

# Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

October 31, 2008

## Hyler, LaCross receive biology alumni awards

Deborah W. Hyler, executive director of The School Foundation, and Randall M. LaCross, director of outreach and research at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM), have been honored by the Francis Marion University Department of Biology with outstanding alumni awards.

Hyler received the John S. Boyce Award, while LaCross was presented the Lawrence Swails Award. These distinguished alumni awards, named after the Biology Department's first two chairpersons, were presented during a reception Oct. 23 on the FMU campus. This is the third of what is planned to be an annual recognition of outstanding graduates of the biology program.

A Florence native, Hyler received her bachelor's degree in medical technology from then Francis Marion College in 1982. Hyler has since become an accomplished organizer and motivator with more than 10 years of experience in a wide variety of community-related activities.

Her primary responsibility in her current position is to raise private donations in the form of grants to support the 15,000 students at 23 schools in Florence School District One. The money raised is not used for operating,



(L-R): Randall M. LaCross, Deborah W. Hyler and Peter King, chair of biology department

but for enhancement expenses. Prior to her work for The School Foundation, Hyler was chief operating officer for the Pee Dee Pride Hockey Team. She managed the Pride office and developed and implemented an effective marketing and business plan.

As microbiology supervisor for McLeod Regional Medical Center from 1984-1991, she wrote and maintained policy and procedure manuals, taught clinical

and didactic microbiology, mycology, mycobacteriology and parasitology. In addition, she managed the daily operations of the microbiology laboratory. Based on her performance, McLeod awarded Hyler a merit award in 1982 and the Didactic Teacher of the Year Award in 1980.

From 1982-1984, Hyler was a microbiologist for Roper Hospital in Charleston and worked as an instructor of

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## FMU trustees to meet Nov. 7

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The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees will hold its quarterly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7, in the Stokes Administration Building Board Room.

The trustees will consider resolutions authorizing the offering of the master of education degree in learning disabilities at a new off campus site in Dillon and one for the modification of the FMU Real Estate Foundation bylaws.

The trustees will also hear reports from their standing committees and from the university president.

Committee meetings will be held earlier in the day Friday. The Executive Affairs Committee will meet at 9 a.m. in the Stokes Board Room, followed by a 9:30 a.m. meeting of the Financial Affairs and Facilities Committee. The Academic Affairs and Accreditation Committee also will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Provost's Conference Room in Stokes Building. At 10:30 a.m., the Development and Alumni Committee will meet in the Stokes Board Room, while the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee meets in the Provost's Conference Room.

## Hyler, LaCross receive biology alumni awards. . . *Continued from front*

microbiology, mycology, mycobacteriology and parasitology at the Medical University of South Carolina and Trident Technical College.

Hyler serves on the South Carolina Library Board of Directors and the BB&T Advisory Board. She and her husband Daniel have three children: Jonathan, Jennifer and Julia. They also have one granddaughter, Ellie.

LaCross received his bachelor's degree in biology and a master of education degree in secondary science from FMU. He is currently completing a Ph.D. in secondary science education at the University of South Carolina.

During his more than 20 years as a science educator in South Carolina, LaCross has had the opportunity to develop curricula, create science education outreach programs, serve on numerous state and national committees, serve as a science teacher consultant, conduct presentations at state and national science conferences and teach at a variety of educational levels.

He joined GSSM in 1998 as a curriculum development specialist, responsible for creating, in collaboration with the chemical engineering department at the University of South Carolina, an instructional unit



*Biology alumni awards reception*

called Fuel Cells and Engineering. In 2000, he accepted the position of curriculum coordinator at GSSM, where he created and directed a middle school outreach program called Team GEAR UP, which was part of a statewide GEAR UP partnership.

In 2005, he advanced to his role as director of outreach and research at GSSM, where he is responsible for coordinating the GSSM research program, developing the new GSSM GEAR UP partnership and managing other outreach efforts.

Recently, LaCross collaborated with the

GSSM Foundation to develop and submit a Toyota USA Foundation grant proposal for launching a middle school and high school outreach project called Portable Advanced Science Exploration (PASE). The proposal was accepted for funding, and PASE programming will be offered in spring 2009. Prior to joining GSSM, he taught high school science for nine years and was an instructor at FMU for three years.

LaCross and his wife Pam, a native of Florence, met while he was attending FMU. They have two sons, Tyler and Jonathan.

## Jobs on Campus

**10-31-08**

- ◆ **Chair of Department of History**
- ◆ **Assistant Professor of Education (2)**
- ◆ **Assistant/Associate Professor of Marketing**
- ◆ **Child Development Business Manager - Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child**

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

## Observatory to hold viewing session, Nov. 7

The Francis Marion University observatory will hold a public viewing session of Uranus, Neptune, and the Moon, Friday, Nov. 7. The viewing will be from 6-9 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge.

The loosely structured 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, may call ext. 1441. The observatory webpage is <http://astro.fmarion.edu/observe/>.

## Pee Dee International Festival



## Events Calendar November

PD Fiction & Poetry Festival Nov. 6-8  
Lowrimore Auditorium

FMU Art Gallery Series Nov. 6-27  
Group Exhibition FMU Art Classes  
UC Art Gallery

Board of Trustees Meeting Nov. 7  
11:30 a.m. SAB

Observatory Viewing Nov. 7  
6-9 p.m.

Dooley Planetarium Nov. 9  
The Evening Sky  
3 p.m. CEMC

FMU String Ensemble Nov. 9  
8 p.m. HFAC

First Tuesday Nov. 11  
Florence Brass  
8 p.m. HFAC

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

## Faculty and Staff News

**Susan Peters**, Center for Entrepreneurship director and professor of marketing and management, has been elected to a two-year term as vice president of case marketing for the North American Case Research Association (NACRA). NACRA is a professional association committed to the development and enhancement of case research, writing and teaching.

**Lisa A. Eargle**, associate professor of sociology, presented two papers at the Mid-South Sociological Association conference in Huntsville, Ala., held Oct. 22-25. One paper, "Precursors to Disaster: The Development of a Conceptual Model and Its Application to the Gulf Coast," was sole authored; the other paper, "Politics of Disaster or Disastrous Politics," was co-authored with Shyamal Das of Fayetteville State University and Ashraf Esmail of Southern University at New Orleans. Eargle also organized and presided over two paper sessions, one addressing disaster research and another addressing criminal justice issues.

**Terri L. Earnest**, assistant professor of sociology, presented a paper at the Mid-South Sociological Association conference in Huntsville, Ala., held Oct. 22-25. The paper titled "Law Enforcement's Response to a Meth Epidemic in Small-Town, USA: Community Satisfaction and Public Perceptions," was presented by Eargle and Marti Wilkerson and Sean Huss of Arkansas Technical University. This paper comes from the River Valley Meth Project, a larger project housed at Arkansas Technical University of which Earnest continues to be involved.

**Christopher M. Holloman** of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a custodian.

**Marquis R. Woodberry** of Florence has joined the FMU staff as a lead groundskeeper.

## FMU's Dooley Planetarium to present program, Nov. 9

The Dooley Planetarium on the campus of Francis Marion University will present a program titled "The Evening Sky," Sunday, Nov. 9.

The program will begin at 3 p.m. and admission is free. The planetarium, located on the second floor of the Cauthen Educational Media Center, will open its doors at 2:30 p.m., and no admittance will be allowed once viewing begins.

Since its opening in 1978, the planetarium has regularly shown

public programs on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The next program, titled "The Christmas Star," will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 23, as well as on Dec. 14 and 21.

For additional information about the planetarium, call Planetarium Director Jeannette M. Myers at ext. 1441, or visit its website at <http://astro.fmarion.edu/planet/>.

## FMU offers public tours of Hewn-Timber Cabins, Nov. 11

Francis Marion University will offer public tours of its Hewn-Timber Cabins, Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Visitors should enter the campus on Wallace Woods Road from U.S. Hwy. 76/301. The Hewn-Timber Cabins were built around 1836 by slaves who then occupied them. Only two of the original eight cabins are still standing. In 1974, these two remaining cabins were placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1980, nine acres of land were donated to FMU as a permanent site for their

location.

The cabins are open to the public on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To see the cabins at other times make an appointment with Karl McAlister at ext. 1311. More information about the cabins is available at [www.fmarion.edu/academics/generalinformationandtour1](http://www.fmarion.edu/academics/generalinformationandtour1) or by sending an e-mail to [hct@fmarion.edu](mailto:hct@fmarion.edu).

## FMU kicks off basketball season with Riot at the Rim

Francis Marion University kicked off the 2008-09 basketball season on Oct. 28 with its annual Riot at the Rim event.

This year's free event featured step-show performances, food, prizes, music, and the opportunity to meet the players on both the Patriot men's and women's basketball teams.

One of the highlights of this year's Riot at the Rim is the Spirit Competition. Another highlight of the evening was the debut of the 2008-09 men's and women's basketball teams.

FMU men's coach Gary Edwards is beginning

his 25th year as a collegiate coach and third on the Patriot bench. Edwards, who won his 400th game last season, introduced seven returning Patriots and seven new players.

Patriot women's coach Heather Macy, last season's Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year, also welcomes back seven letterwinners from last year's squad that shared the PBC regular-season crown, led the nation in scoring, went to the NCAA Division II National Tournament, and posted the largest win-loss record improvement in Division II.

### Digest Deadline

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

Submit copy to the editor by November 11 for the November 14 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland at [acrosland@fmarion.edu](mailto:acrosland@fmarion.edu) or at ext. 1227.