

# Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

February 29, 2008

## FMU presents alumni awards

Francis Marion University presented its 2007-2008 alumni awards recently at an Alumni Appreciation Dinner.

The Outstanding Alumnus is Ted Maness. He graduated from FMU in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in political science. Maness is a veteran of Republican politics and Capitol Hill. He worked on Republican campaigns in the 1980s and was director of legislative and political affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce from 1987 to 1993. Maness served as chief of staff to then Representative and now Senator Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) in his House and Senate offices from 1993 to 1997.

He was executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1997 to 1999, and vice president for industry relations at Fannie Mae from 1999 to 2001. He is married to Katie Winkeljohn Maness with a daughter Elizabeth, and a son Teddy.

Maness is currently the chief of staff for Congressman George Radanovich (R-Calif.).

The Benjamin Wall Ingram III Young Alumna is Rachel Turner. The Florence native is a 2000 Magna Cum Laude graduate of FMU with a B.S. degree in biology. She is a 2003 honors graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina with a master's degree in health administration. Employed by McLeod Health for four years, she is currently the associate administrator of public relations and marketing

for McLeod Medical Center in Dillon, where she oversees public relations and marketing, cardiopulmonary services, cardiac rehab and physical therapy.

Turner is a member of Rehoboth Baptist Church, the South Carolina Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Pee Dee area Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Association and the

*continued on page 3*



(L-R): Fred Carter, Ted Maness, Rachel Turner, Brent Tiller and Stephen Jones

## Heustess named School of Business Outstanding Alum

Kathy Heustess originally of Green Sea received Francis Marion University's Morgan B. Coker School of Business Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2008.

The award was presented during a breakfast on Feb. 29.

Heustess graduated from FMU in 1981 with a B.S. degree in business administration. She is a Certified Public Accountant, and received a diploma from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Heustess began her career as an accountant and controller with

local C.P.A. firms and in the private business sector before landing her job with ArborOne in 1989.

A full service mortgage originator, ArborOne assists its customers with conventional home loans, home



Heustess

improvement loans, refinancing, construction, farm equipment and loans for rural land and homes.

Heustess is the chief operating and chief financial officer at ArborOne and is responsible for the finance, operations, lifestyle and core agricultural lending, secondary market lending, human resources and marketing areas. In her position, she oversees Sarbanes/Oxley compliance, provides first line communication with the federal regulator and is responsible for presenting

financial reports and other pertinent information.

In 2001, Pee Dee Farm Credit, now ArborOne, organized Farm

*continued on page 2*

### On the Inside

**Jobs on Campus**

Page 2

**Events Calendar**

Page 3

**Faculty News**

Pages 2

## Faculty news...

Deborah Singletary of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a custodian.

Mindell D. Sams of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a custodian.

## FMU Annual Giving program seeks funds

The FMU Fund, the annual giving program, assists in establishing scholarships for deserving students and enhancing physical facilities and many other aspects of campus life.

There is opportunity for faculty and staff members to make a difference in the lives of

students. Please join this important undertaking by contributing to the FMU Fund. Your donation will make a difference and is appreciated.

For more information contact Brandie Love, director of annual giving and constituent relations, at ext. 1218.

## Heustess ... *Continued from front*

Credit Group, a consortium of five Farm Credit Associations to buy and sell large loans. Heustess developed the accounting procedures for the consortium and led the association's accounting staff in managing the daily accounting of the consortium.

In 2006, ArborOne joined two other associations to form the Rural America Capital Group for making investments in rural America. Again, Heustess led the charge for the accounting policies and procedures for this venture.

Heustess was given the added responsibility of managing the Lifestyle and Core Agricultural Lending and the Secondary Mortgage Marketing

staff in 2007. The Lifestyle and Core Agricultural unit is comprised of lending and support staff who originate and service agricultural, farm operating and home mortgage loans in the 12 counties of the Pee Dee area of South Carolina.

Just this year, the title of chief operating officer was added to her job title, giving her oversight of human resource and marketing team members.

Heustess is the daughter of the late Victor Shelley, and her mother is Lufsey Shelley of Green Sea. She and her husband Billy live in Florence with their two sons, Matt and Grant.

## FMU Observatory to hold viewing sessions, March 21, 28

The Francis Marion University observatory will hold public viewing sessions, Friday, March 21, and Friday, March 28. The viewings will be from 8:30 to 10 p.m. each night.

The viewing sessions are open to the public free of charge.

Among the objects visible on both nights will be Mars, Saturn, nebulae, galaxies, stars and star clusters.

The loosely structured viewing program allows visitors to come and go as they please. If weather conditions block viewing, the session

will be canceled. The public may call 843-661-1355 for recorded information about the prospect of a clear sky to allow the event to be held.

Visitors to the observatory are urged to dress appropriately for the weather as temperatures will be much cooler in the evening hours. Flashlights may be used for walking to the observatory, but visitors will not be allowed to drive out to the observatory unless prior arrangements have been made with the observatory director, Jeannette Myers.

The FMU observatory is located beyond the outfield fence of the FMU Softball Field, south of the Smith University Center. Visitors can park in Lot D at the southern end of the campus and follow the walkway to the observatory.

Persons requiring special assistance to visit the observatory, or seeking more information, call ext. 1441.

There will also be a meeting of the FMU Astronomy Club on March 28 from 7-8 p.m.

## Jobs on Campus

2-20-08

- ◆ Assistant/Associate Professor of Economics
- ◆ Assistant Professor of Management
- ◆ Assistant Professor of English
- ◆ Assistant/Associate Professor of Computer Science
- ◆ Assistant Director of the Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute
- ◆ Director of Compliance
- ◆ Lead Teacher
- ◆ Lead Teacher-Certified in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Police Officer

More...

Jobs continued...

- ◆ Student Services Counselor-Admissions
- ◆ Associate Director of the Center of Excellence
- ◆ Part-time Teaching Assistant/Floater
- ◆ Part-time/Temporary Substitute Teaching Assistants
- ◆ Part-time/Temporary Teaching Assistant
- ◆ Instructor/Assistant Professor of English

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

## FMU School of Education presents alumni awards

Three Francis Marion University School of Education alumnae received 2008 awards at a wine and cheese reception, Feb.28, as part of Homecoming activities.

Stacy Stafford received the Novice Educator Award, Brandi Cook received the Veteran Educator Award and Connie Dennis received the Educational Administrator Award.

Stafford is a first grade teacher at McLaurin Elementary School where she is a part of the 21st Century After School program and is on the library committee. Stafford was presented with an opportunity to do her student teaching in New Zealand for three and a half months after earning a B.S. degree in early childhood education from FMU where she graduated with honors in 2007. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in instructional accommodation at FMU.

Cook is a 1996 graduate of FMU with a B.A. degree in history and

earned an M.Ed. degree in secondary social studies in 2002. She is a teacher at Marion High School where she has taught for 11 years. She is chair of the social studies department at Marion High School and co-sponsor of the Interact Club, a student civic organization. Cook is the 2007-08 Teacher of the Year at her school.

Dennis is the superintendent of schools in Clarendon School District Three. She has worked as a primary, elementary and high school teacher. She was a principal in Clarendon School District Three and an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Clarendon School District Two. She earned a bachelor's degree in social studies from FMU in 1974 and an M.Ed. degree in elementary education. Dennis earned an additional M.Ed. and an educational specialist degree from the University of South Carolina both in educational administration. She is currently seeking a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.

### Alumni awards ... *Continued from front*

Junior League of Florence. She currently serves on the FMU Alumni Association Board. She is engaged to be married on March 1, 2008, to Will Gainey of Marion.

The Alumni Volunteer of the Year is Brent Tiller. He is a 2000 graduate of FMU where he received his bachelor's degree in business administration while majoring in marketing.

In 2001, Tiller started the business, Pinnacle Network Solutions, which serves the computer networking needs of local businesses and K-12 organizations. Currently, he serves as the operating partner and vice president. The Hartsville native has made hiring FMU students and graduates an essential part of his business model. Within the community,

Tiller is an active member of the Florence Kiwanis Club where he has served as the chair of the membership committee and is currently serving on the board. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity serving as a counselor to younger members and as the alumni chapter president for the Pee Dee. He is also a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence. In 2006, Tiller became a member of the FMU Alumni Association Board.

Tiller is married to the former DeAnn Weatherly of Dillon, also an FMU graduate with a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology. They have a daughter, Weatherly Ann, and are expecting a new addition to their family in April. The Hartsville native and his family now live in Florence.

## Events Calendar

### March

First Tuesday March 4  
Chamber Music and Art Exhibits  
8 p.m. HFAC

Dooley Planetarium March 9  
"The Evening Sky"  
3 p.m. CEMC, 2nd Floor

Spring Break March 10-14

Hewn Timber Cabins March 11  
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

U.S. Air Force Jazz Concert March 12  
7 p.m. MSB Auditorium

Art Gallery Series March 18-April 5  
Works by FMU Drawing Students  
M-F 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. UC

Cinema Film Series March 18  
3:30 & 8 p.m. CEMC Auditorium

Dooley Planetarium March 23  
"Voyage to the Planets"  
3 p.m. CEMC, 2nd Floor

### Presidential hopefuls and their representatives visit Francis Marion University.



## FMU to host 31st annual Art's Alive Festival, April 5

Francis Marion University will play host to the 31st annual Art's Alive Festival on Saturday, April 5.

The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine, and it will be free and open to the public. The event is a celebration of the visual and performing arts for the whole family, with simultaneous performances at several different venues on campus.

This year's featured musical attractions are Jim Quick and Coastline band and The Parris Island Marine Band. These groups will perform on the main outdoor stage at FMU. The festival's lineup of other talented musicians and singers performing throughout the day, include the choral ensemble Vocal Edition, The Woody's band, FMU's Cut Time choir, Fleur de Lis Strings, Florence Men's Choral Society, The Plaids and Peggy Baroody and Friends.

The Greenwood Elementary School chorus will begin the musical lineup with a performance at 10:30 a.m.

Jack London's musical "Call of the Wild" and Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night or What You

Will," performed by the National Players are the featured theatrical presentations for this year's festival.

In addition, artists will be showing and selling their work at the festival. There will be watercolors, oils, acrylics, pottery, woodwork, hand-painted porcelain, stained glass, jewelry, fabric and more.

A number of dance groups will perform, including the South Carolina Dance Theatre, celebrating its 30th year as the region's only ballet company consisting of about 40 dancers from age nine to teenagers.

They along with 10 other groups will perform in either the McNair Auditorium or the Outdoor Dance Stage. Other groups include the Performing Arts Academy, The Wanda Project, Coker Repertory Dance Company, Phat Pheet of Williams Middle School, the Tri-City Shag Club, Dancin' on Main, Kelley's Fine Arts, Showbiz Studio & Dance Company, School of Dance Arts and Dance for Joy Dance Studio.

Children's events include ventriloquist,

comedian Ron Johnson who will engage attendees with his humor, magic and songs.

In addition to Johnson's ventriloquism, several other performers will present entertaining programs for youngsters and adults at the Art's Alive Festival. Comedy juggler Jason Huneke and the Florence Little Theatre Schoolhouse Players are among those performers.

For the first time, the festival will host a movie matinee of cartoon and comedy classics. This year there will also be a youth art center where attendees can make rain shakers, animal masks, exotic creature pins and birdhouses. Robert F. Lyon will also give a lecture and woodturning demonstration.

There will be a sidewalk chalk art competition and a recycled reading book sale. Visitors to the festival may bring a picnic lunch, or purchase food from a variety of food vendors sure to suit all tastes.

For more information, contact the FMU Office of Public and Community Affairs at ext. 1225.

## Kunka receives SWCA Award

Jennifer Kunka, associate professor of English and writing center director, has been awarded the 2008 Southeastern Writing Center Association Achievement Award. Kunka was presented with a commemorative plaque and a cash award at the Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference held Feb. 7-9 at Armstrong Atlantic University in Savannah, Ga.

The SWCA Achievement Award is presented annually to a writing center administrator in



Kunka

the southeastern region for his or her outstanding contribution to SWCA, the writing center at his or her home institution, and the writing center community.

## Digest Deadline

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

Submit copy to the editor by March 12 for the March 15 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at [acrosland@fmarion.edu](mailto:acrosland@fmarion.edu) or at ext. 1227.

## FMU celebrates Gen. Francis Marion Memorial Day, Feb. 27



Scott Kaufman, associate professor of history, (above) speaks to attendees about history of Gen. Francis Marion. FMU displayed a special exhibit in the library in honor of "General Francis Marion Memorial Day," Feb. 27.

In 2007, state lawmakers designated Feb. 27 "General Francis Marion Memorial Day" to honor the South Carolina Revolutionary War hero nicknamed "the Swamp Fox."