

# Patriot Digest

*The Francis Marion University Faculty and Staff Newsletter*

June 15, 2004

## FMU Board of Trustees votes to raise tuition and fees

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees unanimously approved an increase in tuition and fees and meal costs for the 2004-2005 academic year during its quarterly meeting May 28.

Tuition and fees will increase 9 percent per semester. The increase means that full-time South Carolina resident undergraduates will pay \$2,770 in required tuition and fees per semester, up from the current \$2,541. Full-time out-of-state students will now pay \$5,472.50 per semester.

The trustees also approved a 3 percent increase in campus meal plans for next year. The 14-meal plan will increase from \$1,018 to \$1,049 per semester, and the 19-meal plan will go from \$1,095 to \$1,128 per semester.

Over the last few years, FMU's state appropriation has been reduced by 25 percent, a cut more than \$4 million.

The fee increase will yield \$1,536,095 in revenues. Those fees will allow the university to offset reductions in state appropriations; provide a pay increase for faculty and staff; annualize personal service obligations; hire new faculty and staff; cover projected hikes in employer benefit obligations; provide performance bonuses; appoint three additional faculty research scholars; and provide a contingency fund.

George McIntyre of Bennettsville, chairman of the board's finance com-

mittee, said that despite the increase in tuition and fees, the cost of an education at FMU is still one of the best educational buys in the state of South Carolina. He also pointed out that there have been increases in financial support programs for FMU students to help them with additional costs.

More than \$23 million in some type of financial assistance was awarded to FMU students during the 2003-2004 year, and that number is expected to increase next fiscal year. This financial support comes in the form of federal grants and loans, state LIFE and HOPE Scholarships and Palmetto Fellowships, institutional scholarships, and student work-study programs.

In other business, the trustees:

- approved a resolution reaffirming university policies regarding calculation of grade point averages, following the legislature's passage of the 2004 Life Sciences Act which establishes a different method of determining grade point averages for LIFE scholarship eligibility.

- passed a resolution thanking the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation for its \$5 million gift, authorizing the construction of a nursing building on campus, contingent on appropriate state approvals, and authorizing the creation of a Department of Nursing within the College of Liberal Arts.

The trustees also learned that the university's five-year capital campaign has reached \$17.1 million, 143 percent

of its \$12 million goal with two years left. It was reported to the trustees that summer school enrollment is ahead of last year, that applications for fall semester are up for the fifth straight year, and the number of registered students is up 6.4 percent over last fall.

In his report to the board, FMU President Fred Carter thanked State Sen. Hugh Leatherman for helping with several university initiatives in the legislature. He also thanked outgoing faculty chair Charlene Wages who is stepping down after four years in that position.

Carter also told the trustees that he was appointing a committee to study the future of athletics at Francis Marion.

He charged the committee with making recommendations on three topics: the divisional status of the athletic program, the conference affiliation and the appropriate mix of intercollegiate sports offered by FMU.

Carter named McIntyre to chair the committee with Athletic Director Murray Hartzler serving as vice chair. Alumni and former athletes Wayne Huggins and Dr. Robert Moore, and Joe Heyward, vice president of student affairs at FMU, were also appointed to the committee.

Carter said that additional people would be appointed to the committee later. He asked the committee to make its recommendations sometime this fall.

---

## FMU to hold five orientation sessions for new students this summer

Francis Marion University will hold five orientation sessions this summer for new students who will begin classes at the university in the fall.

Each new student is required to attend one of the sessions, scheduled for June 10-11, June 24-25, July 15-16, July 29-30, and Aug. 10.

FMU's orientation is a fun event that gives incoming students the chance to familiarize themselves with the uni-

versity. At orientation, new FMU students have the opportunity to register for classes, work with an academic adviser, have an FMU ID card made, meet current and incoming students, receive information on a variety of student services, and see the entire campus.

Fall semester classes begin Aug. 25.

For more information about orientation, call FMU's Orientation Office at 843-661-1563.

### New members join Staff Advisory Committee for 2004-05

The Staff Advisory Committee consists of 11 members representing all staff departments at FMU.

The committee's mission is to foster open communication between staff and administrators and to ensure that staff suggestions and recommendations are made known to the president.

The committee encourages open dialogue and comments on issues relevant to the successful operation of this institution.

The following are members of the committee for 2004-2005:

**Patrick Boswell** (vice chair) is a graduate of FMU and has been employed by the university for 11 years. He is a computer programmer with the Office of Administrative Computing Services. He has two sons, Jack and Casey.

**Shayla Campbell** (secretary) is from Mullins and began working at FMU in 2000 in the Housing office. She moved to her current position in the Purchasing office in 2001, where

she is purchasing assistant. She is married and has three children.

**Todd J. Hudak** joined the FMU staff in 2000. He is the news editor in the Office of Communications Services and resides in Florence.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina.

**Evone Leggette** of Marion is a custodian. She has been employed at FMU for nearly three years.

**Maria McCormick** is the administrative assistant for the Department of Mathematics. She has worked at FMU since 1993. She lives in Dillon with her husband, Willie. They have two children: Joshua, 17, and Shelley, 14.

**Nick McKithen** is the supervisor of the Motor Pool. He has worked at Francis Marion since 1984 and lives in Timmonsville.

**James McLeod** has been employed as FMU for 14 years. He works in the Physical Plant Building

Maintenance department as a master craftsman, generalist.

**Loretta Kay Spears** began employment at FMU as a book processor in the Cataloging Department of James A. Rogers Library in February 2001.

**Linda Sullen** (chair) has served two previous years with the committee. She is a graduate of FMU and has been employed with the university for 27 years.

She is currently an accountant in the Telecommunications, Payroll and Inventory Office. She is married and has two children.

**Benita Y. Woodbury** is the administrative assistant for the Office of Student Development, which is responsible for many of the non-academic functions of the university.

Benita is a graduate of Barber-Scotia College in Concord, N.C., and has been employed at FMU since 1984. Her hobbies include crafts, sewing and shopping.

## Human Resources Update

### How the new Medicare-approved drug card affects EIP subscribers

As a result of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and modernization Act of 2003, Medicare has implemented a new discount card program for prescription drugs.

The cards, to be provided by contracting companies, go into effect beginning June 2004. The cards are intended to help eligible Medicare beneficiaries with prescription drug costs until the permanent Medicare drug benefit begins in 2006.

Almost anyone eligible for Medicare, including Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in health insurance through EIP, may obtain a drug discount card.

Only those who have outpatient drug coverage through Medicaid are not eligible. Medicare beneficiaries may begin signing up for a card this

month. The discount card program is voluntary, and enrolling is up to the individual. However, below are some points to consider before enrolling.

■ While a beneficiary can enroll in only one discount card at a time, there is no single Medicare-approved drug discount card.

In South Carolina, there will be 20-30 different card programs from which to choose, each with its own covered drugs and annual enrollment fee. The annual enrollment fee for a card may not exceed \$30. This fee is charged, regardless of the time of year in which you enroll. Companies authorized to offer the discount cards must place a "Medicare-approved" seal on the card.

■ The discount amount is a lower retail price; various companies decide

which drugs will be offered at a discount and your cost for them.

Only drugs included on the company's list will be discounted. Different drugs on this list may be discounted at different rates, and the discounted prices may change during the year. Therefore, you will need to compare carefully the prices you pay for your drugs under your health plan vs. a Medicare-approved card's prices to determine if a card may be beneficial to you.

■ If you have a pharmacy that you use regularly to obtain your prescriptions, it is important to note that each discount card has a limited number of pharmacies that accept it. Participating pharmacies vary from card to card and may or may not participate in your EIP health plan's pharmacy network.



## Huggins donates \$100,000 to FMU for athletic scholarship

Two scholarship donors were recognized by Francis Marion University at a recent gathering of the school's Board of Trustees, including the announcement of the largest one-time gift by an individual to the Patriot athletic department.

The \$100,000 donation by alumnus and Florence native Wayne Huggins will endow an athletic scholarship that will rotate on a yearly basis between baseball, men's basketball, and women's basketball. The yearly award will be named in honor of Huggins.

The gift is also the largest single gift of any type by an individual alumnus in the history of the university.

The university also recognized Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. (of Florence) and its CEO Fred Avent for that organization's long-time support of Patriot athletics.

Pepsi has been a supporter of many

university functions and projects, and has been a scholarship donor since 1977.

Huggins was a four-year letterwinner on the first four Patriot baseball teams (1973-76), and graduated with a B.S. degree in mathematics in 1976.

The former owner and operator of Carolina Medical Corp., Lease Associates, Inc., and Greenville Dialysis Center, he now resides in Myrtle Beach.

A right-handed hitting catcher, he appeared in 125 career games and recorded a .320 career batting average with 61 runs scored, 32 doubles, four home runs, and 74 runs batted in.

He was a three-time NAIA District Six All-District selection, and as a senior was named an NAIA honorable mention All-American. He was inducted into the FMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

Listed as the first-ever baseball

scholarship recipient at Francis Marion, Huggins said, "This gift is a way for me to give back to the university in thanks for the opportunities Francis Marion gave to me."

"Wayne has been a loyal supporter of Francis Marion athletics for as long as I can remember," said FMU athletic director Murray Hartzler.

"It is very rare that you find an individual who has a genuine fan interest and the financial resources to support a program like Wayne is able to do. He attends Patriot sporting events, and is interested in helping the program in whatever way possible. We are very appreciative for all he does for Francis Marion."

The Board of Trustees also honored the FMU coaching staff at the evening event.

This past year, six different Patriot athletic teams appeared in national poll rankings.

---

## Psaras Foundation makes grant to Non-Profit Leadership Institute

The Psaras Foundation of Columbia has awarded a \$100,000 challenge grant to Francis Marion University to support the Non-Profit Leadership Institute and to help take the program statewide.

The grant will be awarded in \$25,000 increments over the next four years and is contingent upon the university raising \$2,000 in matching funds.

"We are extremely grateful to the Psaras Foundation for supporting the Non-Profit Leadership Institute," said FMU President Fred Carter. "It's another signal that this program is important to non-profit leadership

inside as well as outside the Pee Dee region."

FMU's Non-Profit Leadership Institute was established in 2002 to provide a higher level of professional development for the non-profit sector of the Pee Dee region.

The Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation urged the creation of this leadership training program and annually funded its development.

In 2002, the Psaras Foundation provided a \$10,000 grant as seed money to help get the program started. The \$100,000 grant from the Psaras Foundation will help expand the program statewide.

About 25 participants from non-profit organizations have participated in training programs for each of the first two years. Training sessions are held in one- or two-day periods, beginning each fall and continuing for seven months.

Topics include leadership; program development and delivery; human resource development, including board members and volunteers; effective financial resource development and management; programmatic and organizational issues related to data collection and reporting; visibility, including managing external relations; and case studies.

---

## FMU Travelers offer chance to cruise western Caribbean in March

Francis Marion University Travelers is offering a seven-night western Caribbean cruise, March 5-12, 2005.

The Norwegian Majesty cruise ship will depart from and dock in Charleston, with stops in George Town, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; and Key West, Fla.

The cost of the cruise is \$750 for an inside stateroom and \$950 for an ocean-view stateroom, per person, double occupancy. The cost includes all shipboard meals (daily breakfast, lunch and dinner; afternoon teas; midnight buf-

fets; snacks, and 24-hour room service); all shipboard amenities, activities and entertainment; all port charges; all gratuities (including standard shipboard gratuities); and baggage handling for two pieces of luggage per person.

A \$100 deposit is due immediately with a registration form, followed by \$200 payments in August and October and the final payment in December.

For more information or to make reservations, call Kelly Sellers, FMU's director of alumni affairs, at 1228.



# 'Spirit of Florence' celebration to be held Saturday, July 3

"Spirit of Florence 2004, A Family Celebration," will be held at Timrod Park and Legion Field, Saturday, July 3.

The festivities will begin at 9 a.m. and end that evening with a Florence RedWolves baseball game. Admission to all events is free, except the baseball game, which is \$2 per person for general admission.

The Florence Family YMCA will host a "Picnic in the Park" in the Timrod Park playground area. The event will include kids' games at 10 a.m., a self-propelled parade at 11:30 a.m., a picnic at noon, and a patriotic program at 12:30 p.m., with music provided by Latta Brass Plus One.

Parks and Leisure Services and the Florence Police Department will sponsor "Fun in the Park," also at the playground area. This event will include free tennis lessons between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., and storytelling, face painting, and finger painting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance will host "Concerts in the Park," featuring N'Accord from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the playground area, and The Woodys from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Timrod Park Amphitheater.

The Florence Museum will hold "Art, Science and History in the Park," at the museum at 558 Spruce St. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Society for Creative Anachronism will provide "History in the Park" at the gazebo area of Timrod Park, with an open field battle at 11 a.m., a performance by Painted Wheel at noon, a ladies' choice tournament at 12:30 p.m., and The Battle for Gully Branch at 2 p.m.

The day will wind up with a Florence RedWolves baseball game at Legion Field at 7 p.m. The Fort Bragg Green Beret Parachute Team will be featured before the game, and there will be a fireworks show after the game. For more information, call 665-2787.

## Jobs On-Campus

(as of 6-10-04)

- Instructor of English
- Assistant Professor of English
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education
- Coordinator of Student Life
- Instructor of Education

Visit Human Resources, SAB 105, or call 1140.

## Coming Up On Campus

### JUNE

17 9am-2pm Blood Drive, UC, call 1189 to register  
24-25 Orientation for new students

### JULY

5 University closed for Independence Day holiday  
7 Summer I classes end  
8 Registration for Summer II classes  
12 Summer II classes begin  
14 noon Staff Awards Luncheon, Ervin Dining Hall  
15-16 Orientation for new students  
29-30 Orientation for new students

### AUG.

10 Orientation for new students  
12 Summer II classes end  
22 Housing opens for new students  
25 Fall classes begin

### Craig Strickland joins FMU Admissions staff

Craig Strickland of Latta has joined the FMU staff as an admissions counselor.

He has a bachelor's degree in health science from Clemson University.

### Patriot Digest deadlines

*Patriot Digest* is published twice monthly and distributed on paydays. The printing schedule is:

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Copy due</b> | <b>Publication</b> |
| June 23         | June 30            |

Submit articles via e-mail at [thudak@fmarion.edu](mailto:thudak@fmarion.edu). Questions or comments? Contact Todd J. Hudak at 1227.

*Patriot Digest* is produced for the Francis Marion University faculty and staff by the Office of Communications Services, SAB 113.