

Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

July 15, 2007

Sims named director of FMU Performing Arts Center

FMU President Fred Carter recently announced that Laura Sims, of Knoxville, Tenn., will assume the position of managing director for the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center no later than Aug. 15.

"Laura Sims brings a wealth of experience at managing academically-based theatres," Carter said. "She'll be a welcome addition to this campus and this community."

Sims has more than a decade of experience in theatre management, with the past seven of those years as the production manager at the Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville, Tenn. She is responsible for developing and overseeing budgets for six productions per season and three performance spaces that have an annual budget of \$3 million and a \$14 million endowment fund. She was the production stage manager for The Self Family Arts Center in Hilton Head for three years prior to her work at the Clarence Brown Theatre.



Location for the FMU Performing Arts Center. Building design is in the preliminary stages.

As managing director for the FMU Performing Arts Center, Sims will provide advice during the construction of the facility, and manage and provide financial oversight, including budget development and administration.

In addition, she will collaborate with FMU arts faculty and various community arts groups to facilitate the needs of FMU arts programs, the City of Florence, and the surrounding

region.

"I'm looking forward to joining this wonderful group associated with the university and the community at large as they endeavor to revitalize the downtown area," Sims said. "I am excited about working with the community to create a place for them to enjoy and participate in the arts throughout the Pee Dee region through

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FMU begins 38th year

Francis Marion University officially begins its 38th year with the start of fall classes in August.

A final orientation session for students will be held Aug. 7.

A new faculty orientation is scheduled Friday, Aug. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Lowrimore Auditorium. Lunch will be served in the President's Dining Room in Ervin

Dining Hall following orientation. Housing for new students opens at 8 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 18, and housing for continuing students opens at 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 19.

It's still not too late to apply for fall classes. Students should contact the Admissions Office at 843-661-1231 as soon as possible, or they can

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Director . . . *Continued from front*

the use of the facility.”

Sims earned a master of fine arts degree in stage management from the University of Missouri (Kansas City) and a bachelor’s degree in theatre from Auburn University. In addition, she was an arts administration fellow for the National Endowment of the Arts.

“I am eager to work with Laura Sims, who will be a wonderful addition to the community and this university,” said Larry Anderson, chair of the FMU Fine Arts Department. “The faculty is

also excited to have her.”

After interviewing the five finalists recommended by the search committee in April, the list was narrowed to two. The finalists were Lindsay Gambini, executive director of theatre management and programming at Kean University in Union, N.J., and Sims.

“Both of the finalists were impressive but in the final analysis, Laura Sims seemed to be the better fit for this specific position,” said FMU Provost Richard N. Chapman, chairman of the search committee.

The performing arts center will contain space for theatrical and musical performances, instructional classrooms and office space. FMU’s fine arts program will use the center for performances, programs and art exhibits. National traveling music, dance and theater productions will be booked to perform at the center as well.

The center will be located on the back

portion of the vacant lot at the corner of Palmetto and South Dargan streets and is situated along Cheves Street. The building will include a 900-seat multi-purpose auditorium with a 90-foot tower. The tower will include a lighting setup for theatrical productions.

A black box theater building and a building for classroom and office space will be situated on either side of the center’s front entrance. The three main building sections will be constructed with South Carolina granite. The front entrance area will have a glazed surface. A drop-off area, handicapped and limited school bus parking will be located along the Cheves Street facade.

Also included in the plans are a 400- to 500-seat outdoor amphitheater with a shallow reflecting pond and an outdoor seating area with a fountain. The amphitheater and seating area aren’t included in the building’s \$22 million budget, but the funds will be raised independently, Carter said.

Jobs on Campus

7-11-07

- ❖ **Adjunct English Faculty (Part-Time)**
- ❖ **Part-Time Chemistry Laboratory Instructor**
- ❖ **Part-Time Instructor of Mathematics**
- ❖ **Part-Time Press Operator**
- ❖ **Instructor/Assistant Professor of English**
- ❖ **Instructor/Assistant Professor of Nursing**
- ❖ **Director of Business Development – NESA**
- ❖ **Library Technical Assistant – Circulation**
- ❖ **Director of Network Security and Project Management**
- ❖ **Assistant Professor of Mathematics**
- ❖ **Reference Librarian**
- ❖ **Custodian**
- ❖ **Lead Groundskeeper**
- ❖ **Director of Rural Community Health Programs**
- ❖ **Assistant/Associate Professor of History**

Visit Human Resources in SAB, Rm 105 or call ext. 1140.



Francis Marion Head Baseball Coach Art Inabinet instructs campers at the recent 2007 FMU Baseball Camp. The camp was for players ages 7 to 12.



38th year . . . *Continued from front*

file an application online through the university's web site at www.fmarion.edu. New students must be admitted through FMU's Admissions Office prior to registering for classes.

Last-minute students will be able to attend an orientation session Monday, Aug. 20. Students also will be able to meet with their advisers for open registration and pay their fees on Aug. 20.

FMU president Fred Carter will welcome all faculty members back to campus with a breakfast on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 8:30 a.m. in Ervin Dining Hall. A luncheon for new faculty and mentors will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the dining hall.

The first day of fall semester classes is Wednesday, Aug. 22. Late registration and drop/add will be held Aug. 21-28.

A number of events will welcome students back to campus. At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, Baptist Collegiate Ministries will sponsor a "Welcome Back Cookout" on the Smith University Center lawn. A New Student Organizations Fair will be held in the university center commons from 1 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 22. The fair will introduce new students to many of the organizations, clubs, departments and activities available to them at FMU. Hypnotist Jim Wand will perform from 5 to 11 p.m. in the gymnasium on Aug. 29. Area businesses will provide information about their services to students at a community fair Aug. 22, from 12 to 3 p.m. in the university center commons.

FMU students will have access to a state-of-the-art child care center soon. Construction of the Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child that will be used to train FMU students in early childhood education, psychology, and nursing and as a site for research and community services is underway. The center will serve 100 preschool children ages infant to five years.

FMU's School of Education and the Department of Psychology will work jointly to improve the physical, academic, social, emotional and economic well-being of children and their families through the center. Students from the School of Education will receive training through observational labs at the center allowing them to pull back the curtain and monitor the learning behaviors of children, according to James Ron Faulkenberry, dean of the FMU School of Education and professor of education.

An integral part of this undertaking is the offering of child care service for children ages six weeks to five years old for children of students, faculty, staff and community members, according to psychology professor John R. Hester, who was named director of FMU's Center for the Child in 2005.

The center boasts the names of Gail and Terry Richardson of Barnwell, a couple who have been long-time supporters of Francis Marion University, and enthusiastic proponents for establishing the Center for the Child.

This 15,000 square-foot, one-story facility will be located on a site near the Pee Dee Education Center on the campus of FMU. The university has a long-established partnership with the Pee Dee Education Center, a 30-year consortium of 19 school districts, working together to impact the educational careers of almost 70,000 children.

The cost of the facility is expected to be approximately \$3.5 million. The facility is in the design phase, and now includes a child-care wing of two infant rooms, two toddler rooms, two rooms for three- and four-year-olds, and two rooms for four- and five year-olds; an office area for psychology and education faculty members; a central lobby and library that will function as a family waiting area; observation and assessment rooms; and an outdoor play

area.

Other projects are also underway. Phase II of Forest Villas apartments, which will add another 190 beds to campus housing, and renovation of McNair Auditorium, the indoor swimming pool, Founder's Hall and Cauthen Media Center are all scheduled to be complete this year.

The university has also put up a new sign inviting students to campus.

FMU offers undergraduate degrees in 40 disciplines and 10 graduate programs in education, business and psychology. The university also offers several pre-professional and cooperative degree programs with other South Carolina universities.

Events Calendar

July/August

Artist Series May 22-July 24
The Quilting Way II: Quilts by the Swamp Fox Quilters Guild
8:30-5 pm, Mon-Fri • UC Gallery

Observatory Aug. 20 & 21
(Weather permitting) Call 661-1355

Dooley Planetarium July 22
To Worlds Unknown
3 pm • CEMC, Second Floor

Staff Awards Luncheon July 25
12 noon • Ervin Dining Hall

Orientation Aug. 7
Final Session
For information, contact 661-1231

Hewn Timber Cabins Aug. 14
Open for public viewing
10:30 am-2:30 pm

Graduate Orientation Aug. 20
5 - 6 pm in CEMC, Rm 225
For information, contact 661-1460

Fall Classes Begin Aug. 22

FMU hosts entrepreneurship camp

Francis Marion University hosted 16 students from area high schools for a week-long business camp from July 7 to 15.

The camp was conducted by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), and was co-sponsored by Wachovia and Bank of America. NFTE has conducted business camps at schools including Duke University and New York University.

During the residential program, the students learned business principles through classroom instruction as well as competitions and games. Guest speakers made presentations to the campers. In the evenings, students participated in fun events such as attending a Florence Red Wolves game, watching movies, and visiting Mr. Mark's Fun Park.

This business camp allowed students to learn about entrepreneurship and how to make an honest living at an early age. Students also had an opportunity to prepare a business plan as a major project. At the end of the camp, four business plans were presented and a winner was chosen during a closing reception in FMU's Lowrimore Auditorium.

Through entrepreneurship education, NFTE helps young people from low income communities build skills and unlock their entrepreneurial creativity.



Students receive instruction from Brandi Cook, NFTE instructor, during an Entrepreneurship Camp.

Jimmy Bailey, YEScarolina executive director, said, "The training teaches students what the program is and how to start, maintain, and run their own business."

NFTE is designed to change students' attitudes. Since 1987, the program has reached more than 120,000 young people, trained more than 3,700 Certified Entrepreneurship Teachers, and continually improved its innovative entrepreneurship curriculum.

Joe Aniello, an FMU business professor and executive director of the university's Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute said, "Thanks to the generosity of Wachovia and Bank of America, we are able to hold the camp this year."

He also said, "Our hope is to have a camp every summer, exposing it to more schools in the Pee Dee."

For more information about the business camp, contact Aniello at 843-661-1430 or email him at janiello@fmarion.edu.

Faculty/Staff News

Former associate dean of the School of Business and Palmetto Professor of Business, **Bob Barrett's**, father, Troy Barrett, passed away July 9 in Cary, N.C. after an extended illness.

Steven B. Coté, Jr. of Florence, a recent FMU graduate, has joined the FMU staff as a student services counselor for admissions.



Coté

Benjamin R. Daniel of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a senior administrative assistant for financial assistance.

Meredith Love-Steinmetz and her husband, Jeff, would like to announce the birth of their son Peter James Steinmetz who arrived at 7:23 p.m. Monday, July 9. He weighs 7 lbs, 6 oz. and is 21 inches long.

Digest Deadline

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

Submit copy to the editor by July 27 for the July 31 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at acrosland@fmarion.edu or at ext. 1227.



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