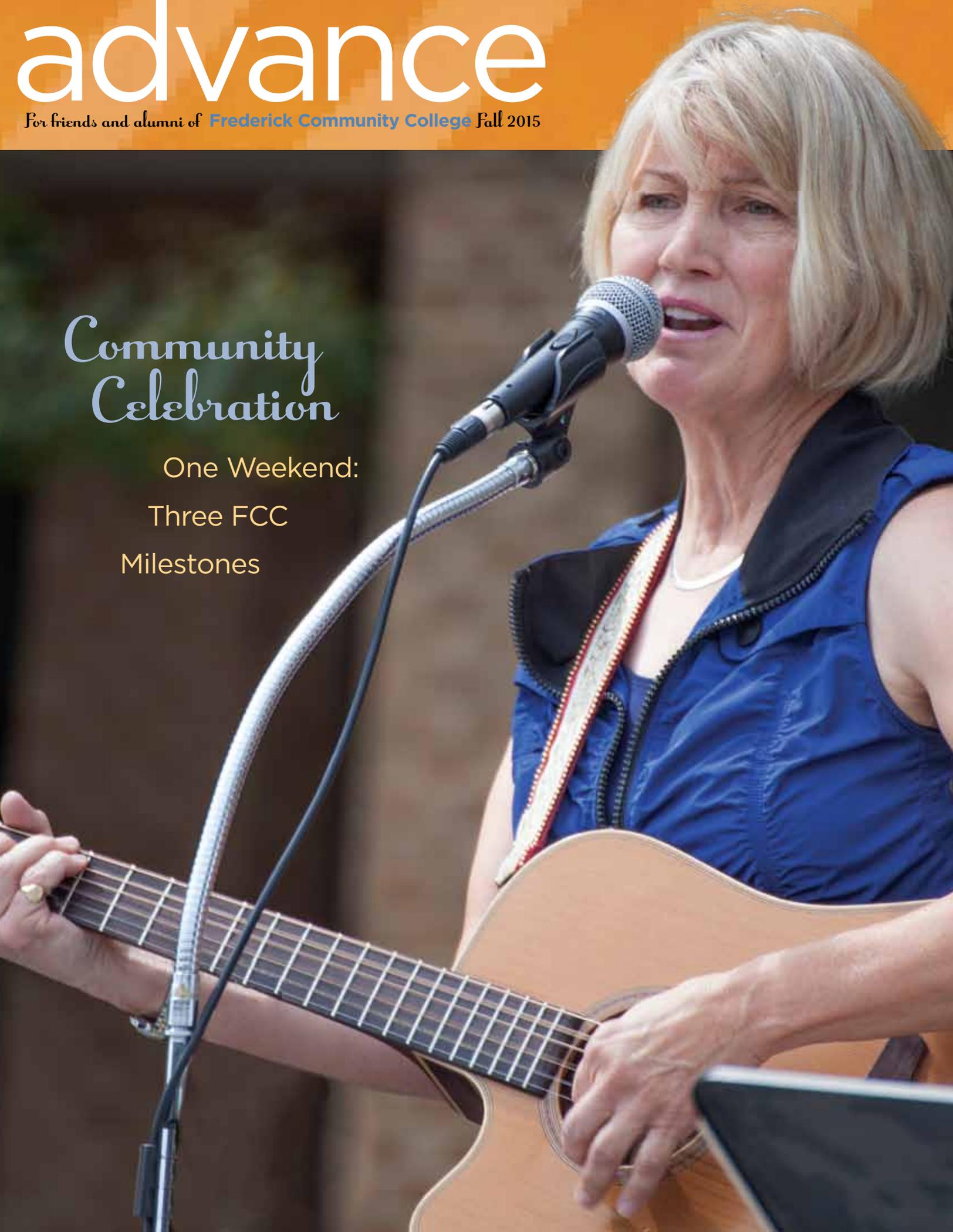


# advance

For friends and alumni of Frederick Community College Fall 2015

## Community Celebration

One Weekend:  
Three FCC  
Milestones



## president's message Elizabeth Burmaster



It is a great privilege to serve as the tenth president of Frederick Community College. It is an honor to join the students, faculty, staff and members of the community as we chart a future

characterized by innovations in teaching and learning, academic excellence and success for all students.

Working "hand-in-hand" with the FCC Foundation Inc., we proudly serve the educational needs of our students, help develop the workforce and economic vitality of our county and state, and enrich the lives of our residents. We credit our ability to deliver these services to the strength of our college community and its commitment to advancing quality higher education.

It is a great joy to work with the FCC Foundation Board of Directors, the Office of Institutional Advancement, and with the Frederick County community. Special thanks to George Littrell III, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, for his leadership and support.

**Elizabeth Burmaster**

**On the Cover:** Associate Professor/Program Manager Jan Sholes performs with Jukebox Live at the Community Celebration on August 30. Photo by Assistant Professor/Program Manager Lisa Sheirer.

## FCC Foundation Inc. George Littrell III, Chair



Welcome to our fall issue of *Advance Magazine*, a publication that shares stories of how Frederick Community College is changing lives

in our region and beyond. It was exciting to reconnect with FCC alumni and friends over one weekend in August, as we held an Alumni Tailgate, the Investiture of President Elizabeth Burmaster, and the Community Celebration (see pages 18 and 19 for photos). We hope it is the first of many annual weekends where we bring together our diverse college community of former and current students, employees, donors, friends, community leaders, and stakeholders. We are grateful to FCC alumnus Tony Checchia for hosting the Alumni Tailgate at the Frederick Indoor Sports Center. And on behalf of the FCC Foundation Board of Directors, I wish President Burmaster nothing but the best as she leads this outstanding institution.

**George Littrell III**

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Frederick Community College  
**Foundation, Inc.**

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By Rita M. Rooney

# The Success Factor

## FCC's Adult Learner Program

Once a year, mortar boards are jubilantly tossed in the air by college graduates eager to leave their imprint on the world. For others, higher education has been postponed because of family obligations or financial challenges.

The Office of Adult Services at Frederick Community College is an open door to those students, traditionally 25 years old or older, who may be unemployed, under-employed, or simply seeking a better, more secure future through education. An alumna of the program calls it her "makeover." And for many, it is surely that.

Janice Brown, director of the Office of Adult Services, heads the program that provides career counseling and educational options for adults returning to school. "Many times when prospective students walk through our door, they are unsure of the direction they want to take," she says. "It becomes our job to answer the questions they don't know to ask."

Tracey Solomon, an alumna who began her FCC education in 2010, was one of those uncertain potential enrollees. What Solomon did realize with certainty was that she wanted to change her life and that of her 11-year-old daughter. At the time, her husband was incarcerated, and she was on public assistance and under severe stress.

"I saw my daughter getting poor grades in school, acting out at home and making the same mistakes I made at her age," Solomon says. "I had to put a stop to it, and I decided maybe getting some schooling and a decent job would help."

She chose to major in human services because she resolved that, if she was successful in changing her life, she wanted to help other women know they, too, could change theirs. It was anything but easy. It had been 25 years since Solomon was in school. From the first day, she struggled with class work, especially math. She had to take statistics three times.

Solomon often found herself in Janice Brown's office, complaining that she wanted to quit. Each time, Brown managed to convince her that with

determination, she would make it. At one point, she fell and broke both legs. She was confined to a wheelchair but continued her studies. In fact, during that time, she completed an internship with a criminal psychologist at the University of Maryland, Hagerstown. Why, some may ask, would she want to add such a program to her already full curriculum?



"It hit me one day that I was doing so much work, and struggling so much just to get an AA, that I might as well go on and become a psychologist."

TRACEY SOLOMON

“It hit me one day that I was doing so much work, and struggling so much just to get an AA, that I might as well go on and become a psychologist,” says the very practical 48-year-old. The internship was one of several for which she has earned money and credit, which will count toward her ultimate goal of a Ph.D.

Solomon will receive her associate of arts degree this year and will pursue a bachelor’s and

then a master’s degree. In the meantime, she is working at the Abraxas Youth Detention Center. She is earning credit and a salary through the internship. She goes to class, then works from 3 to 11 p.m., and studies late at night.

As for her daughter, Solomon wears a broad smile when reporting that the youngster is getting A’s and B’s in school, spends hours with her mother at the library, and loves to read.

“We do projects together and spend more mother-daughter time together,” says the proud mom. “It’s as if I’m her big sister. Our lives are great, really great.”

Janice Brown reports that the essential objective of the Adult Services initiative is to assist financially-strapped students with obtaining the skills and education necessary for them to become gainfully employed.

“Students first come to us with both excitement and anxiety,” she says. “They don’t see themselves as college students. We help them understand what to expect, and that lowers their anxiety. After students receive their first passing grade, they tell us they feel like college students. That’s a joy to hear. I feel very privileged to be part of this.”

Comlan Akitani worked at a bank in his native West Africa, but had problems obtaining employment in the banking industry when he came to the U.S. “English was most difficult for me,” he says. “I couldn’t find a good job, and while I wanted to further my education as an accountant, learning English was my first objective.”

He came to FCC and talked to Brown, who helped him



Since his graduation from FCC two years ago, he has been working at a bank and will begin earning a bachelor’s degree at the University of Maryland in the fall.

COMLAN AKITANI

determine which courses would be most helpful. While earning his AA degree, he was able to secure a work-study position that helped him in more ways than just financial.

“Not only did it help me earn money, but at the same time, I was getting experience and working to establish myself professionally in this country,” he says.

Although Akitani

had attended college in Africa, he decided to start from the beginning at Frederick Community College. “I could read, but conversation was very difficult for me,” he says. “Taking classes at FCC would be the best way to equip myself for a career in this country.”

Since his graduation from FCC two years ago, he has been working at a bank and will begin earning a bachelor’s degree at the University of Maryland in the fall.

“I really like working at the bank,” he says. “It’s a good opportunity for me.” He adds that, eventually, he hopes to be an auditor. “It is not a field that is overcrowded, and I believe there are opportunities that are challenging,” he concludes.

As for FCC, Akitani is among the school’s most enthusiastic alumni. “Everyone there was so helpful to me,” he says. “Janice Brown was like a ‘Mom.’ She was a mentor who helped me get scholarships. She gave me options and was instrumental in my work-study program. But she wasn’t the only one. I met so many helpful people who made my years at FCC so very good.”

The years ahead look positive for Akitani, both professionally and personally. He plans to marry later this year—his bride is a graduate of FCC’s nursing program. They came to this country together as “just friends,” but developed a deeper relationship while studying at the college.

The Office of Adult Services has launched students toward successful careers in many fields. Brown reports

nursing is a popular pursuit of people seeking an associate degree that encompasses a clinical program of two years plus course work that includes English, math, and psychology. Upon earning the degree and certification, the graduate becomes a registered nurse. Programs leading to Licensed Practical Nurse and Certified Nursing Assistant status are also available.

President Elizabeth Burmaster cites relevance as the component that makes adult learning at FCC successful. “We learn by doing,” she says. “Knowledge is critical, but the application of that knowledge is where the great depth of learning occurs. As a community college, we teach students how to apply knowledge and skills in the real world.”

Along with nursing, teaching is a prevalent choice among many adult learners. Dana Wiles began taking classes at FCC in 1999. At the time, she had a 12-month-old son and was pregnant.

“I always wanted to be a teacher,” Wiles says. “I thought it was impossible because I couldn’t afford either the tuition or child care. Then I went to FCC. That was when I discovered anything is possible.”

She qualified for a tuition grant and began taking a few courses at night. Many of her required classes, however, were scheduled during the day. Thanks to an FCC child care grant, she was able to complete her coursework.

“Without help from the college, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” says the successful teacher who now holds a master’s degree and teaches a 6th grade gifted and talented class at North Frederick Elementary School.

Wiles refers to the Carl and Norma Miller Children’s Center as so much more than day care. “It’s a learning center with qualified

teachers who provide reading instruction and other excellent programs,” she says. “My daughter has asthma, and the teacher once called my cell phone to tell me she had a heavy cough. I was able to run across campus, give her medication and come back to class. That kind of care is a tremendous relief for a mother.”

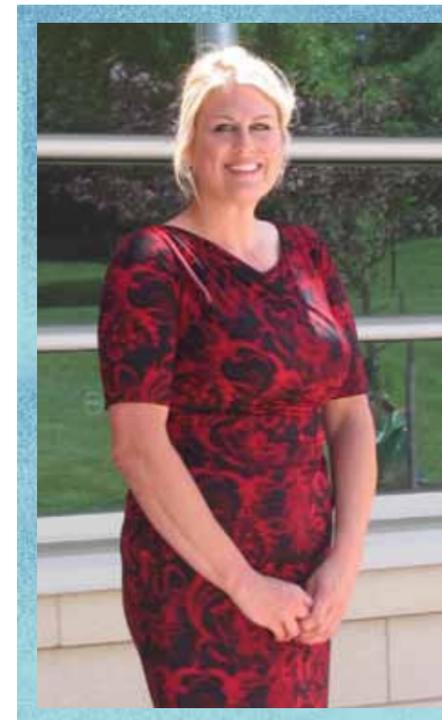
Wiles says she wanted to give up on her classes many times. Newly divorced, she had struggles with money, responsibilities at home, finding time to study, and difficulty in some classes. There were unexpected low points as well. She had surgery. Her grandfather, a much loved second dad, died suddenly. She convinced herself she could no longer handle everything in her life. But Janice Brown had other ideas.

“She was such a no-nonsense influence in my life,” Wiles reports. “She managed to convince me that this was part of living, it would pass and I would be a teacher someday. I was able to take advantage of some tutoring which helped enormously. It just seemed that the college did everything possible to help me succeed.”

From FCC, Wiles went to Mount St. Mary’s University and graduated with honors in elementary education, then obtained a master’s degree in curriculum development from

Hood College. She is thinking of getting a doctoral degree that would help her focus on current educational trends, and she thoroughly enjoys the challenge of teaching gifted and talented children. A few years ago, Wiles was one of four teachers in the entire country to receive the national Javits Frasier Award from the National Association of Gifted Children.

As exciting as that honor was, Wiles has a career wish of working at FCC one day. ©



“I was able to take advantage of some tutoring which helped enormously. It just seemed that the college did everything possible to help me succeed.”

DANA WILES

# ON THE JOB AT FCC

By Rita M. Rooney

**N**athan Arjuela is a native of Colombia who came to the United States for a better life, and proudly took the oath as an American citizen in 2008. Shortly after his arrival, he focused on education as the pathway to the life he envisioned for his future.

“There are so many things to learn in this country,” Arjuela says. “I think we never know enough, so we have to keep educating ourselves.”

While working full time, Arjuela enrolled at FCC to take courses intending to reinforce his skills in welding, electrical systems, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning). However, he found education to be habit-forming, and so, after earning an associate degree, he is now heading to Penn State for a bachelor’s degree in renewable energy and sustainable systems.

“Frederick Community College gave me the opportunity to obtain immediate employment and earn a living while studying locally,” he says. “This school is just great. It has given me a new future.”

David Croghan, vice president of the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development defines his job as managing people and resources within the college to connect students with the business community. “Our job is to identify existing needs, then create and manage programs that allow Frederick County residents to either enter the workforce or upgrade their skills within a specific field,” he says.

For countless students in credit and non-credit courses, Croghan’s job description characterizes what Arjuela calls his “new future.” Croghan is a board member of the Frederick County Workforce Services Agency, which is funded by federal, state, and county dollars, and whose goal is putting people back to work. The agency typically interacts with FCC by paying tuition for students with specific training needs. One example is a program for welders, an occupation with considerable hiring opportunities in Frederick County. Often, when the college has a training program that matches workforce

needs, the agency will provide students with federally-funded training vouchers to pay tuition expenses at FCC.

Patricia Meyer, director of workforce training, oversees programs in health care, building trades, business and technology, professional licensure, and certification. Many of the courses are taught at the FCC Monroe Center, a 55,000 square-foot facility, launched in 2008 with county funding and a \$1.9 million three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Meyer points to a successful program in which the college works directly with businesses in contract training. “We have contracts with individual companies to provide specific training for their employees,” she says. “We provide customized training to those employees who may need certain skills to advance to managerial or supervisory positions. We take what the college already provides and customize it to the specifications of the individual



FCC is the area’s training leader for welding and other building trades.

company.” She adds that the college has developed a leadership program that incorporates one-on-one coaching.

Another collaborative venture is an agreement among Frederick, Howard, and Carroll counties for specific programs in health care training for credit and non-credit career development programs. Classes are held at the

Mount Airy College Center for Health Care Education, a shared facility in which various professional development programs, including certified nursing assistant and patient care training, are conducted.

Meyer believes program popularity is somewhat cyclical, though there is generally interest in health care careers and the building trades. “Our certified nursing assistant program has several classes every year,” she says. “For many students, that program is an entry into the workforce. For others, it is a stepping stone into the health care industry.” She adds that the student demographics for the course are representative of the community and includes all ages. “It’s a course that allows the individual to choose from home health to nursing home care or the hospital setting.”

There is an increasing number of local residents who are intrigued by new technologies and attracted to opportunities they can afford. Croghan places cybersecurity high on that list. There is hardly any industry today safe from cyber-attack. Consequently, there is a growing demand for people to detect, interpret, and respond to an attack in order to mitigate the impact on an organization.

Croghan cites emergency management as another area

**“We take what the college already provides and customize it to the specifications of the individual company.” Meyer adds that the college has developed a leadership program that incorporates one-on-one coaching.**

of demand. “We once attributed these responsibilities to police, firefighters, and various other public safety officials,” he says. “Today, public service systems and large corporations need specialists to manage catastrophic conditions or events affecting large populations of people.” He adds that FCC has an AA degree course in emergency management that transfers to the University of Maryland for an undergraduate degree. He also reports that FCC is teaming with public high schools in the state to coordinate training that begins at the high school level.

The FCC Workforce Development Program partners with the college’s highly-trained career counselors who advise students in all programs. Program managers within Workforce Development explain the program and advise students relative to their experience and goals. Interestingly, Croghan says many aspiring students don’t come with a specific interest to become welders, certified nursing assistants or other professions, but with a goal of



“I need a job. What’s the quickest way to get one?” The college responds to these needs by offering programs that can help people become employment-ready in a short time frame. Often, once these students are successfully employed, they return to FCC for the education they need for advancement.

Croghan reports on the economic mindset of the Workforce Development program, pointing out, “We are responsible stewards of public dollars here at the college, meaning we’re careful to earn the widest return on investment.” He adds, “We do considerable research on economic modeling data. We listen to local employers. We are members of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and network with chamber members, as well as meet with various boards and human resource managers in local companies to determine business needs.”

For Meyer, the bottom line is community vitality. “We’re in line with the business needs of Frederick County,” she says. “We know where the jobs are, and we can help people who want to gain entry or advance in a career path.” ©

# First Distinguished Artist Awards

**Howard Burns** has been teaching, directing and inspiring young Frederick County musicians at FCC for 27 years. His jazz ensembles have become synonymous with the area's cultural scene and with the dreams of students now working professionally throughout the country.

"Occasionally, I run into the parents of former students, and they tell me what their kids are doing now," Burns says. "It's a good feeling to hear that music is still part of their lives."

One of those students, Rick Martinez, who dabbles in several instruments but plays drums primarily, has launched an impressive career in New York City. He says Burns taught him a great deal about playing in ensembles, which is what he most enjoys professionally.

Rick Martinez's successful career and start through coursework at FCC were the underlying theme behind the first FCC Distinguished Artist Awards event this spring. Martinez, along with four former students and a special donor, was honored during an inaugural ceremony in the JBK Theater, which culminated with an FCC Jazz Ensemble concert directed by Burns.

Other award recipients included Jonathan Redding, Drama; Erin Tinney, Design; Rick Heffner, Art; Mike Stashik, Digital Media; and Robert and Kimberly Brenengen, Patron of the Arts.

Burns's summation of his FCC jazz band ensembles over the years is a fitting tribute that applies to all of the recipients of the Distinguished Artist Awards.

"People want to play the music," Burns says. "And what better place to do that than at the community college." Whether in art, graphic design, drama, digital media/TV or music, one might ask, what better place to begin than FCC?

Martinez went from FCC to New York University where he graduated in 2009. Today, he is a versatile and busy drummer, percussionist, and composer who enjoys several genres and styles. He has performed in the Berklee World Percussion Festival and as principal timpanist with the Peabody Youth Sinfonietta at the Tanglewood Music Festival.

Martinez says his best career moments came when playing with many great musicians. "That's what I look forward to in the future," he reports. "I don't have specific ambitions about money. It's more about playing with people, making friends, keeping up the energy,



Howard Burns and the FCC Jazz Ensemble

and doing something I enjoy." During the Distinguished Artist Awards ceremony, Martinez acknowledged FCC mentors Mike Shepherd and Bob Novak for inspiring him.

After graduating from FCC in 1989, Rick Heffner earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Shepherd University. He launched his professional design career in Washington, D.C., including a stint at the Discovery Channel, before opening his own firm in 1996.

"At the time, I enjoyed my work but was eager to expand to a wider diversity of clients," he notes.

Today, Heffner's 19-year-old agency, which has a staff of six, works primarily with interactive media, especially

in the areas of conservation, the environment, and animal and human rights issues. "I like to work for groups that have a cause," he says. "That includes the Smithsonian Institution."

Looking back, Heffner says he was somewhat directionless when he first stepped foot on the FCC campus. Mentors including Wendell Poindexter helped him resolve career goals.



"I knew I had artistic ability, but I didn't know what I wanted to do with it," he recalls. "It was my teachers at FCC who gave me direction."

Mike Stashik had a similar experience. "When I first walked through the doors at FCC, I had no idea what I wanted," he admits. "All I had was a lifelong dream to work for the Orioles."

With that as his main focus, Stashik took a number of courses, including a video class taught by long-time faculty member Joe Osmann, now retired. "I was immediately hooked," he remembers.

Everything crystallized for Stashik from that first day in class, and he eventually earned an internship with Frederick Cablevision. FCC adjunct professor Chris Hall gave him his first full-time job—directing television coverage at Frederick Keys baseball games and local high school venues. He moved on to cover space shuttle launches and a variety of jobs before landing his dream job in Baltimore.

"My heart had always been there," he says. While he was studying film at Towson University, Stashik worked his way up with the Orioles, from stadium usher to part-time camera operator to full-time producer. Since 2001, he directs the 30-member video department, "where I dreamed to be when I was a kid," he says. "But I wouldn't be there without FCC."

Erin Tinney is a lifelong Frederick County resident with a strong sense and appreciation for the history and culture of the area. Previously an award-winning senior graphic designer for Jean Peterson Graphic Design in Frederick, she has been successful in applying her knowledge of the area to work for clients, including the Frederick County Department of Tourism, Hospice of Frederick County and other local organizations.



From left, Provost/Vice President Dr. Tony Hawkins, President Elizabeth Burmaster, Honoree Mike Stashik, and Program Manager Jason Santelli

"Being part of the continued growth and development of Frederick County has been an important part of everything I do," she says. "And it all began at FCC."

Tinney attended FCC, then transferred to the Madison College of Arts, before returning to FCC for additional art courses after working in retail. "I came back to get the course work I needed to pursue art," she says.

Today, Tinney's strong community affiliations include a commitment to help others along the often rocky professional road. She has served on the FCC Computer Graphics and Photography Advisory Board, and with the FCC Woman to Woman Mentoring Program.

Jonathan Redding, recipient of the Distinguished Artist Drama Award, lives and works in Santa Monica, California, and could not attend the award ceremony. He has, however, distinguished himself through his career as a playwright and actor. Redding serves as Dramaturg of the Broad Stage in Santa Monica. He has created dramaturgical components in concert with performances that include *King Lear* and *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre of London. Additionally, he created and co-hosted *Advice to the Players*, a podcast and review source serving the Los Angeles classical theatre community. ©



From left, Provost/Vice President Dr. Tony Hawkins, President Elizabeth Burmaster, Honoree Erin Tinney, and Program Manager Lisa Sheirer

**Patron of the Arts Award: Robert and Kimberly Brenengen** The FCC Arts Department proudly honored Robert and Kimberly Brenengen with the 2015 Patron of the Arts Award at the Distinguished Artist Awards. Because of the Brenengens' efforts, hundreds of local young musicians have learned their craft through the FCC music program. The Brenengens first became involved in the FCC music program in 2000. The couple helped persuade the then newly-formed George L. Shields Foundation to support the music program, which it did with an initial donation of \$7,000. The Shields Foundation, because of the growing success of the Shields Music Scholarship program, has increased its financial support to FCC over the years to its current annual level of about \$60,000. Each year, scholarships are awarded to exceptional students between the ages of six and 18 for half-hour courses of study during the fall semester in FCC's non-credit Music for Enrichment Program. Scholarships are also awarded to qualified new college freshmen majoring in music at FCC. One or more of the Music for Enrichment scholarships are given to a child who has never had private music lessons.

By Rita M. Rooney

student profile  
Christian Ntienou

"It wasn't always a person in the limelight who made the biggest impact on me, but one in the background who impressed me by setting an example."



## The Edge of Becoming

Christian Ntienou, who is pursuing mechanical engineering, graduated from FCC in May with an associate degree. He is a person who throws himself head-first into life. Those who know him—teachers and fellow students alike—see a young man with an unconquerably positive attitude whose optimism is contagious.

Now set to attend the University of Maryland College Park for his undergraduate degree in his chosen field, Ntienou is the first to admit he doesn't have all the answers.

"At heart, I'm still a kid," he says. "Sometimes people think I have it all figured out. But I have so much to learn, from others and about myself."

When Ntienou first arrived on campus, he organized a running club for male and female students. He didn't perceive the lack of a campus track as an issue. There was plenty of open space to run, he reasoned. After "running" came the engineering club, Student Government Association participation, and the leadership legacy program. He organized fundraisers, from a ping pong tournament to bake sales, all to benefit community action programs in Frederick. He helped revive the garden club and joined the environmental club, participated in clothing and food drives, and visited nursing homes.

"I like hands-on activities," says Ntienou. "One time, I helped in a construction effort to build homes for the needy. That was very rewarding."

He talks of the FCC legacy leadership program and the community leaders who addressed participating students. "The opportunity to listen to various people in our community share their ideas with us has been valuable," he says. "It wasn't always a person in the limelight who made the biggest impact on me, but one in the background who impressed me by setting an example."

In addition to his extracurricular activities, Ntienou maintained top grades and participated in a work study program. "It was a good lesson in organizational skills," he says.

How did he handle so many projects along with studies in a demanding curriculum? "It wasn't always easy," he admits. "I remember once I thought 'man, this is hard,' but I figured I could do it. If, in the future, one of my brothers or sisters needs help, all of this will help me help them."

Ntienou has nine siblings—a close-knit family though living in different countries—headed by an impressive mother who once founded a school for children in Cameroon.

"She is remarkable," he says. "She has been my life's teacher and the one person I want most to be like. She is a successful person who has done so much for others. I'd like to follow in her footsteps someday, but I have a long way to go."

In the meantime, Ntienou's personal goals start with getting his undergraduate degree and determining what he wants to pursue career-wise. He will serve a stint with the U.S. Army Reserve this fall before entering the University of Maryland.

Ntienou typifies so many outstanding students at FCC who bring to campus their ambition and vision for a brighter future. "FCC has given me a chance to focus on myself and to figure out what I want for my life beyond my career," he says. "Right now, I'm on the edge of becoming who I want to be." ©

# Unwrapping the Education "Box"



"My aim is to teach strong academic writing and analysis with exposure as well to creative writing.... Most of my students won't become writers, poets or English teachers. But they will have to learn to communicate and understand the world around them."

According to Anne Hofmann Regules, assistant professor of English Composition and English Literature (101) and (102), stories are what unite a community.

"Many people put learning into boxes that make it difficult for students to understand how they connect with each other," Regules says. Her solution to the age-old challenge has been a non-traditional approach to her Literature and Composition course, a project to which she refers as a giant experiment that has met with considerable success. Honor students in the class connect with others by being paired in documentary film making with fifth graders at Monocacy Elementary School.

The college students find familiar ground with the fifth graders by choosing a children's film together and conducting research on the origins of the story. Most of the films are stories that have been told time and again. The young people study the different texts, discuss how old texts are made new in later versions, and then create their own text for their documentaries. There are several groups, and each team chooses its own story, among which are *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cinderella*, *Mulan*, *The Lego Movie*, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*,

and *Romeo and Juliet*. The end result is a successful experiment in which two communities come together through a collaborative creative project that benefits the education of all involved.

Regules calls it "a symbiotic relationship" that is rooted in Common Core curricula goals in research and writing. "Our students learn a great deal about the Monocacy Elementary School and its students," she says. "It opens their eyes to the community around them." In addition, she says it helps the fifth graders by putting higher education on their radar screens, which is important because some of them do not have college goals or consider themselves creative. As part of the project, the children have the opportunity to tour the college, an experience that receives the ultimate acclaim of "Wow" from many clearly seeing college in their futures for the first time.

As for the FCC students involved, Regules claims there is a higher level of effectiveness among those in the project compared with other classes. "I believe that's because students become accountable," she says. "In addition to the arbitrary deadlines I set, they are accountable to the fifth graders. For those who want to be teachers, it provides them with classroom exposure that compares with mentoring." This service project is an addition to the regular curriculum in which students study classic authors along with contemporary writers and have an option to write a narrative monologue.

Regules, who holds a Master's Degree in English Literature from the University of Texas and a Master's of Education in Secondary English Curriculum and Instruction from George Washington University, teaches five courses at Frederick Community College. She says she

has students who aspire to be writers and English teachers. Although she has taught at a four-year university, she says students there didn't always have the appreciation for their studies that she finds at FCC, where she calls her job "communication at its highest level."

"My aim is to teach strong academic writing and analysis with exposure as well to creative writing," she says. "We examine how the work students do helps them to understand conflict through the use of language. Most of my students won't become writers, poets, or English teachers. But they will have to learn to communicate and understand the world around them."

Summing up the rewards of teaching at FCC, Regules says, "What I love about my job is not the concept of teaching future teachers but opening the eyes of all my students to the way that people's honest stories, and their struggles to tell those stories, unite all of us." She adds that, in 101, they discuss technology



The end result is a successful experiment in which two communities come together through a collaborative creative project that benefits the education of all involved.

and the ways the digital world can separate and unite people. In 102, they study a variety of literature, including family drama and the ways families connect and disconnect. She focuses on how conflict becomes central to all stories.

An enthusiastic athlete who enjoys running and triathlons, Regules is married with two children, ages eight and 11. She is a swimmer, who loves theatre and cooking. "I'm not especially good at any of those things, but I enjoy all of them," she says.

As for working at FCC, she credits student achievement with faculty and administration support. "There is no limit to the encouragement this college is willing to provide for students to reach the next step in their educations," she says. "It makes teaching here a real joy." ©

## Eagle Award Recipients, Stalwart Supporters of FCC



years, that they have been stalwart volunteers and donors of many college causes.

As a result of their leadership and strong support of students, it was no one's surprise when they received the prestigious 2014–2015 Eagle Award, presented by the FCC Foundation Inc.

"There are not enough words to express Donald and Becky Linton's support of Frederick Community College," said FCC Foundation Chair George Littrell III when presenting the award. "They have supported FCC both individually and together—giving their time, talent and treasure to support FCC students."

Don and Becky grew up in Frederick County and witnessed its transformation from a mostly rural, close-knit community, to one that's more cosmopolitan with an influx of new businesses and residents.

As they recently reminisced about the college's early years,

the Lintons recalled FCC trailblazers, many of whom were tapped from Frederick County Public Schools. That included the first president, Duval Sweadner, who taught night classes to the first class of FCC students, which totaled 77.

When FCC moved to its second location on North Market Street in 1966, Becky's brother was a student there. Don remembers hearing early discussions about a permanent campus home on Opossumtown Pike while working with Frederick County Government as the chief financial officer.

"We have been part of the college since the beginning," noted Don, a principal in the Frederick-based accounting firm of Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett. "You can't be in Frederick and not be a part of this campus."

While FCC has been known as a great next step for graduating high school seniors, the current campus is also a bastion for working adults and career changers. Enrollment has swelled each fall to more than 6,000 students of all ages and backgrounds, a far cry from the early years.

That was the case for Becky, who was in her 30s and working for Don's accounting firm—which recently celebrated its 50th year in business—when she decided to return to school. Going through a divorce, she was working full time and raising a family.

"It was a very meaningful time for me because it started a new life in accounting," said Becky, who took one class at a time over nine years. "It gave me confidence in myself as I took classes and grew professionally. I loved being on campus with other returning adult students." After working for Don's firm for three years, Becky was treasurer for 20 years at Service Glass Industries Inc.

Don served on the FCC Foundation Board from 1994 to 2004 and was a member of the Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2013. Becky served on the FCC Alumni Association Board and was a founding member of the annual Golf Tournament.

Becky played an instrumental part in the golf tournament's success and personally raised thousands of dollars to benefit scholarships for students and student athletes. An avid golfer, Becky has sponsored a team in the annual event, but is "still trying to get a team to come into first place," after being on the bridesmaid of teams several times.

The Lintons have also been a sponsor of the tournament annually since 2007, including as presenting sponsor through the William E. Cross Foundation.

Don and Becky have also established three separate scholarships through the FCC Foundation. In 1989, the Linton Shafer Warfield and Garrett Endowed Scholarship

was launched by the original principals of the company. The scholarship supports students majoring in business or accounting. Becky established the M. Rebecca Linton Scholarship, and together the Lintons created the Donald and Rebecca Linton Scholarship for students majoring in accounting, business, or construction management and supervision.

Don's firm is also committed to lifelong learning and offers tuition reimbursement for employees.

"Frederick Community College is a tremendous deal," noted Don. "It's smart for a high school graduate to attend FCC for one or two years before transferring to a four-year

*Perhaps it's because of the couple's many associations, and the lives they witnessed changed by FCC over the years, that they have been stalwart volunteers and donors of many college causes.*

school. The quality of the professors is excellent, and I look at those coming from Fort Detrick and our scientific community. The nursing program is known to be one of the best in the state."

"This is such a great institution," said Becky, adding that her son and grandchildren attended FCC. "FCC really is a jewel, and people in Frederick don't appreciate all that we have."

While the Lintons have been recognized by other organizations, including receiving the Frederick Memorial Hospital Good Samaritan Award, they were grateful and honored with the FCC Eagle Award.

"It was a joint award and both of us worked together," said Becky. "It was a family award."

"That's such a beautiful award; I was very proud," added Don. "It was like getting an Academy Award. It's prestigious." ©

**W**hen Donald and Becky Linton talk affectionately about Frederick Community College, it's evident that their passion and connections to FCC run far and wide, symbolic of the college's footprint in the community.

The Lintons have personal, family, and professional ties to the Opossumtown Pike campus, steeped in history and tradition and dating back to when the college first opened its doors at Frederick High School in 1957.

Perhaps it's because of the couple's many associations, and the lives they witnessed changed by FCC over the

# Clutch the Future



Sixth Annual Clutch the Future Event Raises \$62,000 for Students



More than 300 community members came together for the 6th annual Clutch the Future Purse Auction on March 21, 2015, which raised more than \$62,000 to support students.

The money will provide scholarships to students through the FCC Foundation and funding for the Woman to Woman Mentoring Program (W2WM), which provides one-on-one

mentoring to help women define their life goals and overcome obstacles to achieve success.

During the event, held in the Athletics Center, more than 200 new and gently-owned, top-name purses were auctioned off during silent bidding. Participants also had the opportunity to bid on unique trips and family fun packages during the live auction portion of the evening.

"This unique event offered guests an opportunity to shop for beautiful purses during a fun evening out, all while contributing funds to essential FCC programs," said Susan Mathurin, Foundation Board Member and Event Co-chairperson. "Many FCC students rely on financial support and mentoring programs to help them succeed, and the funds from this annual event make it possible for us to continue providing this assistance."

The event also included a fashion show featuring FCC students and W2WM mentees modeling clothes provided by downtown Frederick businesses.

Purses and other items auctioned off were donated by community members and business leaders.



## Hall of Fame

FCC Inducts Second Hall of Fame Class



On May 1, 2015, FCC inducted its second Hall of Fame class during a ceremony in the Cougar Grille.

The Hall of Fame recognizes past athletes, coaches, and fans who have brought distinction to FCC through their accomplishments in athletics and contributions to their communities. The 2015 class included Brenton Ayer (Track and Field), Tony Checchia (Soccer), Jennifer Rasberry Mathis (Women's Basketball), Jack Mehl (Women's Basketball Coach), Lynn Ramage (Men's Basketball), Sandy Smith (Athletics Supporter), Dan Taylor (Baseball Coach), and Carl Wastler (Baseball).

## Donor Scholar Reception

Student Scholarship Recipients Meet Benefactors



About 750 students received scholarships in 2014-2015, thanks to the generosity of more than 300 donors. Scholarship recipients met and thanked their donors at the annual Donor Scholar Reception

held in late April. "As a community college, it is our duty and mission to provide access to higher education for all," said FCC President Elizabeth Burmaster. "Our generous donors provide the vital and significant support to make that mission possible. The

scholarships we provide because of our donors are truly life changing." Students Kelly Billigmeier and Christian Ntienou shared their stories of how scholarships helped them reach their goals. Billigmeier, a digital media design major who received the Frederick News-Post scholarship, wants to be a missionary

assistant. Ntienou received the Chase C. Gove, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and will pursue engineering at the University of Maryland.



## Annual Golf Tournament

More than \$80,000 Raised for Student Scholarships

Nearly 100 players came out to the links for the 20th Annual Golf Tournament, which raised more than \$80,000 for FCC student scholarships.

The tournament, sponsored by the FCC Foundation and the Athletics Department, was held at the Musket Ridge Golf Club on June 12, 2015. The event also included a luncheon, raffle, and auction.

One of the highlights of the day—besides a

player getting a hole-in-one—was hearing from two student scholarship recipients. Caroline Morse and Kelly Billigmeier expressed their gratitude to the supporters and talked about the impact that scholarships have made in their lives. They served as a reminder that scholarships are critical to many FCC students and have the power to change the lives of hardworking recipients.



From left, Eric Bailey, Michael Pinckney, Al Tyndell, and Wayne Barbour. Note: Pinckney had a hole-in-one.



# Three FCC Milestones

# One Weekend

**HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE** supported Frederick Community College the weekend of August 29-30, 2015, by attending an Alumni Tailgate, the Investiture of President Elizabeth Burmaster, and Community Celebration.

The college hopes to build on the successful week-end each year as a way to connect alumni and the community with the growing campus.



The Alumni Tailgate on Saturday evening was held at the Frederick Indoor Sports Center (FISC), sponsored by FCC alumnus and FCC Foundation Director Tony Checchia. It provided FCC graduates an opportunity to reconnect and meet students and employees. The tailgate featured the Ravens-Redskins preseason game on a large screen, activities for families and great food.

The weekend festivities continued the following day, with the Investiture of President Elizabeth Burmaster in the JBK Theater, followed by a Community Celebration in the quad. Both were sponsored by the FCC Foundation.



Visitors enjoyed live outdoor music, student demonstrations, displays under a big tent, and campus tours. In the Athletics Center there was more live music as well as light hors d'oeuvres.

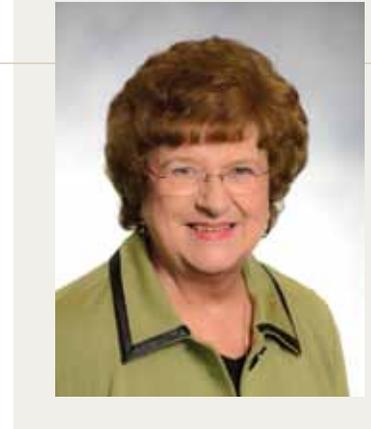
The afternoon also included a beautification project ribbon-cutting in honor of President Burmaster and the day's festivities.



## FCC Board of Trustees

Doris White

# A Front Row Seat to FCC and Frederick County History



**D**oris White, who recently retired from the FCC Board of Trustees, is used to setting marks for longevity.

As a trustee, she served 18 years. As impressive as that is, it's well shy of the 32 years she has worked as Supervisor for the Frederick County branch of the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. White was the first woman in Maryland appointed to that level post, and she has been the longest serving in the state. It was a position she fell into in 1983, after working as a successful real estate broker for 10 years, before the market took a downturn and mortgage interest rates hit double digits.

"For every deal you succeeded in closing, you lost five or six," White said.

She then decided to apply and was hired for the supervisor job, having worked previously as a transfer clerk in the Assessment Office before entering real estate.

"I loved the real estate business, so this was a good next step," noted White. "I learned a lot from selling real estate and helping people, and understanding their values."

White joined the trustees in July 1996, not long after President Dr. Lee John Betts announced his retirement. Being a trustee carries the responsibility of working hand-in-hand with the President and senior leaders to oversee the budget, make difficult decisions regarding academic programs and positions, set salary scales, approve construction projects, attend ceremonies and college functions, and more.

Those who wish to serve on the seven-member board must receive the blessing of the local political central committee, which then forwards names to the governor's office for consideration. The governor's appointment must be approved by the General Assembly.

"Current FCPS President, Brad Young, was one of the trustees," said White, recalling her first meeting on the second floor of Annapolis Hall. "He's been a wonderful friend through all these years. Former faculty member Dr. Ann Abeles was chair, and Ken Rice was on the board. He was very impressive." Members of the first board also included O. John Cejka Jr., William Poffenbarger, Dr. George Smith, and Ava Maria Whittemore. Then County Commissioner Mark Hoke served as liaison to the trustees.

White saw Frederick County experience tremendous economic and population growth. She also witnessed a sea change on the FCC campus. Rapid enrollment increases meant expanded programs for students including a new culinary program, options in biotechnology and health care, and increased emphasis on workforce development and Continuing Education programs for working adults and families. Services were added to meet the influx of students.

"FCC is the jewel of Frederick," noted White. "It has changed so many people's lives for the better. Students go there to learn a skill or investigate a career. We have had many wonderful students and employees over the years."

The college also added facilities during her tenure, including the Conference Center, Student Center, Enrollment Services building, remodeled Visual and Performing Arts Center, parking deck, and off campus locations at the Monroe Center and Mount Airy College Center for Health Care Education.

"It was just wonderful to be there when I saw the college growing in a positive way with additions that were well used," said White. "The Student Center was very much needed and changed the feel of the campus. I could tell the students were more connected to the school as you always saw them huddled together in little nooks and crannies. Some spaces were work areas with computers, while the Cougar Grille was for social gatherings."

"FCC has turned out so many superstars who would have been just stars if they hadn't been pushed toward success," she said.

When she's not working or spending time on the home front, White is a familiar face at Frederick Memorial Hospital, where she has volunteered for more than 20 years. She is also a member of Grace United Church of Christ in Frederick, the Historical Society of Frederick County, and a former member of the Commission for Women.

White is married to Frank White. The couple have a son, David, and a daughter, Lynda, who have two sons and two daughters, respectively. ☺

welcome  
Deborah Powell

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Frederick Community College welcomes Deborah Powell as the new Executive Director for the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Powell, an alumna of FCC, comes to Frederick Community College with extensive administrative and fundraising experience. She most recently served as the Director of Graduate and Adult Business Programs at Mount Saint Mary's University. In this role, Powell oversaw the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, Emerging Leaders MBA program, graduate certificate programs, and adult undergraduate programs at the Frederick and Emmitsburg campuses.

Prior to that position, she served as the Director of Generations for the Campaign for the Third Century at the Mount, where she led a campaign that raised more than \$60 million to renovate a fine arts center, residence hall, and chapel. Powell earned an Associate in Arts and Sciences degree from FCC, a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in School and Community Health Education from Towson University, and a Master in Business Administration from Mount Saint Mary's University.

Powell also served as the Director of the Mount Annual Fund and raised more than \$2 million annually with nearly 30 percent gift participation from alumni, parents, and other donors.

She serves on the Board of Directors for the Rotary Club of Carroll Club, is a graduate of Leadership Frederick County, and has held positions at the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

welcome  
Christina Peterman

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Christina Peterman was recently named Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund in the Office of Institutional Advancement. She joins new Executive Director Deborah Powell, and Michelle Nusum-Smith, Assistant Director of Corporate Relations.

Peterman worked most recently as Development Officer at the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford, Conn., where she helped institute and build its foundation and fundraising program. She also held positions at Wesleyan University including Associate Director for Recruitment and Assistant Director of Human Resources. Peterman has a master's degree in organizational development from Webster University in St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Southern Illinois University.



*The Office of Institutional Advancement is in Room 200-A, Annapolis Hall  
Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD, 21702*

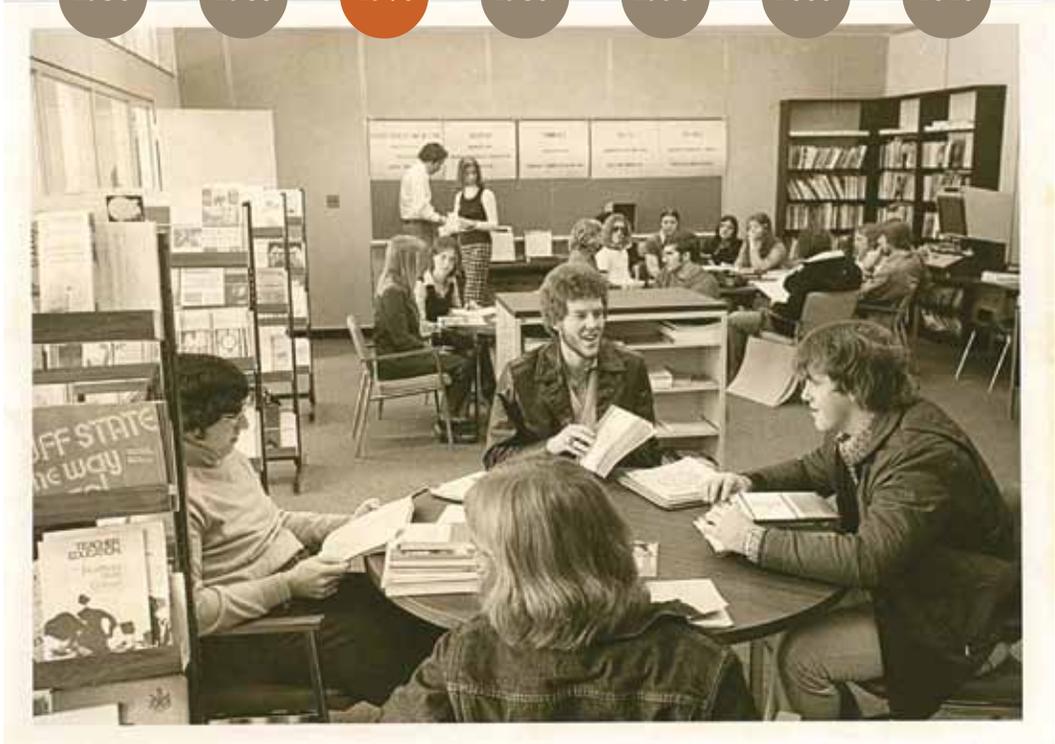
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- 1950
- 1960
- 1970
- 1980
- 1990
- 2000
- 2010



Help us solve the mystery. Email us at [alumni@frederick.edu](mailto:alumni@frederick.edu). Provide your own mysteries and send us photos from your FCC days. Keep us guessing.

[CLUES] Scene: the library. Decade: the 1970s. Who are these guys?