

Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

September 30, 2008

FMU receives substantial gift from BB&T Bank

Francis Marion University has announced a \$325,000 gift from BB&T Bank to build the amphitheatre of the FMU Performing Arts Center.

One of the most significant features of the Performing Arts Center, the large outdoor amphitheatre, extends the range of performances and social possibilities to a new level. Featuring a central grassy area, it will accommodate between 300 and 400 guests.

"The outdoor amphitheatre is an essential part of the Performing Arts Center and a centerpiece of the downtown Florence cultural corridor. This gift guarantees the construction of the facility," said FMU President Fred Carter. "BB&T's investment is an indication of the bank's confidence in Francis Marion and our community."

The amphitheatre will be used for casual outdoor concerts, plays and community-wide events, where attendees can bring their own seating or sprawl comfortably on a blanket on the grass and for formal events desiring a spacious outdoor venue with seating.

"We view this gift as an investment," said Frank James, BB&T senior vice president and city executive. "This is an investment in the future of the Performing Arts Center and Francis Marion University. It is also an investment in the future of Florence downtown redevelopment and in the promise of a new century of musicians, educators and citizens."

The center will be located on 3.93 acres of land at the corner of Dargan and West Palmetto and used for performances, programs and exhibits. The facility will also include instructional space for use by the university's fine arts program. Construction is expected to be complete in the summer of 2010.

"The new Performing Arts Center, planned strategically in the heart of Florence, will provide many opportunities for collaboration and new educational and cultural experiences," Carter said.

Estimates place the project in the \$30 million range. The performing arts center will contain space for theatrical and musical performances, as well as instructional classroom 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.



(L-R): Carter, James

Kostoff named to Sparrow chair for Writer in Residence

Lynn Kostoff, professor of English at Francis Marion University and published

novelist, told a crowd of nearly 100 people that he is making a life. Doing so, he said, "requires creativity, commitment, imagination, vision and faith."

This prolific writer was recently named to the Nellie Cooke Sparrow Chair for a Writer in Residence at a luncheon held on campus.

The chair was established by John W. Sparrow and his family of Scranton, in memory of his mother and to honor her dedication and love for family and community. The purpose of the chair is to honor a member of the faculty of the FMU Department of English, Modern Languages

and Philosophy for academic excellence, integrity and professionalism in their field.

"I'm both proud and honored to be chosen for this award," Kostoff said. "I can't think of a more gracious or meaningful way to honor a parent. I plan to work hard to be worthy of the opportunities the endowed chair presents to me and by extension, my students."

Kostoff has had two books published, the first of which, "A Choice of Nightmares," was published by Crown Publishers of New York in 1991. His second book, "The Long Fall" was published by Carroll and Graf. in 2003 in the United States, England, Germany,

Continued on page 2

On the Inside

Jobs on Campus

Page 2

Events Calendar

Page 3

Faculty/Staff News

Page 4

Kostoff . . . *Continued from front*

France and Japan.

He has also written a novel titled "Late Rain" being circulated among publishers, a revised novel, "The Work of Hands," and a new work titled "The Length of Days."

"Lynn is a brilliant writer and one of the finest teachers we have at this institution," said FMU president Fred Carter. "The Sparrow Chair will provide him continued support in these endeavors. We are indebted to the Sparrow family for creating this chair in a very unique but critically important area."

Kostoff earned the B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees in creative writing from Bowling Green State University. Before joining the FMU faculty

in 1985, the Ohio native taught at Indiana State University and the University of Alabama.

He has received numerous awards and honors during his tenure at FMU and has served on a host of committees.

In the community, Kostoff consults with local schoolteachers on creative writing projects on a regular basis and makes visits to the schools to talk to the students. He teaches creative writing to Advance Placement high school students. In addition, he assists students entering the Governor's School of the Arts with preparing their portfolios.

Harris named to Coleman Chair in Elementary Education

Dorothy Harris, professor of education and coordinator of the early childhood education program, was named to the Joseph Walker Coleman, Sr. Chair in Elementary Education at Francis Marion University during a luncheon held recently.

The chair was established by the John W. Sparrow Family of Scranton in memory of their friend and his dedication to Scranton High School as a superintendent and math teacher. The purpose of the chair is to honor a member of the faculty of the FMU School of Education for academic excellence, integrity and professionalism in their field.

"On behalf of all students, including myself, I want to say thank you to those of you who have devoted your lives to students," said Sparrow. "Your impact is more long-



Carter, Harris, Kostoff and Sparrow family

Jobs on Campus

9-30-08

- **Chair of Department of History**
- **Director of Business Development - North Eastern Strategic Alliance**
- **Custodian**
- **Lead Groundskeeper**
- **Part-time/Temporary Substitute Teaching Assistants**

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

lasting and far reaching than you ever thought it would be."

Harris has had a profound effect on FMU since 1985 when she became a faculty member, said Ron Faulkenberry, dean of the School of Education. As coordinator of FMU's early childhood education program, she schedules classes and works with faculty concerning course development, enrollment, student progress and program evaluation.

At FMU, she has taught introduction to early childhood, early childhood methods and materials and directed teaching and curriculum design for early childhood programs.

"During her tenure at the university, Dorothy has been the force behind a consistently strong program for preparing early childhood teachers," said FMU President Fred Carter. "The Coleman Chair will support her teaching, service and research efforts in the area of early childhood education. We are indebted to the Sparrow family for their continued generosity and support of Francis Marion University."

This honor comes on the heels of Harris also receiving the First Steps Early Care and Education Advocate Award. This award is given to an individual or organization that has consistently demonstrated support for quality early care and education.

Continued on page 3

Harris . . . *Continued from page 2*

“Nothing in my life told me that I would be here on such a great occasion. I thank everyone who contributed,” said Harris. “To the Sparrow family, you are giving to education, to all of us, at a time when teaching sometimes seems to be a thankless job.”

Harris received the B.A. degree from Johnson C. Smith University,

the M.A. degree from Atlanta University, and the Ed.D. degree from the University of Georgia. Before joining FMU, Harris taught in the Georgia public school system, at Fort Valley State College in Georgia and in the Virgin Islands.

Lockyer named to Thigpen Chair for Public Affairs

Alan Lockyer, professor of geography at Francis Marion University, was named to the Neal D. Thigpen Chair in Public Affairs during a luncheon held recently.

Established in 2002, the purpose of the \$100,000 chair is to honor a member of the faculty of the FMU Department of Political Science and Geography for academic excellence, integrity and professionalism in their field.

“This chair is wonderful for the department because we’ve never had one like it before. It is especially a great honor for me to be the first recipient of it,” Lockyer said. “This means a great deal to me after having worked with Dr. Thigpen for 22 years, many of which he served as my chairman.”

As a geographer, Lockyer said the chair will enable him to travel and conduct more fieldwork.

“Alan is an extraordinary teacher and a gifted writer,” said FMU President Fred Carter. “The Thigpen Chair will not only provide him continued support in these endeavors but it will also honor Neal Thigpen’s

service as a department chairman for 24 years and his work to build one of the stronger and more collegial political science programs in South Carolina.”

Thigpen came to FMU in 1971 and has distinguished himself as an educator, political analyst and community leader. He served as chairman of FMU’s political science program from 1971 to 1996 and still serves as a professor of political science.

He holds a doctorate in public administration and American government from the University of Maryland. He earned a master’s degree and a bachelor’s degree from the same institution.

Lockyer is the author of two books, “Clamdiggers and Downeast Country Stores: Eastern Maine’s Vanishing Culture,” which placed sixth on the Maine Writers and Publishers Bestseller List in 1994 and “Imagining Maine – Essays and Stories,” published by Berry Cove Publishing Co. of Lamoine, Maine.

“Imagining Maine’ is a memoir about how I became the eccentric and reclusive geographer that I am, living summers the



(L-R): Thigpen, Carter, Lockyer

past 30 years in the Maine woods without electricity, telephone, or indoor plumbing,” Lockyer said. “It’s about the two places I live and work (Maine and South Carolina), and Ireland and Mexico, two other places where I’ve done field research. The book explores the similarities and differences between Maine and these other places.”

He received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Arkansas University, a master’s degree from Western Kentucky University, and a doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado. He has been a professor at FMU since 1986.

Events Calendar October

FMU Artist Series Sept. 30-Nov. 13 Jim Boden “Spectators” Jean Grosser “Sacred Spaces” Larry Merriman “Echo” 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.	HFAC
First Tuesday Bryan Rawles, violinist 8:00 p.m.	Oct. 7 FAC
Observatory Open House 7:30-10 p.m.	Oct. 10
Center of Excellence Fall Workshop 8 a.m.	Oct. 11 MSB & LSF
Dooley Planetarium Voyage to the Planets 3 p.m.	Oct. 12 CEMC
Hewn Timber Cabins 10:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.	Oct. 14
International Festival 10:30 a.m.	Oct. 18 FMU Campus

Faculty and Staff News

Mary R. Dittman (School of Business) has been appointed chair of the Marketing Committee for Florence Downtown Development Corporation. Florence Downtown Development Corporation exists to foster revitalization in Downtown Florence. As chair of the

Marketing Committee, Dittman will oversee all marketing strategies for Florence Downtown Development Corporation, including development of advertising and communication plans.

Human Resources

AFLAC personnel will be available to meet with FMU employees on Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 9–11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. at Stokes Administration Building, Room 105 (Human Resources office). AFLAC personnel will also be available at Benefits Day on Thursday, Oct. 2. No registration is required for the Oct. 7 meetings.

AFLAC offers four important plans that are payroll deducted at group rates, the benefits pay directly to you are guaranteed renewable, and are portable should you retire or leave employment:

- Maximum Difference Cancer Plan
- Personal Accident Indemnity Plan

- Personal Disability Indemnity Plan
- Specified Health Event Protection

Although major medical insurance can help with the costs of a serious illness or accident, there are still deductibles and charges beyond “Reasonable or Customary” that have to be paid, plus the indirect expenses such as travel and loss of income. AFLAC can help you and your family during these difficult times with additional benefits.

AFLAC representatives look forward to meeting with you at Benefits Day on Oct. 2 and again on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

Becote Appointed to Greer Chair in Library Science



(L-R): The Becotes; Joyce Durant, interim dean of Rogers Library. Becote, associate professor and technical services librarian in Rogers Library, was honored as the recipient of the Betty Jean Windham Greer Chair in Library Science at a reception held on campus recently. Grady Greer of Florence established the chair in January, in honor of his wife.

Mathis receives alumni award from Psychology Department



Connie Parker Mathis, psychologist for Horry County Schools (center), was honored by the Francis Marion University Department of Psychology with an outstanding alumni award at a reception held on campus recently.

Recommendations needed for naming Forest Villas

FMU President Fred Carter is prepared to recommend to the Board of Trustees the naming of the apartment buildings in the new Forest Villas complex. President Carter suggests naming the buildings in honor of former or existing faculty and staff that have made substantial contributions to the university. He will take recommendations naming the buildings to the Board at the February 2009 meeting. Three of the buildings will be named for past or current faculty members, and two buildings will be named to honor former or current staff members.

Two committees have been named to accept recommendations for naming the buildings. The faculty committee is headed by Keith Best, faculty chair, and includes Ken Autrey and Charlene

Wages, both of whom have served as faculty chair. The staff committee is headed by Libby Cooper, vice president for public and community affairs, and includes retirees Marvin Lynch and Myra Hall.

Please submit names to any of the committee members by Nov. 1.

For faculty recommendations:
 Keith Best, ext. 1549
 email: dbest@fmarion.edu
 Ken Autrey, ext. 1512
 email: kautrey@fmarion.edu
 Charlene Wages, ext. 1146
 email: cwages@fmarion.edu
 For staff recommendations:
 Libby Cooper, ext. 1221

email: ecooper@fmarion.edu
 Myra Hall, 843-464-0084
 email: scmomm1945@bellsouth.net
 Marvin Lynch, 843-669-7725

Digest Deadline

The Patriot Digest is published twice monthly and distributed on paydays. Submit copy to the editor by October 13 for the October 15 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at acrosland@fmarion.edu or at ext. 1227.