

Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

December 14, 2007

Gower, Hodges to receive honorary degrees

A former governor and a Florence businessman will be awarded honorary degrees from Francis Marion University during fall commencement ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Smith University Center gymnasium.

Selected to receive honorary doctoral degrees are Emerson Gower Jr., of Florence and Gov. James "Jim" Hodges of Columbia.

Hodges will also be the commencement speaker for the 267 candidates for FMU degrees. Candidates include 185 students for undergraduate degrees and 82 for graduate diplomas.

A Lancaster native, Hodges served as the 114th governor of South Carolina. During his tenure, he established an education lottery in 2001 that today provides college scholarships for more than 100,000 students. He also created First Steps, a "public-private" pre-school readiness program impacting thousands of preschoolers and provided one billion dollars in bonded school construction resources – without a tax increase – resulting in new school building improvements across the state.

The former governor was very active with the National Governors Association during his tenure serving as chairman of the Economic Development and Commerce, Human Resources and Legal Affairs committees.

He also served on various other regional and national boards including the Southern Growth Policies Board (Chair 2002) and the Southern Technology Council (Chair 2001) and received the Travel Industry Association's National Special Service Award in 2002. He received honorary degrees for public service to the State of South Carolina from: University of South Carolina, 1998; Winthrop



Gov. James "Jim" Hodges

Carolina School of Business.

Hodges served 11 years in the S.C. House of Representatives (1986-1997) where he chaired the chamber's lead law making body, the House Judiciary Committee. He also served as minority leader. During his legislative service, he was instrumental in the creation of full-day kindergarten, landmark government restructuring and significant judicial reform initiatives.

From 1990 to 1997, Hodges served as general counsel and secretary of the Springs Company. While there, Hodges served on the Springs Company board of directors working with a variety of affiliates including Kanawha Insurance Company, Lancaster and Chester Railway Company, Charter Properties, various Springs real estate development companies, and the Springs and Close Foundations.

Hodges joined Charlotte-based Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman L.L.P. in 2003 as a partner. In addition, he serves as CEO of Hodges Consulting Group, a business-to-government solutions firm located in Columbia.

Previously, Hodges served as Lancaster County attorney, and was in private practice for eight years.

Hodges is a 1979 graduate of USC where he earned a bachelor's degree in business. He graduated from the USC School of Law in 1982.

Hodges and his wife Rachel live in Columbia with their two sons, Luke, age 11, and Sam, age nine.

Gower is vice president of the Southern Region of Progress Energy, making him responsible for delivering electric service to 315,000 customers in northeastern South Carolina and south-central North Carolina.

Progress Energy, headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., is a Fortune 250 energy company with more than 21,000 megawatts of generation capacity and \$10 billion in annual revenues. The company includes two major utilities that serve more than 3.1 million customers in the Carolinas and Florida.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Gower joined the company in 1970 and has worked in a variety of capacities throughout the Carolinas and Washington, D.C.

Gower is a past chairman of the S.C. Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Foundation, the S.C. Chamber of

continued on page 3

On the Inside

🔗 Jobs on Campus

Page 2

🔗 Events Calendar

Page 3

🔗 Faculty/Staff News

Pages 3, 4

University, 1999; South Carolina State University, 1999; and The Citadel, 2000. He also received the Silver Medallion Compleat Lawyer Award from the University of South Carolina School of Law and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of South

Jobs on Campus

12-11-07

- Assistant/Associate Professor of History
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing
- Assistant Professor of Political Science - Comparative Politics/International Relations
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Economics
- Assistant Professor of Management
- Assistant Professor of Spanish
- Assistant Professor of English (Rhetoric and Composition)
- Assistant Professor of Education
- Coordinator of Student Activities
- Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Part-Time Press Operator
- Assistant Professor Chemistry
- Assistant Professor of Music
- Assistant Data Coordinator (Admissions)
- Chair of Computer Science Department
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Computer Science
- Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Director of Compliance
- Investor Relations/Marketing Manager-North Eastern Strategic Alliance
- Assistant Director of the Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute
- Lead Teacher (certified in early-childhood education)
- Lead Teacher
- Senior Administrative Assistant - Financial Assistance
- Student Services Counselor - Admissions
- Part-time Math Instructor
- Part-time/Temporary Teaching Assistants (Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child)
- Part-time Teaching Assistant/Floater (Business)
- Part-time/Temporary Substitute Teaching Assistants (Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child)
- Part-time French instructor

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

Public school teachers and faculty members receive grants from COE

The Francis Marion University Center of Excellence (COE) to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty recently awarded 10 professional development grants to public school teachers in area districts and FMU faculty members.

Ten teachers from six schools in five COE partnering districts and nine FMU faculty members were awarded more than \$21,000 collectively for research and professional development projects that address issues for students in grades preschool through 12. Public school teachers were awarded \$11,909.87, while FMU faculty members received \$9,223.88 to fund their projects.

Partnering districts receiving the competitive grants were Clarendon School District Two, Darlington County School District, Florence School District One, Florence School District Three and Marion School District Seven.

Details of public school teachers' funded projects follow:

Tscharner Lord and Wendy Ray of Manning Primary School in Clarendon School District Two – "Enriching the Brains of Poverty" provides staff development for teachers, which includes a book study on Eric Jensen's book: *Enriching the Brain: How to Maximize Every Learner's Potential*. Three teachers will attend a conference in Charlotte, N.C., as part of this project.

Sarah Andrews and Donna Barrett of Carolina Elementary School in Darlington County School District – The Afterschool Tutoring Program will provide afterschool tutoring in math and language arts to 40 students from low-income families.

Stacey Stafford of McLaurin Elementary School in Florence School District One – "Experience for a Lifetime" gives 91 first grade students the opportunity to go on a field trip to Edventure Museum in Columbia and create PowerPoint presentations and scrapbooks to take home.

Carol Hill of South Florence High School in Florence School District One – "Preparing Students of Poverty for Careers in Science-Related Fields" provides Gizmo software for three teachers to assist ninth grade students in passing the physical science portion of the end of course exam and the basic physical science class.

Sherri Yarborough of Main Street Elementary in Florence School District Three in Lake City – "BET: Building Experiences Together" takes 17 four-year-old students on five field trips throughout the state for hands-on experiences.

Waymon Edmonds, Nancy Etman and Mary Stacey of Britton's Neck Elementary School in Marion School District Seven – Creates an electronic news magazine designed to teach impoverished students the various aspects of journalism and technology.

continued on page 4

Knowles named assistant provost for academic affairs

Travis Knowles of Florence, a distinguished teacher and associate professor of biology, was recently named assistant provost for academic affairs at the university.

Knowles will handle student concerns and issues involving allegations of plagiarism and academic dishonesty among other duties. He will assume some of the duties previously handled by FMU Associate Provost Ken Kitts who has the added responsibility of overseeing the enrollment management division.

"I am elated that Travis has accepted our offer to join the university's administration," said FMU Provost Richard Chapman. "He is highly respected by his colleagues and is well-suited for this position."

Knowles began his career at FMU as an instructor of biology in 1991. Over the years, he has been cited for his outstanding classroom teaching, leading study travel courses to places like Costa Rica, the western United States and southern Appalachians, and for helping with honors program field trips in the United States. He also has led informal faculty-student book discussions since 1998.

In 1999, Knowles co-authored the paper, "The Distribution and Ecology of the Northern Flying Squirrel, *Glaucomys sabrinus coloratus*, in the Southern Appalachians," published by the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

In addition, his article re-titled "Twilight on Bald Mountain," appeared in the March-April 1999 issue of *The Sciences* magazine.

He was given the Award for Excellence in Teaching for 1999-2000. In August 2007, Knowles was promoted to associate professor of biology.

A native of Meadows of Dan, Va., Knowles earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Wake Forest University where he also received a master's degree in biology.



Travis Knowles

FMU to close for holidays

Francis Marion University will close for the holidays, beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20. The university will re-open on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

All FMU administrative offices, including the Rogers Library and the Smith University Center, will be closed during that time.

Commencement will be Saturday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. in the Smith University Center.

Events Calendar

December/ January

Commencement Smith University Center 10 a.m.	Dec. 15
Dooley Planetarium "The Christmas Star" 3 p.m.	Dec. 16 CEMC
FMU closes for holidays	Dec. 20
FMU reopens	Jan. 2
Housing opens for New/ Continuing Students	Jan. 6
Spring Registration	Jan. 7
Spring Classes Begin	Jan. 8
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; University Closed	Jan. 21

Registration for spring classes will be held Monday, Jan. 7. Spring classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 8. For registration information, contact the FMU Admissions Office at 1231 or 1-800-368-7551.

SBI officials visit Wilson High



Briana Zhang, administrative associate of the Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute, and Dennis V. Burke, owner of Krutr Specialty Store speak to students at Wilson High about entrepreneurship. SBI works with Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE).

Honorary degrees...continued from front

Commerce, the Coker College board of trustees and the Francis Marion University Campaign for Excellence Steering Committee. He is a member of the Florence Rotary Club, the North Carolina Zoological Society board of directors, the S.C. Climate, Energy & Commerce Advisory Committee, the Clemson University Engineering School Advisory Board, the Wachovia Bank Advisory Board and the FMU Foundation board of directors.

He is past director of the Florence County Economic Development Partnership and director of the S.C. Manufacturers Alliance. Gower is also a past deacon of the First Baptist Church in Florence.

Gower is a graduate of Campbell University.

He and his wife Jane have two children: Ashley, a graduate of Clemson University and USC who resides in Columbia, while Emerson III, who is a USC graduate, attends dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Gower's first granddaughter Madison was born on July 1, 2006.

FMU ARCH Program awarded grant worth more than \$98,000

Not only will Francis Marion University's new Advancing Rural Community Health Program (ARCH) offer basic testing of blood pressure and blood sugar, but also extensive cholesterol, hemoglobin A1C and kidney function screenings thanks to a Prevention Partners grant of \$98,256 administered through the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant will pay for comprehensive health screenings for underserved patients to prevent chronic disease and promote early intervention in the Pee Dee counties of Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg. The ARCH program obtained the grant with the help of three community partners - Marion Regional Health System, CareSouth

Carolina and Black River Healthcare. The focus of the grant is on diabetes, hypertension, elevated cholesterol and kidney disease.

"Control of diabetes and hypertension, the two most common causes of deterioration in kidney function, is a difficult task at best, especially in our three county target area," said Paul DeMarco, director of the ARCH Program. "Through this grant, we can offer screenings that may help a patient to see in more concrete terms that his or her kidney function is abnormal and spur action."

The ARCH program plans to offer 60 screenings in 2008. Through paid fellowships offered through the ARCH program which receives funding from the Kassab

Foundation, FMU students will assist a supervising health care provider with the screenings. There will be two screenings a week for 15 weeks in each of the two semesters. The screenings will be divided equally among the three counties.

"As a physician, I am optimistic that these more in-depth screenings will provide a strong motivation for patients to become concerned about their health and make salutary changes," said DeMarco. "I believe it will be another tool to help change patient behavior. It may also help stimulate a dialogue between the patient and the physician or other health care provider about kidney health."

COE grants... *continued from page 2*

Details of FMU faculty members' funded projects follow:

Nursing Professors Julia Hucks and Barbara Westphal – Their project focuses on Williams Middle School in Florence School District One and involves obesity awareness related to effectiveness of weight management/loss programs utilized in middle schools. The two FMU faculty members will attend a professional development workshop in Washington, D.C. on the curriculum to be used.

Education Professor Kathryn G. Haselden – "Education Full Circle: Making the Connection Between Literacy Instruction at School & Home" calls for Haselden and her students to work with students and parents at Latta Early Childhood Center in Dillon

School District Three on building relationships between school and home.

Education Professors Daljit Kaur and Marla Sanders – "Educating Children of Poverty: The Role of the School Administrator" is a research study to investigate the role of the school administrator in working with children of poverty.

Education Professors Shirley Bausmith, Daljit Kaur, Janis McWayne and Tracy Meetze – The group will conduct a qualitative research study to investigate how FMU graduate students have applied qualitative research skills in improving teaching strategies with children of poverty. They will work with teachers in Marion School District One, Two and Seven.

Faculty/Staff News

Abby Wurster, assistant professor of theatre, has written an article that has been accepted for publication. The article, "Folk Costumes of the Balkans," focuses on the

different ethnic costumes for several central European countries. The research was completed during the course of a three-week tour of Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the Czech Republic over the summer. The tour was in conjunction with the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and made stops at several different theatres in those countries. The tour culminated in an international theatre conference in Prague. The conference was kicked off

by a large-scale carnival parade, with the participants dressed as birds, parading through the city of Prague. Wurster was also a participant in the parade. The article will appear in the fall 2007 edition of USITT's national peer-reviewed publication, TD&T (Theatre Design and Technology), and will be archived on the organization's website for research and education purposes.

Nichole M. Avant has joined the FMU staff as a library technical assistant of circulation.

Digest Deadline

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

Submit copy to the editor by January 10 for the January 15 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at ext. 1227 or at acrosland@fmarion.edu.