SUNY CHANCELLOR PRAISES FM CAMPUS

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher held a public presentation at FM about the progress of our state universities serving as economic engines. She gave accolades to FM regarding its reputation throughout the state as a college that's quickly rising to the top in providing the successful bridge between education and economic development.

Photo: SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher; FM College President Dustin Swanger

ACADEMIC FOCUS: FM FACULTY TALK about the HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program is designed to meet the needs of students who, because of high academic ability, preparation, and motivation, are ready to undertake more rigorous and challenging academic work. This semester, faculty members Paula Brown-Weinstock, Robert Salkin and Kenneth Vennette discuss the Honors Program and their courses.

Professor Vennette explains about the Honors Seminar course taken in an Honors student’s last semester, “This is an inter-disciplinary seminar involving extensive review of course material and an in-depth examination of the global, national and local relevance of the issues under consideration. This semester, participants investigate the ‘Culture of Competition’ in philosophical, historical, social, technological, and scientific terms.”

Dr. Brown-Weinstock is teaching a Social Psychology honors section course and states, “the students will be doing several projects during the semester that will require them to work in groups and develop a project designed to change or encourage a behavior they observe. One such project may be to increase civility, tolerance and helping behaviors on campus. This project will occur after the class explores the topics of prejudice, aggression, helping and conflict resolution.”

Honors Program Chair Salkin states, “I thoroughly enjoy teaching the Honors Seminar with a couple of my colleagues. The students are motivated, sharp, and engaged learners. Honor students at FMCC are self-starters, inquisitive, resourceful people who certainly have a bright future ahead of them. There is no model for an FMCC honors student. Honors students are diverse. Some are fresh out of high school and others returned to college after years of work experience. Local students as well as international students are enrolled. Anyone with a passion for learning and the diligence necessary to do good work can become an honors student at FMCC.”

Students admitted receive the Honors Program scholarship which ranges between $750-$1500 for each semester enrolled. Students must have a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) high school or college grade point average to qualify. Contact the International Student Office for more details.

SOUTHERN CHINA STUDENTS TOUR CAMPUS

A group of 27 high school students from Southern China’s Nanning No. 14 School and the Nanning Experimental School visited FM, exposing them to the idea of education in the U.S. and specifically to promote FM as a destination for their future studies. Contact the International Student Office for more information on short term summer camps.
7 SUNY CAMPUSES in 3 DAYS

Ms. Xuan Le, International Outreach Coordinator, Access American Education, LLC, Vietnam visits FM and 6 other SUNY campuses in December just before the holidays.

Here she is standing in front of FM’s signature clock tower on campus.

NEW HOUSING & DINING at FM for 2012-2013


LIFE at FM Facebook Page—to check out all the activities on campus


Santa Pumpura is a Latvian student who has come to FM in a pathway program for the NYS High School General Equivalency Diploma and college Associate of Science degree in Business Administration - but her extra-curricular timetable is jam-packed!! Check out her comments as she shares her experiences.

FACULTY MEMBER REMEMBERED & STUDENT HONORED

Dr. Varghese D. Pynadath, originally from India, and FM Professor of Science and recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching recently passed away after 46 years of service. Dr. Pynadath had been a great mentor to thousands of students including Michael Natole, a sophomore at FM, who was selected to travel to the National Community College Aerospace Scholars Program to develop robotic rovers. The program enabled Natole to spend three days at a NASA center in Pasadena, CA, with all expenses paid.

TESTING OPTIONS

Did you know that students can take a placement test for FM while still living in country? Pre-testing allows students to be placed in classes and register for the semester schedule even before arriving to campus. We accept TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, ITEP, STEP-EIKEN, PTE Academic & Compass ACT. FM will also be featured in March on the IELTS Facebook page.

ATHLETICS

New Head Men’s Soccer Coach appointed

Former professional Soccer Player, Donn Truax has been appointed to the position of Head Coach for the Men’s Soccer Team. A Defender with the Charlotte Eagles, Truax helped the team secure the title of USL (United Soccer League) National Champions. “I am excited about taking on the Head Men’s Soccer Coach Position and have a strong desire and commitment to bring this program to the next level,” Truax states.

The FMCC Raiders compete in NJCAA Division III Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Soccer, as well as Baseball, Softball and Volleyball.
ALUMNI FEATURES

**Victoria Pavlova ‘09**

Victoria Pavlova was born and raised in Bulgaria. Victoria chose FM because it offered a degree in Media Communication. “It also offered a beautiful and spacious campus in a small town; I knew this would allow for a full focus on my studies. Once I got there, I fell in love with the College,” says Victoria. It wasn’t long before Victoria jumped right in and became fully involved with campus activities. “I became President of the International Club, Secretary of the Communications Club, and a student ambassador,” she tells us. “I was also working at the gym, I was a note-taker, and I was an RA (Residential Assistant) in the student housing. I was everything and spent most of my time on campus because that’s what made me happy.”

After graduating in 2009, Victoria transferred to Brooklyn College where she majored in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science. “During my last semester, I had an internship at BronxNet TV, the public television for the borough of the Bronx. In 2011, I earned my B.S. degree in Broadcast Journalism with honors, as a member of the Golden Key International Honors Society. BronxNet hired me as a reporter and video editor. I spent the next year and a half working for them, covering stories of interest to the Bronx Community,” says Victoria.

Today, Victoria is back in Bulgaria working as a full-time news reporter at TV7, one of the four biggest national television stations in Bulgaria with coverage across the country and beyond. “My family is proud of me and they always help me and support me in everything I do,” she says. “My ultimate goal is to become a news anchor one day.”

Victoria instills the belief in others to never underestimate the value of a college degree, she states, “A community college is a perfect start for anyone who wants to save money on tuition, get their basic requirements completed, and take advantage of the one-on-one communication between a student and a professor, which is so important. The small class sizes allows for full understanding of the lecture. You can easily ask questions and share your thoughts and concerns with your professor and the rest of the class, which is something almost impossible to do in a four year college, where the class size can reach well over 100 students. Community colleges truly care about the student.”


**Mika Furuya ‘03**

Mika Furuya, a student from Japan, set a goal to earn an A.S. in Fine Arts from FMCC and transfer to New York City’s Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). She achieved that goal - and more.

“I recently graduated from FIT,” says Mika. “I was the only student this year from FIT to have my illustrations published in the CMYK magazine.”

Mika made it clear that her dreams became possible because of FMCC and its caring faculty. “Thanks to Mr. Joel Chapin, I found a way to achieve what I have always wanted to do,” she says. “He always cares about the student and knows so much about art and its history.”

She also remembers her initial meeting with Arlene Spencer, Director of International Students and ESL Programs. “Mrs. Spencer’s welcoming manner allowed me to feel comfortable and secure on my new adventure,” Mika tells us. “Interacting with other international students as well as learning American culture was part of this adventure as were the compassion, assistance, and education from the entire faculty.”

Today Mika lives in New York City and has fulfilled her dream of becoming a freelance fashion illustrator for a national magazine.

“My time at FMCC was a very rewarding and fond experience. I made many friends and have very warm memories that will last my entire lifetime. Without attending FMCC, I never would have been able to realize and live my dreams.”

Mika’s illustrations can be seen by visiting her website at www.mikafuruya.com.
Community Colleges; Full of Advantages

Anne-Laure DelCerro grew up in Paris, France and moved to the U.S. when she was 17. She visited many community colleges in New York State before she found FM to be her perfect fit. She studied criminal justice and found a mentor in Associate Professor Paul Giudilli.

“Mr. Giudilli is very passionate about what he does and was always an example of success for me,” says Anne-Laure. “He was very patient when I had difficulties; especially during my first semester in the U.S. He had been a successful member of a law enforcement agency and I wanted to have a similar career. I wanted to wake up every morning knowing my work would impact my community in a positive way.”

Anne-Laure went on to earn both a B.A. (named valedictorian of her class) and M.A. in Criminal Justice from University at Albany. A few months after earning her Master’s degree, she was hired as a Crime Intelligence Analyst and recently, was promoted to Senior Crime Analyst-IT Coordinator at the Albany Crime Analysis Center (ACAC). The ACAC is staffed with crime analysts along with sworn members of the Albany Police Department, Albany County Sheriff’s Office, Albany County Probation Department, and the New York State Police.

“I believe that crime analysis is essential to law enforcement agencies,” says Anne-Laure. “I am trying to make a difference in this world and I will be happy wherever life takes me as long as I can help others.”

Helping others is not only a big part of Anne-Laure’s professional life, but also a part of who she is as a person. If ever she is given the opportunity to talk to students about earning a criminal justice degree, or any degree for that matter, she would help them understand the importance of education and the value of community colleges.

“Community colleges are a terrific way to continue your higher education; they are in close geographical proximity to local towns and cities, and the cost to attend is very affordable. Many students spend a lot of money at four-year colleges without having a final goal in mind; I believe that the financial strain is not necessary,” states Anne-Laure. “Studying at FM was perfect for me. It was the best way to be introduced to college life. The faculty and staff have time to assist you; they can help you make the right decisions if you do not know which major best suits you. You can take a variety of courses and find out what really interests you.

I also believe that the Criminal Justice program at FM completely prepared me for my third and fourth years at U Albany. I had all the knowledge necessary to transfer, and contrary to the majority of other criminal justice students at U Albany, I had studied my first two years in a loving environment knowing my professors had my best interest at heart. I am truly thankful to have attended FM and believe that people who criticize community colleges simply have not attended one! As hard as I think about it, I cannot name one disadvantage to attending a community college. I advise anyone looking to pursue a degree to always consider a community college first.”

(PHOTO: Anne-Laure (right) with Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Paul Giudilli at FM Commencement)

Written by: Amy Radik, Coordinator of Public Relations & Marketing at FM.

Located in beautiful New York State Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM) is a community college campus of the State University of New York (SUNY).

The campus is centrally located within a four-hour drive between Boston, Manhattan and Montreal, Canada.
www.fmcc.edu
Learn from One Another

Dr. Mebougna Laze Drabo grew up in Togo, West Africa and attended the International School of Lome. As an award recipient in math and physics throughout his high school years, Mebougna decided to come to America to continue his studies in Engineering Science. He would begin his educational pursuit at Fulton-Montgomery Community College.

“When I first came to the United States and started my education at FM, I made many American friends who taught me so much; they showed me the great giving nature of America and the people who live here. They made me feel at home. At my lowest times, my new friends helped and encouraged me back on my feet. I am also truly grateful for their help to obtain all the accomplishments that I have today. Those who are fortunate enough to live in America should not take that privilege for granted,” says Mebougna.

Mebougna says he is also fortunate to have encountered wonderful professors while at FM. “I would like to thank my chemistry professor Dr. Jane Slezak, my engineering sciences professor Dr. Varghese Pynadath, my math professor Dr. Marlene Glaser (now retired), and Director of International Students Mrs. Arlene Spencer. I find it hard to fully express my gratitude to them in words. They were excellent teachers, a great source of inspiration and support, and always available to offer me their good advice. Without these individuals, I don’t think I would be where I am today,” says Mebougna.

After graduating from FM, Mebougna earned both a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University at Buffalo. He went on to earn a second Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, graduating with a 4.0 grade average, and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University at Alabama, again graduating with a 4.0, this past May 2011.

“When I left FM, I always wanted to graduate with the highest degree and I believe I have accomplished that. Now I truly desire to become a Mechanical Researcher or a professor,” he says. Mebougna’s interests range from alternative fuels to thermodynamics. He presently has a patent in progress for a hot-wire fuel volatility sensor.

Written by: Amy Radik, Coordinator of Public Relations & Marketing at FM.

STUDENTS RECEIVE HONORS from SUNY

Fulton-Montgomery Community College Students Marie Thomas, Hei Laam Fong, and Loc Tan Van were honored by SUNY Spring 2012. Thomas and Fong received The Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence while Tan Van received the Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Award. The Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence is the highest honor that SUNY bestows upon students. It is presented annually to SUNY students who demonstrate academic excellence and integrate it with other qualities such as leadership, career achievement, athletics, community service, or creative and performing arts. The Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Awards are given to students in recognition of scholarly achievement and service to the community and college. There are three academic teams with the First Team being the highest.

Fong, a student from Hong Kong, served as a senator for the Student Activities Board, as a member of the men’s Soccer Team, as a peer tutor, as a member of the Chemistry Club, and as technical support for campus theatre production. Thomas, from Amsterdam, N.Y. served as president and freshman senator of the Student Government Association and belonged to several other student clubs, volunteered at Sacandaga Bible Conference, and attended a mission trip to Honduras to help with outreach efforts. Tan Van, a student from Vietnam, was named to the Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. He served as a Peer Tutor in the Math and Writing Labs and as treasurer to the Peer Tutor Club.

“I congratulate these three students for their well-deserved recognition by SUNY,” states FM President Dr. Swanger.

Photo: Marie Thomas, Hei Laam Fong, and Loc Tan Van