Greetings from the President

September, 2007

Dear FSU Emeriti Faculty:

At the beginning of my second year as president of Frostburg State University I have been prompted to reflect on the status of emeriti faculty at Frostburg State University.

In many ways emeritus status at Frostburg State University hasn’t meant very much, but the collective wisdom that you could provide the university and certainly the years of experience and dedication you have provided to Frostburg State University merit our recognition and honor.

Keith Schlegel and I have discussed ways to do so, and I intend to explore those and other ideas during the coming year. For instance, in addition to the annual luncheon for retirees, I plan a get-together for emeriti faculty that will be more than just my updating you about the university: it will be an opportunity for a meaningful dialog.

In the meantime, I ask for your ideas about how emeriti faculty can be not only valued but also engaged in meaningful contributions to this university. In addition to continued part-time teaching (contingent of course upon departmental needs), perhaps some emeriti might become mentors for new faculty or advisors to students and student groups. Others might substitute for ill colleagues or proctor exams, lp with departmental newsletters, or visit and lecture at community colleges to assist recruitment efforts. Service on committees or on various boards associated with the university would likewise be valuable and welcome.

Please write or call Keith with ideas.

We also talked about the possibility of creating a dedicated space for emeriti faculty on campus, a space where emeriti faculty could have access to a computer and telephone and be able to meet with colleagues. Such a space might be shared with alumni or continuing faculty—a faculty/emeriti club.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, Keith lists choices concerning email access for emeriti faculty, one of which is an emeriti distribution list that would free you from irrelevant announcements. We hope that you will tell us the types of data and information you want to receive from us.

Please know that I am committed to strengthening the university’s relationship with emeriti faculty in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Gibralter
President
EMAIL OPTIONS: CHOOSE!

Among retirees, only Emeriti have had the privilege, upon application, of retaining their FSU email accounts into retirement. The advantages are obvious—regular communication with and from the University, easy continuity from our working days, preservation of email files, access to former students (for recommendations, etc.) and colleagues, an obvious association with a university (for communications with academic and scholarly groups).

However, many emeriti decide that the volume of irrelevant and unwanted emails overrides any convenience. When we were on-campus daily, perhaps sales at the Bookstore (“2% off socks today before noon”), lost and found announcements, deadlines for committee work or elections or drop/add or midterm grades, solicitations for volunteers, announcements of club activities... perhaps once these might have been pertinent to us, but in retirement, they quickly become nuisances. If undeleted, they also limit storage on the server and negatively affect audit reports.

President Gibraltar has approved the options below for emeriti. If you have already given me your preferences via email, I will pass them on to the right offices on campus. If you have not, here’s another chance. Read through carefully and let me know—Keith W. Schlegel/Professor Emeritus of English/101 Braddock St./Frostburg State University/Frostburg, Md. 21532, 301-268-7703 (cell), 301-687-4233 (Office). That address and office phone hold until mid-December, when I join other snowbirds in my retreat south to Florida. My address there is 4250 A1A South, G-11/ St. Augustine, FL 32080.

A. I wish to maintain (or recover) my FSU faculty (or staff) account. I understand that I will receive all the emails that full-time employees receive and that I must occasionally delete and purge unwanted emails, in order not to exceed storage limits.

B. I wish to have an FSU emeriti account. This will be a new distribution list altogether (akin to “faculty,” “student,” or “staff” lists), and I will receive only FSU emails that are specifically addressed to “emeriti.” The Office of Communications and Media Relations will, for instance, send me Statelines (a weekly calendar of events and announcements) each Monday while school is in session, but I will not be subject to all the other FSU emails.

C. I prefer to use another email service and address but to use FSU as a “contact address.” Steve Ornstein explains:

“A contact address can be created which will be equal to your FSU email address. This contact address which when emailed to from on campus or off campus will deliver the email to an off campus email address of your choosing. In other words, a person emails you at your FSU contact address and you receive the email at your other email address (i.e.: hotmail, gmail, AOL, etc.). There would be no storage of emails on the FSU server; no login privileges, and therefore no audit issues. You will not be able to use your contact address to send an email; you will have to use your other address. Contact addresses will appear however, in the FSU Global Address List, so they are searchable.

There are only two requirements of you: 1) You will have to move your existing FSU emails over to your off campus email address, and 2) You will need to keep us informed of this off campus address so that we can make sure the FSU contact address is properly forwarded.”

Note also, however, emails coming from emeriti would lack the ”.edu” suffix, so communications with scholarly journals, students, and colleagues would carry a “yahoo” or “hotmail” (or whatever) address, and emeriti would receive to their non-FSU email account ALL emails sent to “faculty” and/or “staff,” unless explicitly deleted from such lists.

D. I prefer to no email address related to FSU. If I have another email address, I may or may not include it in the emeriti directory maintained at FSU (http://www.frostburg.edu/hr/Directory/Emeriti_directory.pdf).

E. I am persuaded by the advantages of an FSU emeriti email account AND by the convenience of using another address, so I wish to combine b and c—i.e. to be on the emeriti listserve but to have FSU emails forwarded to my other address.
NEWS FROM OUR FELLOWS

Send more news to Keith, for next E*MERIT*I

Bob McFarland writes, “Retired life in Tennessee is great. Our health remains very good, and we continue to exercise daily. Our main interest now is being able to travel abroad. We manage to get in about one trip a year, every year since 1998. Several of those trips have been with the Fells. So as long as we stay healthy, and the Retirement and Social Security systems remain solvent, as the saying goes: Life Is Good!”

And Dave Fell confirms, “[We] traveled to France this summer for 18 days with fellow emeritus (Bob and Ann McFarland, now living in Vonore, TN); [I’m] teaching two classes in fall and continuing as coordinator and primary adviser for social science major, working with three western MD. counties ( Allegany, Garrett, Washington) as Teaching American History Specialist as part of three-year US Dept of Educ grant. . . . We see the McFarlands two or three times a year, usually at North Myrtle Beach, SC, here, or at their home in TN. The next time we are scheduled to be together is over spring break in 2008, when we will spend a week together with them, another set of mutual, local non-college friends, and possibly Bob’s sister and her husband.”

Glynn Baugher says I may say this:

“. . . that I live permanently now in Emory, Virginia, that I am still working on the house that I built as my retirement project, where I live with Mack Lovelace; that I did much of the work completing a log cabin for my brother; that I garden extensively—both ornamental and edible; that I have a large freezer and a number of shelves groaning with the produce of my garden (including twelve kinds of jam, jelly, and marmalade); that I hope one day to learn to play the clawhammer banjo that Gerry Snelson made for me; that I am now taking Chinese brush painting lessons. I live a few hundred yards from my undergraduate alma mater, and it’s a few hundred yards in the opposite direction to cow pastures and bucolic isolation. I have had a goodly number of my old college classmates to visit, from Virginia, east Tennessee, and North Carolina; and Gerry Snelson, Zita McShane, and Mary Anne Lutz visited for four days this August. Anyone is welcome to visit, with adequate warning, of course, and I will cook dinner. Anyone on the way elsewhere is welcome to sleep over instead of paying for a motel.”

President Emerita Catherine Gira gives a litany of her activities:

“Chair since September 2006 of the Maryland Humanities Council, which is launching a major statewide initiative related to the 40th anniversary in 2008 of the assassination of Martin Luther King, including community conversations about current race relations in those communities. Chair of a Middle States accrediting team to East Stroudsburg University in March 2007. Co-chair of a Task Force appointed jointly by the Maryland State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, and MHEC to establish standards for English Composition for high school graduates. Continuing boar member of Leadership Maryland (chair from 2004-2006), the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Women’s History Museum and Center, and the Poe Society. Most importantly, much more time with my grandchildren, ages 9 and 12; for reuniting with former colleagues, students, and friends in the Baltimore-Washington area; and for reading and theatre-going (including several trips to the Folger Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre in D.C.).”

Angie Bucchino has just returned from a trip to Assisi, Italy…. Philip Allen keeps house in Annapolis while Susan pursues her Ph.D. at College Park. Well, he also consults, writes, and is active in the Democratic Party…. Ron Barry teaches now at Bates; “Maine and Bates are wonderful, but preparing courses that I haven’t done in many years, or at all, does take some energy. Still, I’m enjoying the challenge, learning a lot, and a full-time load here is about two-thirds that of a full-time load at FSU in terms of contact hours and number of courses per year. Plus, at least for this first year (semester?), I have no administrative responsibilities or committee assignments: that is beautiful!” . . . . Ken Stewart recovers from a back injury in Surfside Beach, SC. He has written two articles based on his experience returning to teaching (at Southeast Carolina), one co-authored with Keith Schlegel is entitled, “On Elevating Standards in Public Universities.” Write Keith for a copy.

One the newest emeriti, John Wiseman tells us: “I’m working on an anthology on baseball and American life, derived in large part from the conference (fall, 2006). I am writing the concluding essay myself—on baseball’s fall from grace. If all goes well Johns Hopkins University Press will publish it. I’m also serving as the academic director of a major (1 million dollar) federal grant to help teachers of high school U.S. History teachers improve student knowledge of the subject.

Jorn Bramann has returned to Allegany County and has a home now in Cumberland.

95-year-old friend from Frostburg tells me I am “flunking” retirement—CMG
President Gibraltar, Larry Neumark, and others accompanied Dave Press to NYC to visit FSU alum Debra Monk on Broadway. Dave also writes, “This is the 20th anniversary season of the Cumberland Theatre. Frostburg State University's role in establishing the Cumberland (Summer) Theatre, our region's only professional theatre, had been obscured over the years. That led me to write a brief history of its origins which I sent to the theatre and to Allegany Magazine. The magazine had recently published an article that had perpetuated the errors. Subsequently, Allegany Magazine published at least a truncated version of the history as a letter to the editor. At least it re-established the role of the University in the theatre's founding....

President Herb. Reinhard was among the people I contacted to review and suggest additions and corrections to what I had written. He sounded wonderful on tha phone. He and his wife Nancy are enjoying retirement in the Atlanta area. The Cumberland Theatre is just one of the many projects which he fostered at Frostburg State that are still prospering.

I now work part time in my wife's law practice as her Legal Assistant. As for theatre or film work, I directed a new play for the History Department's baseball conference last year, and I 'll be appearing in the Cumberland Theatre's upcoming production of Ten Little Indians."