

Patriot Digest

The Francis Marion University Faculty and Staff Newsletter

Nov. 15, 2005

Trustees approve degree in medical technology

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees, during its quarterly meeting Friday (Nov. 11), authorized the university to begin offering a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis in medical technology.

The trustees authorized FMU to modify its program to begin offering a "3+1" program requiring 94 semester hours at FMU and 30 hours at the McLeod Regional Medical Center School of Medical Technology or another accredited school of medical technology. The proposed date of implementation is spring semester 2006.

"The cooperative program between FMU and McLeod will allow our students to develop the special skills needed for a professional career in medical technology, within the framework of a liberal arts education," said Larry McCumber, FMU professor of biology and coordinator of the medical technology program.

There is a nationwide shortage of personnel with medical technology degrees. The U.S. Bureau of Labor predicts that for the remainder of this decade there will be a need for 12,400 laboratory professional graduates per year. Currently, about 4,100 graduates are produced for medical technologists and medical laboratory technicians combined. The best available information indicates that only nine such graduates come from the Pee Dee region each year, not enough to fill the openings in area hospitals or in private laboratories and physicians' offices.

Vacancy rates nationally run about 12 to 20 percent. In addition, 72 percent of the laboratory workforce is over the age of 40 with an average age of 47. About half the current laboratory workforce is eligible to retire by 2010.

The new FMU 3+1 program will make it possible for students to join the workforce one year earlier than the

present 4+1 program. The proposed program will continue to provide the crucial scientific background for well-educated medical technology professionals.

The program modification will also enable eligible students to use the Life Scholarship during the clinical year and also allow access to other university financial aid programs for the fourth, clinical year. All faculty, facilities and courses needed for this program are already in place within the Department of Biology.

The trustees also approved a resolution naming an auditorium in the nursing building in honor of Dr. John M. Thomason, a long-time Florence physician and a staunch supporter of the FMU nursing program. Dr. Thomason served the Pee Dee region for more than 30 years and has served as vice chairman of the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation board since its inception in 1995.

Hester named director of Center for the Child

Francis Marion University psychology professor John R. Hester has been named director of FMU's Center for the Child.

Hester will also remain as chair of the FMU Department of Psychology, a position he has held since 1999.

Earlier this year, the university obtained a \$2 million appropriation from the legislature to build the Center for the Child.

This center will be a child development and evaluation clinic to train professionals and provide direct service to children and their families.

The center will include a child study lab that will provide state-of-the-art day care for children and their families. Construction of the center is expected to begin in the summer of 2006.

Hester, a native of Greenville, earned the B.A. degree in psychology from Clemson University and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in school psychology from the University of South Carolina. He is a nationally certified school psychologist and has worked in



Hester

private practice, consulting with individual clients and area school districts, for more than 20 years. Prior to joining the FMU faculty in 1980, he worked as a school psychologist in Richland School District 2. He also worked as a school psychology intern in the Fairfield County, Richland 1 and Lexington 2 school districts.

"John Hester's expertise in school psychology makes him an ideal choice to head the Center for the Child," said FMU president Fred Carter. "His years of experience working with children will be a tremendous asset in this important position."

Hester has presented numerous professional papers and has several publications. He has also served on a number of academic committees at FMU.

He is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Society, the National Association of School Psychologists, the South Carolina Association of School Psychologists, the Southeastern Psychological Association, and the Association of Heads of Departments in Psychology.

Faculty/Staff News

Lisa A. Eargle, associate professor of sociology, presented two papers at the Mid-South Sociological Association conference in Atlanta, Oct. 27-28. The first paper was titled "POET Revisited: A Reanalysis and Expansion of Albrecht and Murdock's Part-time Farming Model." The second paper, "Local Labor Market Structure, Employment Hardship and Poverty by

Race and Ethnicity," was co-authored with Ashraf M. Esmail of Southeastern Louisiana University.

The Faculty Life Committee is seeking nominations for a speaker for the **William C. Moran Lecture**.

Normally, the speaker is a retiring or emeritus faculty member or an accomplished senior faculty member.

Send names of candidates to Tim Shannon via e-mail at tshannon@fmarion.edu by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Letters of nomination are not necessary.

Allyson Bigby of Easley has joined the FMU staff as a student services counselor in the Admissions office. She is an FMU graduate.

Columbia attorney Bob Merritt tapped as FMU legal counsel

Robert E. (Bob) Merritt of Columbia has been named university attorney for Francis Marion University.

His appointment is effective in January 2006.

"Bob Merritt brings a wealth of legal expertise in state government to this new FMU position," said FMU President Fred Carter.

"He is a consummate professional and will be a wonderful addition to the university and the Pee Dee community."

Merritt has 21 years experience providing legal counsel to various state agencies.



Merritt

Since 2003, Merritt has been extraditions counsel for the governor's office, on assignment from the Budget and Control Board. He also has served as lead staff to the Governor's Management Accountability and Performance Commission and as staff to the South Carolina Commission on International Cooperation.

Merritt has served as assistant general counsel to the S.C. Budget and Control Board and was assigned as staff to the S.C. Education Lottery Commission during its start-up period in 2001.

From 1992 to 2001, he was chief of staff and counsel to the S.C. Senate Finance Committee's Office of President Pro Tempore John Drummond. From 1987 to 1992, he was director of

research and counsel to the S.C. Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. From 1983 to 1987, he was a law clerk and later the attorney for the S.C. Senate Finance Committee.

Merritt has experience as an agent for the S.C. Probation, Parole and Pardon Board, served as a Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy, taught in the Charleston County public schools and was a police officer with the North Charleston Police Department.

Raised in Berkeley County, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in 1973 and a law degree from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1984. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1984.

National Bank of South Carolina establishes endowed scholarship

The National Bank of South Carolina has established an endowed scholarship at Francis Marion University to recognize and assist outstanding undergraduate students.

The scholarship will be permanently endowed in the amount of \$25,000.

The recipient of the scholarship must be a South Carolina resident and must demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to a student who has a major concentration in business. The recipient is eligible for repeat awards, provided all qualifications are met.

"NBSC recognizes Francis Marion

University's role in fostering future economic growth in Florence County and the Pee Dee," said Tyler Hudson, vice president and city executive of NBSC. "This scholarship will assist the university in continuing to develop future business leaders in the community."

"We are extremely grateful to NBSC for this generous gift," said FMU president Fred Carter. "This scholarship will benefit deserving students as they pursue their education in business and related disciplines."

The National Bank of South Carolina is a member of Synovus family of companies.

Synovus is a diversified financial services holding company based in Columbus, Ga., providing banking, financial management, insurance, mortgage and leasing services through 39 affiliate banks and other Synovus offices in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee; and electronic payment processing through TSYS, the world's largest third-party processor of international payments.

FORTUNE magazine named Synovus as one of "America's Most Admired Companies" and also ranked Synovus on its list of "The 100 Best Companies To Work For."



Teacher education program maintains NCATE accreditation

The teacher education program at Francis Marion University has maintained its accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), based in Washington, D.C.

The official approval came Nov. 4 in a letter to FMU president Fred Carter from Arthur E. Wise, president of NCATE. NCATE is the most prestigious national accreditation that university teacher education programs can receive.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes NCATE as the professional accrediting organization for schools, colleges, and departments of education in the United States.

“This reaccreditation is due in large part to the diligence and hard

work of the faculty,” said Carter. “We truly have one of the finest schools of education in the state and one of the most accomplished faculties.”

FMU first gained NCATE accreditation in 1999. Accreditation, once granted, must be constantly maintained.

Continuing accreditation requires institutions to maintain high standards, employ a comprehensive assessment system to monitor the program, file annual reports, and host an on-site Board of Examiners evaluation team every five years.

“The NCATE label indicates that we have a quality program,” said Ron Faulkenberry, dean of the FMU School of Education. “NCATE accreditation is an arduous process. I congratulate the

School of Education faculty for their excellent work in maintaining our accreditation and national recognition.”

NCATE currently accredits 602 colleges of education with nearly 100 more seeking NCATE accreditation. NCATE is a coalition of 33 member organizations of teachers, teacher educators, content specialists, and local and state policy makers. All are committed to quality teaching, and together, the coalition represents over 3 million individuals.

FMU has awarded 4,460 undergraduate and graduate degrees in education over the last 35 years, and has more graduates employed as teachers in the Pee Dee region than any other university.

Chamber of Commerce sponsors upcoming community programs

Building Bridges

2006 Building Bridges, a six-week program in cultural diversity, will be held on Mondays from Jan. 23 to Feb. 27 at the Poynor Adult Center.

The mission of Building Bridges is to enable the community to address diversity issues through a continuing process of changing attitudes and hearts.

The program costs \$15 per person and \$10 per person for a group of five. The registration deadline is Jan. 13. For more information or to register, contact the Greater Florence Chamber

of Commerce at 665-0515.

MLK essay contest

The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Francis Marion University will host an essay/poem contest honoring the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

The 750 to 1,500-word essay/poem should be written as “A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” The content of the essay/program should describe how MLK’s struggle improved your life.

The top essay/poem will be read on Jan. 12 at FMU. The winner will re-

ceive a prize, trophy and local recognition. All entries must be postmarked by Dec. 31. For more information, call the chamber at 665-0515.

UNCF Gala

The 13th Annual UNCF Gala will be held Friday, Dec. 2, at the Florence Civic Center. The special celebrity guest will be Star Jones of the television program “The View.” Individual tickets are \$100 per person. For table and ticket information, call UNCF campaign coordinator Starlee Alexander at 662-4164.

Staff Advisory Committee seeks donations for holiday fund

The FMU Staff Advisory Committee is once again seeking donations for its Staff Holiday Fund.

The fund will benefit one or more staff members or staff retirees who are in need this holiday season.

All faculty and staff are asked to contribute \$1 (more if you please) to support this effort.

The deadline for donations is Thursday, Dec. 15. Checks should be made payable to the Staff Advisory Committee Fund.

Cash or check donations can be given to any Staff Advisory Committee member. Committee members will also be contacting employees in their area for donations. Committee members are: Mary Greene, Benita Woodbury, Pat Boswell, Shayla Campbell, Evone Leggette, James McLeod, Loretta Spears, Susan Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Cheryl Tuttle, and Curtis Cato.

If you would like to nominate a staff member or staff retiree to be assisted by the fund, call Pat Boswell at 1395.

FMU will be closed Nov. 24-25 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.



Human Resources Update

Prevention Partners to offer free workshops

The State Health Plan Prevention Partners will sponsor two free workshops on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Pee Dee Mental Health Center, located at 125 E. Cheves St., Florence.

A Stress Management workshop will be held from 1 to 1:30 p.m., and a Weight Loss Skills workshop will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The deadline to register is Nov. 25. For more information or a registration form, call Becky Culbertson at 1143.

FMU to host televised forums on I-73

Francis Marion University will host two of three broadcast forums this week about "I-73: Road to the Future?"

South Carolina ETV, in partnership with WBTW-TV, the Florence Morning News and the North East Strategic Alliance (NESA), will present town hall programs to discuss plans for the new interstate highway in the Palmetto State.

The first program will air Tuesday (Nov. 15) from Coastal Carolina University's Wall Auditorium. The second program will air Thursday (Nov. 17) from FMU's Hyman Fine Arts Center Theatre.

Each night the hour-long forum begins at 5 p.m. Seating for both programs is free to the public on a first-come, first served basis. The audience should be seated by 4:45 p.m. because the program is being televised.

WBTW will join the forums in progress from 5:30 to 6 p.m. ETV's WJPM-TV will air coverage of the forums statewide from 7 to 8 p.m. Nov. 15 and Nov. 17.

Wednesday (Nov. 16) ETV Radio will broadcast a special edition of the "Your Day" show at noon from FMU's Cauthen Media Center studio to discuss issues surrounding I-73. There is no public seating for this show. ETV's digital broadcast service, the South Carolina Channel, will air "Your Day" at 3 p.m. on Nov. 16.

The forums will be moderated by WBTW's Bob Juback and will include a panel of experts, including state and local officials and community leaders, with comments from U.S. Senator Jim DeMint. The audience will have the opportunity to submit questions for the panel.

Jobs On-Campus

(as of 11-14-05)

- Assistant Professor of Political Science
- Assistant/Associate Professor of History (Europe, 19th Century)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Accounting
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Management (2)
- Assistant Director of Donald E. Kelley Small Business Institute
- Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Police Officer (2)
- Assistant Professor of Physics
- Assistant/Associate Professor (Elementary Education)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Education (Educational Technology and Assessment)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Education (Middle School/Secondary Education)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology in the area of Cognitive Psychology
- Assistant/Associate Full Professor of Psychology (Clinical or Counseling Psychologist)
- Assistant Professor of Psychology in Experimental Psychology (Biological)
- Assistant Professor of Spanish
- Assistant Professor of English (3)
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing (2)
- Assistant Professor of Biology
- Executive Assistant to the President
- Assistant Professor of Mathematics (2)
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Mass Communication
- Assistant Professor of Fine Arts (Graphic Design/Foundation)
- Assistant Professor of Computer Science
- Assistant Director of Admissions
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Economics
- Administrative Assistant - Center of Excellence (Temporary Grant Position)

Visit Human Resources,
SAB 105, or call 1140.

Coming Up On Campus

NOV.

- through Nov. 17 Art Gallery Series: Photographs by Jamie Owens, HFAC gallery
- through Nov. 17 Art Gallery Series: "The Pixel Bound" by James Bailey, HFAC gallery
- through Nov. 21 Art Gallery Series: Student work by FMU photography classes, UC gallery
- 17 8 pm Concert: University Jazz Express, McNair auditorium
- 22-Dec. 17 Art Gallery Series: Senior Shows by graduating FMU visual arts majors, HFAC gallery
- 24-25 University closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 27 3 pm Planetarium show: "The Christmas Star," Dooley Planetarium
- 29-Dec. 17 Art Gallery Series: Student work by FMU painting classes, UC gallery

Patriot Digest deadlines

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

<u>Copy due</u>	<u>Publication</u>
Nov. 23	Nov. 30

Submit articles via e-mail at thudak@fmarion.edu. Questions or comments? Contact Todd J. Hudak at 1227.

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