

Patriot Digest

The Francis Marion University Faculty and Staff Newsletter

Jan. 15, 2007

Dixon named chief information officer

John B. Dixon has been named chief information officer at Francis Marion University.

His responsibilities include developing and directing an organizational structure which provides integrated academic and administrative technology to include infrastructure and telecommunications, data systems management and user support.

"John Dixon brings a wealth of expertise in the integration of university academic and administrative systems," said FMU President Fred Carter. "He is a wonderful addition to the university."

Most recently, Dixon was director of information technology at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, for three years. Prior to that, he was director of information systems at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., for 15 years. During his tenure at both institutions, he designed and led the development of several student management software applications, installed and set up computer networks and wrote applications to assist in data management.

Dixon's vision for FMU is simple. He said, "I just want to get a handle on the expectations of faculty, staff and the students by conducting focus groups," said Dixon. "Then I want to determine how realistic those expectations are, balanced with the resources of the university." A native of Fayetteville, N.C., Dixon earned the B.A. degree from Lee College and the M.B.A. from the University of Tennessee. Dixon also served a five-year stint in the U.S. Air Force.

Dixon and his wife, Donna, will reside in Florence.



Dixon

Lunn Scholarship established at FMU

A scholarship has been established by Francis Marion University in memory of Rebecca S. Lunn, former coordinator of provisional programs.

The Rebecca S. Lunn African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition Scholarship was created to pay tribute to Lunn's 30 years of service to FMU and her dedication to the coalition.

During her tenure, Lunn advised many students through their transitional year into the university. She also served as parliamentarian of the FMU African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition.

"Rebecca had a great love for this institution and its students," said FMU President Fred Carter. "It's most fitting that we honor her in perpetuity through the naming of this scholarship."

The scholarship is designated for minority students with financial need, to assist them in achieving their educational and career goals.

"Rebecca Lunn was a strong leader and a dedicated educator. If she believed in a cause, she fought for it to the end," said Becote. "This is another opportunity to help deserving minority students achieve their goals."

The scholarship will be funded annually in the amount of \$1,000, with one \$500 scholarship being awarded each semester.

"I think it is fitting and proper that my sister Rebecca should be paid this kind of tribute," said Rennie Lunn-McAllister. "My family and I wish to thank President Carter for his vision and the entire university family for their realization of that vision."

King named chairman of Biology Department

Peter King has been named chairman of the Francis Marion University Department of Biology.

He replaces Julia Krebs who stepped down after serving more than seven

years to return to classroom teaching.

King is a professor of biology and coordinator of the biology pre-professional programs at FMU and has been cited for his service to the community and state and for service on numerous university committees.

"President Carter and I are delighted that the biology faculty recommended Peter King to be the chair of the new Department of Biology," said FMU provost Richard Chapman. "He



King

is a distinguished member of the faculty who will do a fine job as department chair."

He earned a certificate of horticulture at Sydney Technical College, a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Technology in Australia, a bachelor's degree in animal biology and geography from the University of New England in Australia, and a doctorate in zoology from N.C. State University.

Prior to joining the FMU faculty in 1996, the Australia native taught at N.C. State University and worked as a research assistant and laboratory demonstrator at the University of New England. Before embarking on his academic career, King was a farmer.

His professional affiliations are numerous.

FMU Alum to return to library

Rogers Library will host a University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science intern this semester. Mike Berry graduated from Francis Marion University in 2002 with a bachelor's in English. He completed a master's in English at the University of South Carolina in 2005 and is currently completing his last semester of the School of Library and Information Science program at USC.

He has worked at Thomas Cooper Library at USC in Rare Books and Special Collections for the past two years. There, he has worked as a graduate assistant to the head of Rare Books and the department's archivist. At present, he is the stacks manager at the library. Additionally, he is an adjunct instructor for the first-year English program at USC where he teaches English 101 and 102. He and his wife are currently living in Sumter.

FMU English Professor Dies at 69

Clarence Pope (Tony) Huggins Jr., 69, a distinguished associate professor of English at Francis Marion University, died Jan. 9 at Pawleys Island.

"As a longtime member of the faculty, Dr. Huggins was held in high esteem by his colleagues and had many friends at the university," said FMU Provost Richard Chapman. "He truly will be missed."

Huggins came to FMU in 1974 and taught English and film and video production. He retired from FMU in August of 2006 and moved from Darlington to Pawleys Island.

Huggins was born in Boston, Va., but grew up in Kingstree. He graduated from Kingstree High in 1954 and then Davidson College in 1959. Later, he attended Duke Divinity School and Edinburgh University in Scotland. His studies were interrupted in 1960 when he was called to serve in the U.S. Army as an intelligence officer. After completing his military obligations, he received the master's degree from UNC Chapel Hill in American Literature. Huggins completed doctoral degrees in English and education at the University of South Carolina.

Surviving are his wife, Marion, and two sons, Clarence III, and Geoffrey. A graveside service will be held at noon Saturday, Jan. 13, in Grove Hill Cemetery directed by Belk Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pee Dee Land Trust, P.O. Box 4, Darlington, 29540 or the Darlington Free Medical Clinic, c/o Darlington Presbyterian Church, 311 Pearl St. Darlington, 29532.

FMU Ranked 6th in preseason

The Francis Marion University baseball team, fresh off its first trip to the NCAA Division II College World Series, is ranked sixth in the preseason 2007 Collegiate Baseball Magazine Division II Top 40 poll.

The Patriots ended a record-setting 2006 season ranked sixth with a 41-18 mark. Francis Marion made its third NCAA tournament appearance in four years.

FMU head coach Art Inabinet welcomes back 18 lettermen, including six position starters, from last year's squad.

Prior to leaving Florence to attend

the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) National Convention in Orlando, Fla., where he will be recognized as the 2006 South Atlantic Region Coach of the Year, Inabinet said, "This is a great honor and nice recognition for the student-athletes we have in our program. However, our focus is to obtain a high ranking in the 2007 final poll."

The Patriots open their 2007 schedule on Feb. 3 with a home double-header against Belmont Abbey College. Inabinet enters his seventh year at FMU with a 184-125-1 record at the helm of the Patriots.

Scholarships Available from Pee Dee Federal Credit Union

For the 11th consecutive year, the Pee Dee Federal Credit Union Board of Directors has approved \$2,000 in scholarship funds to be awarded for the 2007 fall semester. Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College will each receive \$1,000 to award to three credit union members. Qualifying is easy...incoming freshmen need to have a 3.0 + GPA. The schools choose the recipients using guidelines set by the credit union. The deadline to apply for these scholarships is April 1.

In addition, the credit union has partnered with the Carolinas Credit Union Foundation to bring members another scholarship opportunity. Recipients may attend the college, university or technical school of their choice. This scholarship is based on academics and financial need. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Feb. 23.

Members may pick up an application and obtain qualifying criteria at the credit union, or contact the participating school directly. The credit union management is asking faculty and staff who know students who would be eligible for the scholarships, to encourage them to join the credit union and apply.

For more information, contact Sheila Derrick, director of marketing at Pee Dee Federal Credit Union, 305 W. Pine St., PO Box 1391, Florence, S.C. 29503, by phone at 843-669-0461, by fax at 843-678-9053 or by email at sderrick@pdfcu.org.



Faculty/Staff News

Trisha L. Bezmen has joined the FMU business faculty.

John B. Dixon has joined the FMU staff as chief information officer.

Karen K. Gittings of Darlington will become a full-time nursing faculty member after having worked part-time.

Laurence R. Paquette of Fayetteville, N.C. has joined the FMU business faculty.

Jennifer L. Taylor of Effingham has joined the FMU staff as an administrative associate for the Psychology and Sociology Departments.

Kevin A. Torgersen of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a computer technician.

Frances E. S. Vergara of Florence has joined the FMU business faculty.

Faculty member **Carolyn R. Stokes** retired from the School of Business.

Flint and Cynthia Harding had their first child Dec. 27, Samuel Lawson Harding. Their baby boy weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long.

A. Marshall and Penny Connor had their first child Jan. 10, Alistair Bryson Connor. Their baby boy weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 19 inches long.

A. Marshall Connor, coordinator of freshmen admissions, earned a Master of Education degree.

Franck Named Associate Dean of Business

David Franck of Florence has been appointed associate dean of the School of Business at Francis Marion University.

Franck replaces Robert T. Barrett who has accepted a position at another university.

As associate dean, Franck will be heavily involved with scheduling, accreditation, assessment, faculty qualification and other areas relating to the day-to-day operation of the School of Business.

FMU's School of Business has 27 faculty members and majors in eight business areas as well as two minor degrees.

"Professor Franck has already made his mark as a distinguished member of our economics program," said Provost Richard Chapman.

"As associate dean of the school of business, he will have an opportunity to play an even larger role as a leader of our business programs."

A member of the FMU faculty since 2001, Franck holds the title of John Kassab Professor of Business and associate professor of economics. He twice received the Excellence in Research and Excellence

in Teaching awards from The University of Tennessee at Martin. Franck is an honorary member and adviser of Phi Chi Theta and is also a member of several other business and economics organizations.

The New Hampshire native began his second career in academics in 1991 after working as a salesman for nearly five years.

Franck earned an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University, a graduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a doctorate from the University of Georgia.

He has contributed to the literature in the field of economics, finance and business through articles in journals such as the Journal of Economics and Finance, the Southern Economic Journal and the Journal of Economic Development. He also has conducted numerous regional and national scholarly presentations.



Franck

Carter Named Coordinator of Business Development for NESAs

Ronald D. Carter of Lake City, S.C., recently joined the FMU staff as coordinator of business development for the North East Strategic Alliance (NESAs).

Formed in 2000, NESAs assists Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties in coordinating, planning, and sharing resources. The alliance also promotes the joint development of the historic Pee Dee and Waccamaw regions of South Carolina.

As NESAs's business development coordinator, Carter's responsibilities include contacting both foreign and American companies, collaborating with local leaders to pursue economic growth and working with existing industries to better address industrial needs within the region. Carter was previously employed as a research consultant for NESAs.

Carter, an FMU alum, is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma and Sigma Tau Delta honor societies and Delta Sigma Pi International Business Fraternity. He earned a bachelor of business administration-management degree in spring 2006 and graduated with university honors.

Want the latest news about the Patriots?

Join the FMU sports e-mail list by e-mailing Michael Hawkins at mhawkins@fmarion.edu



Human Resources Update

EstateGuidance allows employees to create wills online

The Hartford, provider of the Basic and Optional Life insurance benefits for FMU employees, is offering subscribers the chance to create a simple will online. FMU employees can create a will online by following the directions provided and supplying information at the prompts. In addition, licensed attorneys are available to respond to questions online, and subscribers can create a will at their convenience within thirty days of signing up. Subscribers can also change or revoke their wills at any time.

Interested employees should contact Rebecca Culbertson, coordinator of benefits, at 1143 or email her at rculbertson@fmarion.edu to obtain a promotional code to access the EstateGuidance website at www.EstateGuidance.com/wills.

Women's Health Workshop

On Monday, Jan. 29, Prevention Partners will hold a workshop on women's health issues from 3:45 to 5 p.m. in the Thomason Auditorium of the Lee Nursing Building. This workshop is free to state employees and their family members.

For more information or to register, contact Rebecca Culbertson, coordinator of benefits, at 1143 or email her at rculbertson@fmarion.edu.

FMU has new AIG VALIC representative

Francis Marion University has been assigned a new AIG VALIC representative. AIG VALIC offers retirement programs, both through the State of S.C. Optional Retirement Program and through the 403b supplemental tax-deferred annuity. Enoch Booth officially took over the duties as FMU's representative with the retirement of Ted Hull on Jan. 2.

For an appointment with Enoch, call Rebecca Culbertson, at 1143.

Jobs On-Campus

(as of 1-08-07)

- Grant Writer for Center of Excellence Activities (Part-time, Temporary)
- Police Officer
- Assistant/Associate/Professor of Accounting -Financial Accounting
- Chair, Department of History Assistant Professor of Sociology (Gerontology/Health)
- Assistant/Associate/Professor of Management
- Assistant Professor of Psychology (Cognitive Psychology)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology (Experimental Psychology)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Education (Elementary Education)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Education (Special Education)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Education (Educational Research)
- Assistant Professor of English
- Assistant Professor of Art Education
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Theatre History
- Instructor of Chemistry
- Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs
- Assistant/Associate/Professor of Nursing
- Assistant Professor of Spanish
- Assistant Professor of Biology
- Assistant Professor of Physics Craftsman
- Assistant Professor of Management
- Administrative Assistant – Chemistry and Education

Visit Human Resources
SAB 105, or call ext. 1140

Coming Up On Campus

JANUARY

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|-------------|--------------------|---|
| 2 – Feb. 15 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Art Gallery Series: Pastel Drawings by Tulla Lightfoot, HFAC gallery |
| 2 – Feb. 15 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Art Gallery Series: Ceramic Head Pots by David Hooker, HFAC gallery |
| 9 – March 8 | 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Art Gallery Series: Soulscape: Drawings and Paintings by Harry Arnette McFadden, Tim Green and Randall Fulton, CU gallery |
| 16 | 3:30 and 8 p.m. | Film Series: Kim Ki-Duk's 3-Iron, CEMC |

Patriot Digest Deadlines

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