

Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

November 30, 2008

WBTW to hold town hall meeting on economy at FMU

WBTW and Francis Marion University will host a town hall meeting on surviving the tough economy on Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 7– 8 p.m. in Cauthen Educational Media Center's Lowrimore Auditorium.



Carter

The event is free. Doors open at 6 p.m. News 13's On Your Side Consumer Advocate Michelle Carolla will host the event.

"News 13 is committed to keeping our viewers informed about the economy. For nearly a year, we provided the latest consumer information in our Consumer Watch segment and our Money Crunch segments," said Carolla. "In our third money crunch special and our second live town hall meeting, we will address the economic conditions and the outlook specifically for the Pee Dee region."



McGill

Experts on the economy, financial planning, and the



Marschel

stock market will be on hand to answer your questions.

Panelists include FMU President Fred Carter; Sen. Yancey McGill, representing the North Eastern Strategic Alliance; Tom Marschel, president of the Greater Florence Area Chamber of Commerce; Baxter Hahn, managing director of Wachovia Securities; and Credit

Counselor Toby Smith.

The event will be broadcast live on WBTW-TV.

Those who are unable to make it out to the event, can submit their questions by clicking on the On Your Side button on the home page of scnow.com.

Home viewers can also call in their questions to the Voice of the Viewer hotline at 843-317-1313 in the Pee Dee or on the Grand Strand at 843-293-1301.



Soccer Team earns Sportsmanship Award

The Peach Belt Conference announced late Tuesday that the Francis Marion University men's soccer team has been named the recipient of the PBC Team Sportsmanship Award for the 2008 men's soccer season.

The awards program, which includes honoring one team from each of the league's 12 championship sports, will also recognize one institution with the "Institution of the Year Sportsmanship Award" at the end of the 2008-09 year. This is the first year of the awards program.

The program presents an award following each championship season to the team in that sport that best exemplifies the spirit of sportsmanship and generally conducts themselves with a high degree of integrity, character and class. The team award is selected

FMU to host Pee Dee Mathematics Tournament

The 32nd Pee Dee Regional High School Mathematics Tournament will be held at Francis Marion University Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Registered to participate are 241 students from 16 area high schools. The event is co-sponsored by the FMU Department of Mathematics and the Pee Dee Education Center.

Scheduled in Chapman Auditorium of the McNair Science Building from 9:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m., the tournament consists of all students taking a written mathematics exam in the morning and a team competition in the afternoon.

Larry Engelhardt, FMU assistant professor of physics, will be a guest speaker, followed by a box lunch.

Engelhardt earned the B.A. degree in physics from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Petersburg, Va., and the Ph.D. in condensed matter physics from Iowa State University. He has taught at FMU since 2006.

For more information, contact Damon Scott, associate professor of mathematics and tournament supervisor, at 843-661-1586. For the competition schedule, go to http://acsweb.fmarion.edu/math/competition/hp_competition.htm.

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Revelation



Faculty and Staff News

Bryan Fisher, assistant professor of speech and coordinator of the speech communication program, has been invited to speak and participate in the 2009 Brigrance Colloquy on Public Speaking as a Liberal Art from Feb. 26-28, 2009.

Fisher has been asked by the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College to examine what it means to teach public speaking and public communication as a liberal art. Specifically, he will address issues concerning the relationship between public speaking instruction and democratic citizenship.

The Center will bring to the campus of Wabash College twelve colloquy scholars from around the country to address these questions in this two-day meeting.

Fisher also presented a paper at the 12th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Justice Research in Adelaide, Australia, Aug. 14-17. His paper is titled "Communication Education for a Diverse Democratic Society." This paper is a continuation into Fisher's exploration of the relationship between public speaking instruction and preparing students to participate in a diverse democratic society. Specifically in this paper, he reveals how several popular public speaking textbooks conflate the concepts of common ground and the common good and as a result, are counter-productive to the goal of educating

for democratic citizenship.

Lara Jones, assistant professor of psychology, along with Zachary Estes from the University of Warwick, recently had a paper titled "Integrative Priming Occurs Rapidly and Uncontrollably during Lexical Processing" accepted for publication in the top-tier *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. Integrative priming refers to faster concept recognition when two otherwise unrelated concepts (winter sport) can be integrated into a unitary representation based on the inference of a relation (time). The article describes integrative priming as a distinct form of lexical processing.

Jones also recently attended the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 13-16, where she presented her research on mediated priming.

Terri Earnest, assistant professor of sociology, was invited to speak to the Florence League of Women Voters on Nov. 24. Her topic was "Parole: Advantages, Disadvantages, and Current Issues."

Lisa A. Eargle, associate professor of sociology, along with Ashraf Esmail of Southern University and Jas Sullivan of Louisiana State University, have a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Race, Class, and Gender*. The paper is titled "Voting the Issues or Voting the

Demographics? The Media's Construction of Political Candidates Credibility." It examines the political coverage of four television news organizations to see if the coverage that racial/ethnic minorities and female candidates receive is different from the type of coverage that white male candidates receive. Results show that even though racial/ethnic minority and female candidates do receive more press coverage devoted to their personal characteristics, the vast majority of news coverage addresses issues other than candidates' personal characteristics.

Rusty Ward, associate professor of sociology, and Roger Hux, emeritus faculty and reference librarian, co-presented their research titled "Prominent Themes in Athletic Department Mission Statements" at the annual meeting of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport in Denver, Colo., Nov. 5-8.

Ward has also published an article titled "Athletic Expenditures and the Academic Mission of American Schools: A Group Level Analysis" in the peer-reviewed *Sociology of Sport Journal*. Ward used multiple regression analysis to determine whether increases in athletic expenditures at the school district level benefit or inhibit overall student performance on basic skills tests and college entrance exams. The article appears in the December 2008, Volume 25 issue.

Soccer team . . . *Continued from front*

by other teams who compete in that sport.

Under the guidance of second-year head coach Kevin Varnado, the Francis Marion men rallied from a 1-4-1 start in the 2008 season to win both the PBC regular-season and tournament titles, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Patriots were

unbeaten (5-0-1) during the PBC regular season and won the PBC Tournament with a 1-0 overtime victory in the final. FMU ended the year with a 14-5-3 record.

Earlier this fall, the FMU men's cross country squad also won a PBC Team Sportsmanship Award.

MB Kahn chosen for FMU Performing Arts Center construction

Francis Marion University recently announced that it has issued a Notice of Intent to award the construction of a new performing arts center project to Coastal Division contractor MB Kahn.

The group was the low bidder on Oct. 16, with a bid of \$27,776,200. The effort to find a way to reduce the cost for the overall project began almost immediately. Their new bid is \$27,722,218. Their original bid for alternates one and two totaled \$1,104,398. Through negotiations, FMU officials have reduced the bid for alternates one and two down to \$410,770. This is an overall reduction for the base bid and alternates one and two of \$747,610.

Alternate projects are additions to the original project, such as the

outdoor amphitheater and courtyard.

Construction on the Performing Arts Center will begin in early January; the final project is expected to be complete by September 2010.

The performing arts center will contain space for theatrical and musical performances, as well as instructional classroom and office space, according to the press release. 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, too.