin dance band from North Carolina, and the Florence-Darlington Strings will also perform.

The festival will also have exotic animals from Graystone Ranch. Kairik Amanki, "Indian Emperor of the Andes," will present music, art, and crafts from Ecuador.

For more information, call the FMU Community Relations Office at 1225.

Prof. David White to give Constitution Day speech, Sept. 21

Francis Marion University will observe Constitution Day, Thursday, Sept. 21, with a lecture by FMU political science professor David White.

The program will begin at 3:45 p.m. in the Cauthen Educational Media Center's Lowrimore Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

White's lecture is titled "Intelligently Designed: The Constitution and Congressional Evolution."

The talk will focus on what congressional methods have evolved since the adoption of the Constitution.

White has been a member of the FMU political science faculty since 2000.

Constitution Day honors the signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787. Sen. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia inserted language into the 2005 federal spending bill that requires

all educational institutions, including colleges and universities, which receive federal funds from any agency to have programming for Constitution Day.

Should Sept. 17 fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, as it does this year, educational institutions may observe the day the preceding or following week.

Office of Career Development to host Volunteer Fair, Sept. 27

The Francis Marion University Office of Career Development will host its 16th-annual Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Smith University Center commons area.

Representatives from area volunteer organizations who are in need of volunteers will set up booths and recruit students to become active in the community. Members of the public who are interested in volunteering are also invited to attend.

More than 20 volunteer agencies are expected to be on

hand for the fair. Organizations currently scheduled to participate include: Pee Dee Chapter American Red Cross, Pee Dee Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Housing Authority of Florence, Salvation Army, Pee Dee Coalition, Carolinas Hospital System, Family Connection, Childcare Connection, S.C. Doulas for Life Inc., Florence Area Literacy Council, and North Vista Elementary School.

For more information, call the FMU Office of Career Development at 1676.

National Players to perform 'Othello' at FMU, Sept. 25

The National Players will perform William Shakespeare's "Othello," Monday, Sept. 25, at Francis Marion University.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the McNair Science Building auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

Among the greatest of Shakespeare's plays, "Othello" is a searing tragedy of love turned into hate by the murdering poisons of jealousy.

National Players, America's longest running classical touring company,

has now reached its 58th consecutive season. Currently the touring program of Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, National Players has earned a distinctive place in American theater. Committed to the formation of young theatrical talent and audiences, National Players seeks to celebrate the experience of theatergoing by presenting the world's greatest dramatic literature.

Players' productions adhere to strict traditions of touring theater: company members double and triple, not

only in roles, but technical assignments such as lighting, sound, costumes, set-up and strike. National Players makes literature live for its audiences by touching minds and hearts. Each year, whether performing in inner city schools or in rural America, tour members continue the tradition by traveling state-to-state, sparking the imagination of audiences across the country.

More information about the group is available at <http://nationalplayers.tripod.com/>



Benefits Day scheduled for Oct. 5

Mark your calendar. Benefits Day will be held Thursday, Oct. 5, in the Smith University Center commons area from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. As in years past, a number of free and low-cost health screenings will be available, as well as many benefits-related exhibits. Door prizes will also be offered.

The Student Alumni Association is sponsoring a "Books Are Fun" book sale in conjunction with the Benefits Fair on Oct. 5. There will be over 250 titles at 40 to 70 percent off. Visitors will be able to find books, CDs, videos, and other assorted gift items. Visa, MasterCard, and personal checks will be accepted.

The FMU Athletic Department's annual chicken bog will also be held Oct. 5. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the lawn in front of the university center. Tickets are \$6 each. For tickets, call the athletic department at 1240 or 1242, or contact any athletic coach.

401K seminar to be held

South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program plan consultant

Kathy Diehl will present "Benefits of Your Plan" concerning 401K and 457 tax-deferred savings accounts, Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Lowrimore Auditorium. FMU employees are invited to attend. For more information, call Diehl at 803-754-7997 Ext. 6 or 803-333-0990, or e-mail her at kdiehl@citistreetonline.com

Healthy eating workshop set

The State Health Plan Prevention Partners will present a "Healthy Eating, Healthy Living" workshop, featuring Dana Jacobs, RD, Wednesday, Sept. 27, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Lee Nursing Building's Thomason Auditorium.

Proper nutrition is essential to successful management of diabetes and heart disease. This program will discuss making appropriate food choices, reading labels, serving sizes, healthy cooking and seasoning, and much more. The program is free for Employee Insurance Program subscribers, retirees and their families. For a registration form, contact Becky Culbertson at 1143.

Jobs On-Campus

(as of 9-12-06)

- Grant Writer for Center of Excellence Activities (Part-time, Temporary)
- Chief Information Officer
- Lead Groundskeeper
- Police Officer (2)
- Craftsman – Electrician
- Craftsman – Maintenance Mechanic
- Accounts Receivable Manager
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Accounting - Managerial/Cost Accounting
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Accounting -Financial Accounting
- Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Chair, Department of History
- Assistant Professor of Sociology (Criminal Justice)
- Assistant Professor of Sociology (Gerontology/Health)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Management
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Mass Communication (Broadcast Journalism)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology (Cognitive Psychology)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology (School Psychology)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology (Experimental Psychology)

Visit Human Resources, SAB 105, or call 1140.

Coming Up On Campus

SEPT.

- through Sept. 28 Art Gallery Series: "Vessels," ceramics by Hiroshi Sueyoshi, HFAC gallery
- through Oct. 26 Art Gallery Series: Paintings by Dr. John W. Baker, UC gallery
- through Sept. 28 Art Gallery Series: "Natural Selections," photographs and sculptures by Tom Herzog, HFAC gallery
- 25 8 pm Artist Series: "Othello," by William Shakespeare, performed by the National Players, McNair auditorium
- 28 2 pm Artist Lecture Demonstration by Hiroshi Sueyoshi, HFAC Room 121

OCT.

- 3 8 pm First Tuesday Arts Event: Concert: pianist Benjamin Woods, Kassab Hall, HFAC
- 10 3:45 pm AAUP Fall 2006 Faculty Forum, The Cottage
- 18 4 pm COE Fall Colloquium: Speaker Fay Brown, McNair auditorium

Patriot Digest deadlines

Patriot Digest is published twice monthly and distributed on paydays. The printing schedule is:

<u>Copy due</u>	<u>Publication</u>
Sept. 22	Sept. 29

Submit articles via e-mail at thudak@fmarion.edu. Questions or comments? Contact Todd J. Hudak at 1227.

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