

Patriot Digest

Faculty and Staff Newsletter for Francis Marion University

January 30, 2009

FMU breaks ground for the Performing Arts Center

A host of dignitaries and speakers gathered on the 4.5 acres of land at the corner of Dargan and Palmetto streets to conduct the much anticipated ground breaking that officially recognizes the construction already underway of the new Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center.

Speakers included FMU President Fred Carter, Project Architect Malcolm Holzman of New York-based Holzman-Moss Architects, Dr. C. Edward Floyd of the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation, Chairman of the S.C. Senate Finance Committee Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. and Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela.

FMU President Fred Carter told attendees how the \$32.8 million center will benefit the university and the surrounding community.

"This is a grand day for the university, the city of Florence and the Pee Dee region as we break ground for what will become the premier performing arts venue in the state," said Carter.

Carter emphasized the university's commitment to excellence in all of its teaching and research endeavors and reminded attendees that this facility will be "a place of learning first and foremost."

The center will support the new bachelor's degree in music industry. Currently being developed within this major are career paths in music publishing, marketing and management, product manufacturing and sales, recording, production, broadcast and music performance, composition and education.

The center encompasses a 900-seat multipurpose hall featuring adjustable



Officials break ground for the FMU Performing Arts Center Friday, Jan. 30.

acoustics and staging options to accommodate a broad scope of music programs from solo performances to 80-person orchestra ensembles. The incorporation of a fly tower and orchestra pit also allows for a full range of music, dance and drama productions. Representing one of the latest technological advancements in stage design, and topping the list of innovative performance staging solutions developed by Holzman-Moss Architecture over the years, the center's most unique feature is a built-in, single-piece, push-button operated movable orchestra shell enclosure, which transforms the stage and fly-loft, from a tuned musical environment to an open and flexible stagehouse for theatrical events in minutes.

Marking a dramatic departure from the traditional use of a pre-fabricated orchestra shell in a proscenium framed stage tower, the customized, built-in Actuated Stage Shell (patent pending) incorporates the design and materials of the surrounding theater. Its intricately configured geometry extends into the interior of the room, enveloping both the stage and audience in a single cohesive

enclosure. A hand-operated, motorized gantry crane transports the acoustical shell from storage to stage in less than five minutes significantly upgrading a process that normally requires a large crew and many hours to complete. A series of large roller wheels distribute the weight of the 20-ton shell in order for it to move easily along the surface of the stage floor. Adapted from an overhead bridge crane built for the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo, Texas, the refined floor-mounted system also allows for the maximum width desired for stage rigging and electronics so that when the shell is tucked away in its garage, the open stage and fly-loft can accommodate large theatrical touring shows. This highly efficient design decreases the complexity of the building's overall superstructure and represents significant operations cost-savings.

Fronted by a two-story, 9,000-sq. ft. lobby, the center will contain a 100-seat black box theater, and an academic wing comprised of offices, classrooms and support spaces. The theater will serve as a flexible teaching space,

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FMU trustees to meet Feb. 6

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees will hold its quarterly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, in the Stokes Administration Building Board Room.

The trustees will 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.

FMU Performing Arts Center groundbreaking... *Continued from front*

a music rehearsal room, and as an experimental performance space. While featuring technical galleries and catwalks, the theater's enlarged control room can also be used for instruction.

The academic teaching wing encompasses a large-scale rehearsal room and a computer lab, as well as medium- and small-sized practice rooms. The multi-level lobby is scaled to accommodate all types of community events, banquets and exhibitions, while the front lawn can be used for a variety of art exhibitions and festivals. Additional design amenities located on the 4.57-acre site and separately funded by the local community include an amphitheater, a sculpture court and a fountain. The 300-seat recessed amphitheater can be used for casual outdoor concerts, plays, and a host of community-wide events.

The center is one of two building projects that encompass a public-private, multi-partnership agreement that included land exchanges and financing involving the City of Florence, the State of South Carolina,

McLeod Health, Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation, and Francis Marion University. It is part of an ongoing community-wide effort to transform downtown Florence into the cultural and economic center of the entire Pee Dee region. Once complete, the both the land, currently owned by the city and the Performing Arts Center building will be deeded to FMU.

According to Carter, "This innovative partnership between FMU and various civic and community entities will meet the university's growing programmatic needs by providing FMU with an opportunity to increase substantially its community presence in both academics and the performing arts. It will also serve as the principal performing arts venue for the northeastern region of South Carolina."

Construction on the new center will take 22 months, with an expected completion date of fall 2010.

Jobs on Campus

1-30-09

- ✦ **Chair of Department of History**
- ✦ **Assistant Professor of Education**
- ✦ **Assistant Professor of Education**
- ✦ **Assistant/Associate Professor of Marketing**
- ✦ **Assistant Professor of Mathematics**
- ✦ **Assistant Professor of Music - Piano**
- ✦ **Part-time Substitute Teaching Assistants**

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



Architects use models to show attendees how the facility will look.

Digest Publication Change

The Patriot Digest will now be published once at the beginning of each month. Look for a new format and name change in the next issue. Submit copy to the editor by the 25th of each month to ensure publication. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland, at acrosland@fmarion.edu or at ext. 1227.

Coalition to host events during Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, the Francis Marion University African American Faculty and Staff Coalition (AAFSC) has planned several activities on the campus.

The overall theme of this year's festivities is "FMU Grows Its Own."

"This year's theme commemorates the achievements of our Francis Marion University forefathers and the ongoing contributions of our current university administration – forging an intellectual movement to educate and fostering an appreciation of cultural diversity," said Sims.

On Monday, Feb. 2, the kickoff event will be held in Chapman Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. The speaker will be Nathaniel Durant Jr. He is a 1973 graduate of FMU who was recently honored as 23rd Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina by the Ninth Masonic District. He is currently employed with ESAB Welding and Cutting Systems of Florence, serving as facilities manager. His wife, Joyce, is the interim dean of Rogers Library at FMU.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the Coalition will hold its annual scholarship banquet in Ervin Dining Hall with a reception hosted by FMU President and Mrs. Fred Carter at 6 p.m. and the program beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person with proceeds going toward the group's scholarship funds and functions.

The keynote speaker is State Law Enforcement Division Director Reggie S. Lloyd. Appointed to his post by South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, Lloyd previously served as U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

In that capacity, Lloyd was chief federal prosecutor for the state and chairman of the district's Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee. Prior to that, Lloyd served as a S.C. Circuit Court judge for three years. Before being elected judge, Lloyd practiced law in Columbia in both the private and public sectors, most recently for the firm Nelson Mullins, and prior to that for the House Judiciary Committee and the S.C. Attorney General's Office.

The Coalition will conclude its Black History Month festivities with "FMU Grows Its Own: A Night of African Expression" to be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, in Chapman Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. The

featured performer for this event will be Queen Quet, founder of the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition. This event will also feature the Lady Phantoms Dance Troupe of Florence.

In addition, there will be student enrichment activities sponsored by the Coalition during the month of February including a student scavenger hunt of facts pertaining to black history month.

More information is available by calling Steven Sims, president of the FMU AAFSC, at ext. 1299. For tickets to the Coalition's annual scholarship banquet, contact Dominic Davis, chair of the Coalition's planning committee, at ext. 1297.

FMU Grows Its Own!

Opening Ceremony
Monday, Feb. 2, 2009
Chapman Auditorium, Francis Marion University
Reception ~ 5:30 p.m. • Program ~ 6 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Mr. Nathaniel Durant, Jr. 33rd
Most Worshipful Grand Master
State and Jurisdiction of South Carolina

**FMU AAFSC
Eighth Annual Banquet
"A Tradition of Excellence"**
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009
Ervin Dining Hall
Francis Marion University
Reception ~ 6 p.m. • Program ~ 7 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Mr. Reginald I. Lloyd
Director of State Law Enforcement Division
Tickets: \$20

**Closing Ceremony
"A Night of African Expression"**
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009
Chapman Auditorium, Francis Marion University
Reception ~ 5:30 p.m. • Program ~ 6 p.m.
Guest Entertainers
Queen Quet, Chiefess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation
Charleston, South Carolina
Lady Phantoms Dance Troupe
Florence, South Carolina

For ticket information,
contact Janet McLeod at 843-661-1300.

Sponsored by:
**FMU AFRICAN-AMERICAN
FACULTY/STAFF COALITION**

FMU to host award-winning "Vagina Monologues"

Students, faculty and staff are taking on Eve Ensler's award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues" at Francis Marion University to promote gender, domestic violence and sexual assault awareness and raise money for the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

The university in conjunction with the Gender Studies program will host several events during the week of Feb. 2 with the "The Vagina Monologues" being performed on Thursday, Feb. 5, and Friday Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Chapman Auditorium in the McNair Science Building. A reception fundraiser will be held in the Cottage on Friday, at 6 p.m.

A poignant and humorous tour of the ultimate forbidden zone, "The Vagina Monologues" is a celebration of female sexuality in all its

complexity and mystery. In the stunning phenomenon that has swept the nation, Ensler gives real women's stories of intimacy, vulnerability and sexual self-discovery.

"Based on interviews with more than 200 women about their memories and experiences of sexuality, the play gives voice to women's deepest fantasies and fears," said FMU English Professor Rebecca Flannagan, an organizer of the event. "It's hilarious, empowering, radical and just a really good time."

This year's "V-Day" events for the week will feature student panels and a myriad of other activities and is part of the "V-Day" event celebrated during February at colleges and universities worldwide.

On Monday, Feb. 2, a "V-Day" student panel will be conducted in

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Faculty and Staff News

Four chemistry faculty and twelve students attended the Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Nashville, Tenn., from Nov. 13-15. Katie Lewis, Sarah Hickman, Jonetha Fleming and Aaron Oxendine gave oral presentations of their undergraduate research done with professors **LeRoy Peterson** and **Jennifer Kelley** on synthesis and characterization of metal-organic complexes. Katie Rosa, Ashley Van Laethem and Allen Clabo presented posters of their research using computational chemistry to predict molecular structure and reaction mechanisms. Karmella Fullard also presented a poster of her research under

the guidance of **Kris Varazo** on using “click” chemistry to detect metal ions.

Christian Belk, Al Knowlton, Yana Sivolobova, Juan Cruz and Crystal Robinson attended as representatives of Francis Marion’s Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. The Student Affiliates chapter hosted a dinner for all Francis Marion faculty and students in attendance at the local Outback Steakhouse. Tami and Alexander Clabo (wife and son of Allen Clabo) also attended the dinner.

Some of those present also attended the plenary lectures by Richard Zare and Robert Grubbs. Zare is known for his development of laser induced fluorescence to

study reaction dynamics. His presentation was titled, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm (RAGS) Redux: From RAGS to ???” and focused on problems in education such as the performance gap between state and national levels, as well as between U.S. and foreign students worldwide. Grubbs’ presentation focused on his research of using olefin metathesis to synthesize molecules.

Funding was provided by National Science Foundation grants, the State of SC Fund for Women and Minorities in Science and Mathematics, the Francis Marion QEP grant, the Merck/AAAS grant and money raised by students in the Affiliate Chapter from sales of lab manuals and goggles.

State Library launches My State Library Campaign

The South Carolina State Library has launched a new campaign to let state agencies and their employees know more about the host of free services it offers. Key services include:

All state employees are eligible for a free State Library Card which entitles them to check out books from the library. Even better – the library will send the book right to their office at no charge via the Budget and Control Board’s Agency Mail Service. And if the book needed isn’t in the collection, it can usually be borrowed from another library through interlibrary loan. To get a card, go to www.statelibrary.sc.gov/obtaining-a-library-card.

State employees have free access to online databases and book collections to help them do their jobs better, including Safari Books Online, the e-reference resource for technology and business professionals. State employees can view online hundreds of the latest technology and business books published by O’Reilly, Microsoft Press, Wharton School Publishing, and more.

Free Wi-Fi is available to all visitors at the State Library’s reading room at 1500 Senate Street.

Library staff can help find a needle in a haystack when it comes to work-related research. The library is the official depository for all state government documents and has a large collection of books about South Carolina. Got a question? Just call 803-734-8026, Monday – Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. or visit www.statelibrary.sc.gov and ask your question in an online chat session.

The library provides free virtual meeting/training hosting that allows you to bring together up to 25 people in an online meeting.

“This campaign is all about the tremendous value our State Library offers,” said David Goble, director of the S.C. State Library, in announcing the campaign. He noted that at a time when the role of libraries is evolving and there are increased competition and budget cutbacks, it’s more important than ever to fill the information gap about the value of libraries.

To learn more about what the South Carolina State Library has to offer state government employees, a promotional video has been created and is available on YouTube (<http://tinyurl.com/6kjzt>) and Blip.tv (<http://scsl.blip.tv/file/1442890/>).

“Vagina Monologues...” *Continued from page 3*

Lowrimore Auditorium in Cauthen Educational Media Center at 3:45 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 3, there will be a Gender Studies panel held on domestic violence and sexual assault in the Pee Dee. This will also take place in Lowrimore Auditorium in Cauthen Educational Media Center at 3:45 p.m. In addition, Performance Poet Marilyn Kallet will take the same stage to perform at 7 p.m. on Feb. 3.

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 2-4 p.m., body awareness seminars will be held that will include belly-dancing and yoga.

On Thursday and Friday from 3-6 p.m., there will be a Red Tent exercise in the Fine Arts Center breezeway where women can share their life experiences.

During the week, a student group fundraiser will be held in the Founder’s Hall breezeway to benefit the Pee Dee Coalition in addition to a collection drive for the Durant Children’s Center at the FMU

Center for the Child.

The Clothesline Project will be held during the week as well. This project is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women.

There are nearly 660 universities around the world presenting the “Monologues” as part of V-Day, a month-long event that generates funds for organizations and programs working to stop violence against women and girls.

For tickets to the reception fundraiser, contact Heather Epes at ext. 1502. For more information about the week of events, contact Flannagan at ext. 1516.