• FM Celebrates 50 Years of Quality Education

FM President Dustin Swanger comments in a recent local newspaper article about FM’s past and future as the campus prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. “The recent advances in technologies and yearly improvements to the curriculum have made FMCC a competitive higher-education institution that has paved the way for people to pursue further education and careers all over the nation... FM is gaining a stronger reputation than it had in the past.” "It seems to be that people don't necessarily know what they have when they're in their hometown," Swanger added. "But I can tell you I have met with students from around the world, and they are so pleased at what FM has to offer."

What will FM be like in another 50 years?

"I think we are on a trajectory to continue to grow," Swanger said. "We will put more of an emphasis on international students, which I think is an important market, and I think there will also be more involvement from the college in community development."

• FM Welcomes 64 new Freshmen to campus for Fall 2013

The International Student & ESL Programs Office is proud to welcome 64 new students this Fall semester coming from 15 different countries.

The countries include: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Latvia, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Syria, and Vietnam. This is the largest freshmen class of international students since the ESL Program was formalized in 1987. The twenty-one Brazilian students are participants with the Brazilian Government Science Without Borders Scholarship Program.
Eight educational visitors were participants in the first group “SUNY Campus Familiarization Visit” during June 3 – June 7 with Fulton-Montgomery Community College being the only community college selected for a campus tour. Several FM faculty, administrators, and International students participated in the visit, followed by an evening reception and dinner. The FM campus visit was coordinated by Arlene Spencer, FM Director of International Student and ESL Programs.

SUNY works with a number of educational agencies worldwide to assist in the recruitment of international students to campus members of the SUNY Select Consortium. The SUNY Select Consortium are campuses who agree to work with the SUNY Office of Global Affairs for recruitment services. These services include: promoting SUNY academic programs, finding suitable international prospective students to undertake SUNY academic programs, counseling potential SUNY applicants through the admissions process, and assisting students in completing applications, enrollment and pre-departure processes.

SUNY had organized individual visits in the past and feedback from both campuses and agents confirmed these visits are of mutual benefit to all parties. Agents come away with an increased understanding of what is important to their educational agencies and the students in their markets.

The SUNY Campus Familiarization Visit started at the Global Center in New York City on Monday, June 3 and finished in Buffalo on Friday, June 7. It was led by SUNY Office of Global Affairs Director for International Recruitment and Agency Operations Krista Northup. Participants represented many world destinations including China, Germany, India and South America.
FM Alumna Works for NATO in Afghanistan as Political Advisor

FM Alumna, Stanislava Mladenova ’00, returned to FM to speak to students during the College’s first Student Government Association (SGA) Senate Meeting. Mladenova, who came to the United States from Bulgaria as an International student, was SGA Freshman Senator (1998-99) and SGA Vice President (1999-2000), and is now Political Advisor to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan.

“I remember sitting where all of you are now,” said Mladenova to the large group of students at the Senate Meeting. “When I came to FM, I became immediately involved on-campus. My goal was to someday work in International Relations and I knew becoming involved would get me there.”

While at FM, Mladenova was a member and officer of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the International Honor Society for two-year colleges, and was selected as part of the All USA Academic Team which led to her being selected for a coveted internship at the U.S. Department of State. “Without my extracurricular involvement at FM, I would have never had the opportunity to partake in such a wonderful internship.”

After FM, Mladenova went on to the Honors College at Stony Brook to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Affairs (Cum Laude) and continued on to University at Albany to earn a Master’s degree in Public Administration. Her first job out of college was as a Budget Examiner in the NYS Division of the Budget, the agency which prepares the Governor’s budget. After five years with the State, she landed her dream job, working for NATO in Afghanistan.

“My job is challenging but rewarding,” states Mladenova. “But I can tell you, the principles I learned while at FM are the same principles that remain constant in my daily life.” Mladenova went on to share her guiding principles with the students. They included expanding your horizons, making compromises, seeking mentorship, keeping your mind on task, and being flexible. “Through my involvement with SGA, I was given opportunities to travel to conferences and other colleges to learn leadership and fellowship; I learned how to prioritize; I learned to seek and receive advice; I learned you should feel passionate about what you do so you will love what you do; and most importantly, I learned how to be a part of a team. No matter how difficult the task at hand, if you work together, you can accomplish anything.”
Gilbert Ayuk is teaching Physics I and Physics III at FM. His immediate goal is to share his passion for physics with FM students and the surrounding communities. “The hope is by taking FM’s physics to area high schools and the communities we serve, we will be transforming FM into a magnet center for high school graduates to begin their college education in the sciences and engineering,” says Ayuk.

While in high school, Ayuk did well in all of the science subjects but particularly enjoyed the ability of physics laws and theories to predict and describe natural phenomena. “I wanted to be that person who can explain every physical phenomenon around us,” he says. “I also realized that physics, more than other courses I took, emphasized the development of analytical ability, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.”

Ayuk earned both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree from University of Buea, Cameroon and a second Master’s degree from Wayne State University, Detroit. Before joining FM’s faculty, he worked at the University of Dschang, Cameroon; South Louisiana Community College; and Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

The second child in a family of seven boys and three girls, Ayuk resides in Amsterdam, NY, with his wife Magdalene, who he met as an undergraduate junior visiting his former high school during Easter break. They have three children, Charles (13), Bessie (7), and Elise (7 months). Apart from a brother who is a graduate student in Sweden, his parents and siblings are based in Cameroon. He is both a fan and participant of soccer, ping pong, and tennis.

“I’m excited to join a striving college like FM with great traditions and an openness to innovative change; a place where everyone you meet – from the faculty, staff, and administrators – is willing to help make your work and life a little better,” says Ayuk.
Today’s Student Leaders: Part I

Futures Made Here— not just a slogan..

My name is Dongdong Liu. I am an international student who comes from China. This is the first semester of my sophomore year. I will always remember my start at FM. At the beginning of my first semester, I was nervous communicating with the people here because of my poor English. I couldn’t express myself well even though I understood what people said to me.

What’s more, the thing I worried most about was how to keep pace with my teachers in my classes. I was afraid that I would be lonely and helpless because I had no idea how to deal with these problems. However, all the results proved that I was wrong. Now, I am the Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA) of FM, and have worked as Residential Assistant (RA) for three semesters. I took part in the state wide senate meeting of all SUNY campuses last semester in Albany, and I am preparing to take part in the ASGA National Student Government Summit on October 3rd in Washington DC. However, the thing I am most proud of is that I got a lot of A’s in almost all my classes and have been admitted to the FM Honor’s Program. How can I make such great progress in so short a time? It’s because FM gave me a lot of help and a chance to prove myself. Here is my advice to future students:

First, you never need to worry about your poor English at the beginning of your studies here. All the ESL teachers at FM will pay great attention to you and they won’t lose patience with you even if you can’t express yourself very well. Your English will improve a lot if you don’t miss any classes in school. What’s more, the study environment in the library is very supportive and you can get a lot of help there.

Second, there are a lot of clubs at FM and you can make a lot of friends here. For example, you can be a member of the soccer team if you like to play soccer. You can take part in the music club if you love music. And you can also run for a position in the SGA, like me. What’s more, the Student Activities Office will organize many different activities, like hiking trips, swimming trips, a six flags amusement park trip, our annual international culture fair and so on. The local people are kind and easy going. You won’t feel lonely and bored here.

Third, faculty are very patient to international students here. The instructors will give you help if you have any problems in his or her classes. And there are a lot of tutors in the school. You can go to the math lab to ask help from a math tutor there for any math problems. And you can also go to the writing lab to help you correct grammar, spelling and other problems with your essay. The tutors here help me a lot, and I believe that they will help you to improve your English here. The tutoring services are also free to all students.

Last but not least, the living condition here is very good and you never worry about safety. I work in the Public Safety Office at FM, and I know that all the workers there are responsible and careful. The food in the cafeteria is fresh and clean.

In my opinion, FM is a good place for you to choose to study at. FM is safe, harmonious and thoughtful. Like the slogan of FM says: Futures Made Here. You will get what you want and need at this campus.
Hello my name is Charlene Moreira. I am from Cape Verde and I grow up in Senegal. Both of these countries are in West Africa. I am one of the Resident Assistants in the FM Residence halls. I am also a student ambassador and I work for Chartwell’s Catering, our campus food service provider. I love music so that is why I am a member of the Music club. I am also a member of the Students of the World club and a member of the Res life club. I want to be a translator in the future and that is why I like to study and focus in my learning of new languages.

The first day I came in FM, I was really afraid by the unknown: a new country, new people and a new lifestyle. I was worried about the language issue because English is not my first language. As a result, I was really quiet. However, I was soon surprised in a good way.

The first thing that I noticed in FM is that everybody is very friendly. I never experienced a situation like this before, even in other countries. Instead of making fun of me when I tried to correct my mistakes, everybody was very helpful. I noticed also that with the instructors and the advisors, even if there were many students who needed them, they took the time to explain everything to you that you wanted and needed to know.

Moreover, at FM a student has many things to help them be successful. The library is almost always available. If you need help you can find tutoring easily. I also enjoy the common space in the library where you can drink a coffee while you are doing your assignments. The last thing I really appreciate in this college is that there are many events organized by the school to have fun.

I am very lucky to study in a great school like FM because I enjoy to be surrounded by amazing people that I consider like a second family. The fact that I am doing well at college is because all the things I need to succeed are available for me at FM.

Student from Latvia Wins Chancellor’s Award

Santa Pumpura of Riga, Latvia received both the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence and the Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Award as she graduated from FM in May 2013. Pumpura, a Business Administration major, was founder and president for FM’s Hands for Animals Club; she was Business Student Association Secretary; and Student Government Association Treasurer. She also served on the Academic Grievance Committee, Appeals Committee, and Budget Committee. Her future goals are to work in investment banking, receive a doctorate degree, and teach finance.
Faculty News

Fulton- Montgomery Community College Professor John F. Kohn spent the month of June this past summer in China recruiting students for FM. This opportunity came about due to his wife, Lynda McMaster-Schuyler’s involvement in the dual diploma Biotechnology program that SUNY Cobleskill shares with the Jingling Institute of Technology in Nanjing, China. Dr. McMaster-Schuyler taught biochemistry to twenty-five Chinese juniors, some of whom are attending SUNY Cobleskill this Fall.

While his wife was busy teaching, Professor Kohn spent his days meeting with Chinese high school seniors and their parents, touting the advantages of attending college at FM. He was able to give perspective students a firsthand look at the educational benefits of studying at a community college and then transferring with SUNY’s seamless transfer agreements. Knowledgeable translators and college placement representatives, some of which have worked with SUNY international recruiting partners greeted the couple and gave them an in-depth look at the challenges Chinese students face when choosing higher education options. Professor Kohn, in his inimitable way, led an informative, witty, and heartfelt discussion leading to many questions and interest from the audience.

In addition to meeting many Chinese students, teachers and professors, Profs Kohn and McMaster-Schuyler spent some time learning about Nanjing, Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou, visiting museums, gardens, parks and historical sites. Most of their time was spent in Nanjing, a former capital of China, a city of eight million people that has great significance in Chinese history and culture. Suzhou, a bus ride away from Nanjing, gave the couple a glimpse of old China from the dynasty days with its canals and narrow streets. They truly enjoyed the culture and warmth of the people of Nanjing as well as the majestic heritage sites of Beijing, such as the Great Wall, The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. They returned missing the food, having made many friends and with a new appreciation for our Chinese brothers and sisters.

Professor Kohn is a graduate from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse University, Dartmouth College and Yale University and has been working at FM since 1988.
When in Rome!

Joseph A. Marcuccio, Professor of Digital Communications and Transmedia at Fulton-Montgomery Community College had the opportunity to teach graphic design at the American University of Rome (AUR) in Rome, Italy this past summer.

Professor Marcuccio taught during the first summer term ART/COM 241 Digital Imaging which was offered through the Department of Communication and English. The graphic design course focused on creative tools and critical thinking skills using Adobe™ Photoshop, Illustrator and Indesign. Professor Marcuccio taught students from Singapore, Belgium, Serbia, Egypt and American students who were attending summer study abroad programs. “The students were a great group to work with. They embraced the technology with great enthusiasm. The faculty and staff at AUR were an excellent group of people and provided me with all the support needed to teach the course. ”

Not far from the AUR campus Professor Marcuccio lived in Trastevere meaning in ancient times “Trans Tiberim” or across the Tiber River. Trastevere is located on one of Rome’s ancient and highest hills called the Janiculum Hill where the Passeggiata del Gianicolo Park is open to vast and endless spectacular Roman views. In the distant hills the Dome of Saint Peter can be seen glowing with its architectural grace and splendor.

Professor Marcuccio is a 28-year veteran at FM and a graduate of R.I.T. with a masters from The University at Albany. In addition to digital imaging he also teaches digital and studio photography. He has shown his work in various venues in New York’s Capital District. Much of his time in Rome was spent photographing hundreds of scenes and capturing the Italian culture through short video clips.

“I visited parks, local neighborhoods and took many walks along the Tiber River. While sipping espresso in local cafes, I mingled among the native Romans and summer tourists. I was invited to a summer solstice neighborhood festival held in the apartment complex where I lived. The people were warm and friendly and the food was fantastic.”

Through his camera lens he captured the beautiful Roman landscapes along with Rome’s spirit and essence; blazing sunsets and cool blue summer night skies along the ancient Tiber River.

“In today’s global economy, participating in a semester abroad program plays an essential role in a student’s education. To visit and experience world cultures helps American students understand ways in which people live and do business in other places in the world. Many of my students I have conversations with say that they had a grandmother who came from Poland or a grandfather who came from Italy, Sicily, Ireland, Germany or England. We can learn a lot about our families’ heritage by visiting and experiencing the countries our ancestors came from.”

SUNY community college students who are interested in a study abroad program through the American University of Rome can contact FM’s International Programs Office at intl@fmcc.suny.edu

Professor Marcuccio plans to return to Italy in 2014 to visit his son who is currently living in Naples, Italy and is enrolled in a degree program at the University of Naples L’Orientale. His son is studying archeology.

His photography can be seen @ www.josephmarcucciophotography.com
Students & Staff Enjoy Culture Fest

Over 16 Fulton-Montgomery Community College student clubs participated in the College’s Spring 2013 on-campus Culture Festival sponsored by FM’s Student Government Association (SGA) Cultural Affairs Committee. Throughout various parts of the Classroom Building, clubs and organizations presented themselves and the culture they chose to represent with demonstrations and interactive activities.

Some of the representations included “Italy” sponsored by the Graphic Arts & Photography Club, “Music Around the World” sponsored by the Musician’s Club, “World of Art” sponsored by the Art Guild, and many more. Club members, faculty, staff, and volunteers also made and shared various authentic dishes for visitors to try. Food ranged from pierogies and sauerkraut to empanadas with Spanish rice and beans; to Chinese egg rolls and fried rice; chorizo and beef bourguignon Cardimum Finish Bread and Italian cookies. Approximately 150 people enjoyed the festivities.

Upcoming Study Abroad Opportunity for FM Students– March 2014

FM Professor of Art, Joel Chapin, will be leading a group of FM students to Peru, South America during the Spring 2014 Spring break week. Students will study the Art History of the country for nine days in the following locales: Lima, Cuzco, Manchu Picchu, and Ollantaytambo.

Professor Chapin is seen in the photo taken during a recent vacation trip he and his wife took to Mongolia. Joel Chapin is a graduate of Fulton-Montgomery Community College, Skidmore College and holds a M.F.A. from the University at Albany. He has taught at FM since 1990 and was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in teaching in 2002.