Wallman Hall Technology Wing: Renovations Begin

Renovations and new construction on the Technology Wing of Wallman Hall began in May 2006. In a fascinating design project, the existing Technology Wing is being expanded…vertically. In fact, a new building with its own foundation is being erected over top of the existing building. The work will add two stories in height, 40,000 square feet of interior space, and a new exterior to the existing building. Existing space will also be extensively remodeled as part of the project, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2007.

Stories from a Crime Scene

Students in an upper-level biology course applied their scientific expertise to investigate a gory [mock!] crime in Fairmont State’s new Crime Scene House. When students showed up for lab in BIOL 3380 Molecular Biotechnology on April 3 and 4, they received the following crime report from instructors Mark Flood, Professor of Biology, and Bonnie Freeman, Research Assistant:

“Dr. Phil Yeagyum, a noted invertebrate biologist, invited several people over to his house to view his insect collection last evening. Unfortunately, the others present at the party, Dr. Mack Floodenific, Dr. Tony Mastitis, and Dr. Stevo Roofster, are not cooperating with authorities after Dr. Yeagyum’s body was found lying in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor. The autopsy indicated that Dr. Yeagyum was stabbed several times in the chest. From the looks of the house, it was an eventful “party” as lots of evidence potentially related to the crime is found in the various upstairs rooms.”

Students worked in small groups as Forensic Scientists over the next few weeks, collecting and processing DNA evidence from specific rooms assigned to their team. During the last week of lab, the teams formally presented their findings to each other. After the presentations, each team wrote a report detailing what evidence was found in the entire house and making a recommendation to the police and prosecutor on who should be arrested based on that evidence.

According to Flood, a video monitoring system that was recently installed in the house by the Criminal Justice program, will allow recording of activities in the house even under low-light conditions. Motion-sensing capabilities allow the video recording to be initiated by any motion in the house.

Mark Flood is the coordinator of the Forensic Science Program at Fairmont State. Look for more interesting curricular developments from Flood and colleagues from the College of Science and Technology and the School of Nursing and Allied Health Administration, who are collaborating on a problem-based learning initiative centered on forensic science applications.
**New Faculty and Staff**

### JESS CUNNICK

Jess Cunnick is a new Temporary Assistant Professor of Biology whose three-year position is funded through Dr. Albert Magro’s West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE) grant. Jess obtained his B.A. degree from McPherson College in biology and his Ph.D. from Kansas State University where he studied biochemistry. Both schools were located in small towns in Kansas. He spent five years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., studying cellular signaling pathways, and for the past four years he has studied inflammation and cancer as a research associate at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. At CHLA, Jess had the opportunity to work with and train several graduate students in the laboratory. He found this to be both enjoyable and rewarding. Jess chose to come to Fairmont State for the opportunity to teach and to continue to perform cancer research. He also likes the idea of returning to a small town.

**E-mail Address:** jcunnick@fairmontstate.edu

### MAHMOOD HOSSAIN

Mahmood Hossain, newly hired Assistant Professor of Computer Science, earned a bachelor’s degree in Applied Physics and Electronics and a master’s degree in Computer Science from the University of Dhaka at Bangladesh. He taught Computer Science for almost three years at Bangladesh before moving to Mississippi State University where he earned an M.S. in Computer Science. The anticipated completion date for his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Mississippi State University is fall 2006.

Besides working towards his Ph.D., Mahmood also worked as a full-time instructor of Computer Science at Mississippi State University for six years. During his nine years of college teaching, he has taught a wide variety of courses including introductory and advanced programming classes in C/C++, distributed client/server programming, discrete structures, data structures and algorithms, automata theory, database systems, operating systems, computer architecture, digital systems and computer fundamentals. He has also been actively involved in advising.

Mahmood’s research has revolved around artificial intelligence, data mining and database systems. He has worked on AI search algorithms, supervised machine learning, deductive databases, similarity of objects in complex databases, association mining and clustering. For his M.S. project at MSU, he worked on incorporating an adaptive learning module into an intrusion detection system to enable the IDS to cope with changing system behavior. His Ph.D. research focuses on clustering multiple heterogeneous datasets. The application domains for this research are document clustering and bio-informatics. He has authored a number of journal and peer-reviewed conference papers.

**E-mail Address:** mhossain@fairmontstate.edu

### DENNINE LaRUE

Dennie Larue will serve as Temporary Assistant Professor of Mathematics for 2006-2007. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Fairmont State since 1987, for a total of 32 semesters. A native of Grafton, W.Va., she graduated from Fairmont State in 1978 with an A.B. in Education with teaching fields of Mathematics and Journalism. She received an M.S. in Mathematics from West Virginia University in 1985. From 1978 to 1988, Dennine taught Math at Fairmont Senior High School. She is active in the Math Field Day Program at the county, regional and state levels. For the past seven summers, she has been a teacher at SM Math Camp — a math enrichment camp for students in grades 5-8 held at the Marion County Technical Center.

According to Dennine, “Students are not the only learners in the classroom. Through classroom discussions with my students, I also learn new concepts.”

Students in her classes enjoy the variety of teaching techniques used, the real-world applications which are given, the explanations as to why the math concepts are true and the way she strives to help them learn.

### MARCIE RICE

Marcie Rice, the new College Assistant for Student Support, Recruiting and Outreach, began working for FSU in July. After...
graduating from West Virginia University with a Master of Arts in Elementary Education, she instructed students at an outdoor education camp and later headed to the regular classroom to teach middle school math and science. A native to the area, Marcie is looking forward to returning to some of her favorite hiking trails and heading out on the river in her kayak.

Marcie is excited by the opportunity “to step out of the classroom in order to discover and create ways to make a more effective and rewarding student experience in an educational setting.” She is also looking forward to getting to know the students and to developing programs and activities that will have a positive impact on students and their success here at FSU.

Email address: mrice4@fairmontstate.edu

SUZANNE ROGERS

Serving as a Temporary Assistant Professor of Science this year is Dr. Suzanne Rogers. Sue received her B.S. degree in Horticulture from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. She studied plant cloning at Ohio State University, earning her M.S. degree. Her doctoral research focused on photosynthesis in cell cultures of soybean, conducted at the University of Illinois. She joined the faculty of Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas, where she taught plant cell culture, tropical plant identification and production and greenhouse management and conducted research in plant cell culture. She moved to West Virginia, where she has taught botany, genetics, biology, plant physiology, plant molecular biology and conducted research into the genetic transformation of wetland plants for pollution remediation. Her favorite activities include the Japanese art of training plants as bonsai and raising and breeding freshwater tropical fish. Students in her classes appreciate her “bounding enthusiasm for science and … sense of humor.”

Email Address: srogers7@fairmontstate.edu

JAMES VASSIL

James Vassil was hired this summer as a new Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Technology. James began his tenure at Fairmont State in 2001. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering Technology from Fairmont State College and an M.S. in Civil Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology. Previous responsibilities at FS include course development and presentation for the West Virginia Division of Highways. In his new role, he will teach a variety of on-campus and online civil engineering technology courses.

James feels that he can learn as much from the students as they learn from him. “I incorporate a great deal of “real life” experience into the course,” he says. “This allows students to understand the theory as well as the practical application of the theory.”

Email Address: jvassil@fairmontstate.edu

JESS WHITE

Jess White is the NASA IV&V Student Outreach Program Manager and Temporary Instructor of Geoscience at Fairmont State. Jess has a bachelor’s degree in Technology Education from FSU and is currently enrolled in FSU’s Professional Studies Master’s Degree Program. His past work experiences include one year as a NASA intern working on the Organization and Management pillar at the NASA IV&V Facility. Prior to his internship, he worked as a substitute teacher in Monongalia County. His current position as the Student Outreach Program Manager was established through a grant with NASA.

Jess’s focus is providing science, technology, engineering, geology and mathematics outreach to students from Pre-K through Lifelong Learners throughout West Virginia as well as encouraging the pursuit of related careers. Jess does hands-on activities with students during his classroom visits, at events and for special programs. Kids (of all ages) frequently comment about how much they enjoy the activities.

Email address: jess.white@ivv.nasa.gov

JOSEPH WILES

Joe Wiles, the new College Assistant for Assessment, Facilities and Curriculum, began working for FSU in August. He worked for West Virginia University from 1994-2006. In May 1995 he graduated Summa Cum Laude from West Virginia University, earning a degree in English and receiving the Phi Beta Kappa key. He is currently pursing an M.A. degree in Industrial Labor Relations at West Virginia University. Joe shares his home with “my two Pomeranians, Cha-chi and Furbel-lah, as well as my eight cats and a roommate. I also have five sisters and four brothers.”

At Fairmont State, he is looking forward to working with the other College Assistant in developing technological solutions to make everyone’s jobs flow more smoothly. “I expect that I will like working collaboratively and creatively with other people to achieve common goals,” he said.

Email address: jwiles1@fairmontstate.edu

Dean Search Under Way

As of September 2006, a national search is under way for a Dean of the College of Science and Technology. FSU is looking for a strong, creative, organized individual to lead a dynamic faculty and contribute to a team-based administrative environment. Further information about the position can be found at www.fairmontstatejobs.com.
College Personnel Help with Institutional Strategic Plan

College of Science and Technology faculty, staff and students took leadership roles in the institution-wide strategic planning process during academic year 2005-06.

The Strategic Plan is a “living and breathing” guide to carry Fairmont State through the next five years. Its purpose is to act as a compass for faculty, staff, students and friends to create the future of Fairmont State University, including Pierpont Community & Technical College.

The strategic planning process involved four Foundational Task Forces, seven Strategic Task Forces, a Drafting Committee and a Planning Steering Council, in addition to two large Stakeholders Conferences and numerous open forums on campus. The final reports of the Strategic Task Forces were combined into the Strategic Plan, which was reviewed by on- and off-campus stakeholders and was approved by the Board of Governors in June.

SciTech participants in the process included:

- Victoria Groves, Mechanical Engineering Technology major, served on the Teaching and Learning Strategic Task Force.
- Erica Harvey, Interim Chair of Biology, Chemistry and Geoscience, served on the Planning Steering Council and the Drafting Committee that merged task force reports into a cohesive strategic plan.
- Beverly Jones, Senior Administrative Secretary in Science and Technology (who took another position on campus in June), served on the Planning Steering Council and the Governing Ideas Foundational Task Force that produced the revised mission, vision and core values statements.
- Joe Riesen, Professor of Mathematics and President of Faculty Senate, served on the Planning Steering Council and the Environmental Scan Foundational Task Force.
- Steve Roof, SciTech Interim Dean, served on the Planning Steering Council and chaired the Human Capital Strategic Task Force.
- Ted Stilgenbauer, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Technology, served on the Regional Service and Engagement Strategic Task Force.
- Jill Taylor, 2006 graduate in Biology, served on the Regional Service and Engagement Strategic Task Force.
- Michael Ware, 2006 graduate in Computer Science and Computer Security, served on the Graduate Education Strategic Task Force.

Implementation of the strategic plan begins in earnest during the fall of 2006. All faculty in the College will be involved in implementation of key academic initiatives in the plan, such as development of student learning outcomes and associated assessment methods for all courses and implementation of advisory groups for all programs.

The full 2006-2011 Strategic Plan for Fairmont State (including implementation details) is available at http://www.fairmont-state.edu/StrategicPlanning.

Annual Carroll Lecture

Genetics, Race and Personalized Medicine Focus for 2006 Lecture

Dr. Georgia Dunston, a geneticist from Howard University, will present the 13th annual Robert L. Carroll Lecture on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 12:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. in the Turley Center Ballroom. Dunston’s research focuses on genetic markers for diseases in African-American populations, and her talks will address “Human Genome Variation in Health Disparities” with the noon talk subtitled, “Moving from population-based to personalized medicine and individualized healthcare for all” and the evening talk subtitled, “What does ‘race’ have to do with it?”

Dr. Dunston’s presentation addresses new genome-based data that forces a shift in thinking, from treating populations as basic biological groups, to recognizing individuals as the relevant biological units. In the process, the focus of medical research turns from population-based toward personalized, genome-based identification of health disparities.

Georgia M. Dunston is Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology at Howard University College of Medicine, where she has been on the faculty since 1972. She received a B.S. degree in Biology from Norfolk State University; an M.S. in Biology from Tuskegee University, and a Ph.D. in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan. She conducted postdoctoral work in Tumor Immunology at the National Institutes of Health, in the Laboratory of Immunodiagnosis, National Cancer Institute. In 1985 her interests in the biomedical significance of genomic polymorphisms in African Americans led her to establish the Human Immunogenetics Laboratory at Howard University.

Dr. Dunston has published several articles in professional journals on genetic variation in human major histocompatibility antigens and other genetic markers in African Americans. She has been invited to speak on her research at universities and conferences throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Dunston has served on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the Genetic Basis of Disease Review Committee for the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Review Committee on the Human Genome Diversity Project. Her research interests in the biomedical implications of human genome variation are the vanguard of current efforts at Howard University to build national and international research collaborations focusing on the genetics of diseases common in African Americans and other people of the African Diaspora.

The annual lecture, sponsored by the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., is in honor of Dr. Robert L. Carroll, a former member of the physics faculty. The lecture is an annual celebration of research at the cutting edge of a scientific discipline.
Faculty Use Vista Forum for Communication and Shared Resources

Many faculty routinely field 20 to 100 work-related e-mails per day. In this environment, the ability to manage and sort information is crucial, and the past year has seen a big focus on streamlined, centralized communication within the college.

Faculty and staff are experimenting with the use of an electronic WebCT/Vista forum for storing forms, archiving information and committee minutes, voting, calendaring and discussions. The net effect is the creation of an “electronic office” that is available to users from any computer with a web browser.

The forum has become a clearinghouse for purchase orders and department and grant budget information, as well as a vehicle for tracking curriculum proposals and providing places to post faculty accomplishments and awards. Faculty using the forum get a chance to experience the new campus course management system, Vista, from the student perspective.

Staff Goodbyes

The 2005-6 academic year involved major transitions among office staff of the College. Needless to say, it was a very busy time for the remaining office staff members, and their good will and extra efforts are greatly appreciated. After 11+ years in the Hunt Haught Hall office, Sandy Shriver left in October 2005 to accept the Administrative Associate position in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Dolly Loughey, the friendly and capable front desk staff member in the HHH office since 2003, left in December 2005. Brenda Cain, the front desk receptionist in the Wallman Hall office, moved to Career Services in October, 2005. La’dai Harris, who handled numerous special projects from June-December 2005, moved to the Registrar’s office in December. Kelly Services’ employees, Yuka Iwashita and Jayme Strawderman, covered the Hunt Haught Hall front desk in the spring of 2006. Brenda Manzo, Purchasing Assistant II for Technology for the last 12 years, retired in May, 2006. Most recently, as part of the restructuring in the College, Beverly Jones, Senior Administrative Secretary, moved to the Community and Technical College office in June, 2006.

Lab Managers

Clean, Organize, Pack and Unpack

For the academic lab managers, the past year has been one of moving, organizing and cleaning up.

Dennis Mitchell, lab manager for Engineering Technology, worked with faculty and the Physical Plant to coordinate and organize a move of all Engineering Technology equipment to a temporary location in the Turley Center. Renovations and new construction in the Technology Wing of Wallman Hall began during the summer of 2006.

Along with the chemistry faculty members, Kathleen Hurst, who manages the chemistry stockroom, has undertaken a major clean-up effort throughout the chemistry labs and stockroom in preparation for a site visit by the American Chemical Society.

Karen Grubb is working with biology faculty to organize the equipment and supplies needed for many different classes occupying the same physical space.
GIS: When the Questions are “Where?” and “What?”

INTR 1199, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), was offered for the first time during the spring of 2006.

According to Phil Yeager, course developer and Associate Professor of Biology, professionals from disciplines as diverse as biology, engineering, environmental science, geography, business, law and recreation now apply GIS technology in their fields of study. During the new four-hour introductory course, students acquired a basic working knowledge of GIS software.

In addition to some lectures, participants spent about 2/3 of their time working on applications of ESRI ArcGIS software and completed group projects applying what they learned in the course. Example projects range from studying the ecology of ornamental plantings or the distribution of oil, gas and coal fields in West Virginia to investigating the impact of ice damage on tree species in the Monongahela National Forest.

Spectroscopic Society Grant for Microscopy

Faculty members Jim Weekley, Sarah Dodson and Matt Scanlon traveled to Eastern Kentucky University in January, 2006.

The Fairmont State team learned valuable information about applying for accreditation in general and specifically about designing a new microscopy course.

Jim Weekley, Instructor of Chemistry and an active member of the Forensic Science Coordinating Committee, subsequently wrote a successful $6,000 grant proposal to the College Equipment Grants program, offered by the Spectroscopic Society of Pittsburgh. The grant will help purchase polarizing light microscopes to be used by the Forensic Science program in a new microscopy course to be developed and offered by Weekley in the spring of 2007.

Forensic Science Advisory Board Named

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Flood, Professor of Biology and the coordinator of the Forensic Science program, the interdisciplinary Forensic Science Program Coordinating Committee has been meeting regularly to begin the process of pursuing national accreditation for the program.

As part of the process, an Advisory Board for the Forensic Science program was convened and met for the first time in February. Comprised of professionals who have a variety of connections to the forensic science field and a common interest in helping students, Forensic Science Advisory Board members include:

• Chinmay K. Datta, M.D., Chief Pathologist United Hospital Center Clarksburg
• Kevin McDowell, West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory, South Charleston
• Robert Scanlon, Senior Forensic Scientist, Department of Forensic Science, Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine, Richmond, Va.
• Dr. Pamela Staton, Associate Professor, Marshall University School of Medicine, Huntington
• Tim White, Toxicology, West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory, South Charleston

Dodson Receives Mini-Grant

Sarah Dodson, Assistant Professor of Biology, received a grant to support the writing of a larger, external grant proposal during the summer of 2006.

Through its Mini-Grant program, the West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) provides an opportunity for faculty members at West Virginia colleges and universities to receive stipends to allow uninterrupted time for proposal development. Dodson’s proposal, to be submitted to the American Heart Association, will focus on investigating the involvement of genes such as Upstream Transcription Factor-1 (USF-1) in cardiovascular disease.

ACS Site Visit Expected

The chemistry program expects to host Dr. Martin Ackermann, Professor Emeritus from Oberlin College, as a site visitor from the American Chemical Society during the fall of 2006. The site visit typically occurs near the end of the lengthy process of applying for program approval by the American Chemical Society.
Math Students & Faculty Attend Meeting

Dr. Ashley Martin, Professor of Mathematics, received the spring 2006 Faculty Recognition Awards. The awardees, selected by the Faculty Development Committee each year, are chosen for their clear commitment to continuing development in their fields and service to their community.

“In recognizing these two faculty members, we celebrate commitment to the art of teaching and a passion for learning,” said Dr. Dan Bradley, FSU President. “As educators, we are dedicated to making sure our students learn and grow. At the same time, we are constantly searching for ways to continue our own learning and growth — as individuals, as scholars and as teachers.”

Haynes was also named this year’s recipient of the William A. Boram Award for Teaching Excellence. The prestigious award, which is supported by gifts to the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., was announced at the Academic Awards Celebration in May. The Faculty Development Committee selected Haynes in recognition of his outstanding achievement as demonstrated by his sustained, energetic and successful commitment to teaching.

Martin has been a member of the Fairmont State faculty since 1979. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Memphis State University and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. Haynes joined the Fairmont State faculty in 1970. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Georgia Tech and a Ph.D. in Physics from Florida State University.

Joe Riesen, Professor of Mathematics, and Yi Wang, formerly an Assistant Professor of Mathematics, traveled with math students in February to the Pi Mu Epsilon conference at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, for the third year in a row. Fairmont State math students attending the event in 2006 included Amber Ball, Todd Tichenor, Danni Bragg, Robert Moore, Vanessa Rickert, Garrett Haddix, Frank Muldoon, Hayley DeBolt, Holly DeBolt and John Boker.

At this unusual math conference, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, students give all of the presentations. Some talks are reserved for discussions related to student solutions to the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP) math modeling competition scheduled two weeks prior to the conference. This is an annual national competition in which teams of undergraduate students receive a real-world problem online and have 48 hours (over a weekend) to submit their solution. Fairmont State hopes to field a team in the competition for 2007.

Physics Sweeps Faculty Awards

Dr. D. Stephen Haynes and Dr. Ashley Martin, Professors of Physics, who have been colleagues since graduate school, received the spring 2006 Faculty Recognition Awards. The awardees, selected by the Faculty Development Committee each year, are chosen for their clear commitment to continuing development in their fields and service to their community.

“In recognizing these two faculty members, we celebrate commitment to the art of teaching and a passion for learning,” said Dr. Dan Bradley, FSU President. “As educators, we are dedicated to making sure our students learn and grow. At the same time, we are constantly searching for ways to continue our own learning and growth — as individuals, as scholars and as teachers.”

Haynes was also named this year’s recipient of the William A. Boram Award for Teaching Excellence. The prestigious award, which is supported by gifts to the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., was announced at the Academic Awards Celebration in May. The Faculty Development Committee selected Haynes in recognition of his outstanding achievement as demonstrated by his sustained, energetic and successful commitment to teaching.

Martin has been a member of the Fairmont State faculty since 1979. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Memphis State University and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. Haynes joined the Fairmont State faculty in 1970. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Georgia Tech and a Ph.D. in Physics from Florida State University.

Riesen Grades AP Exams

Dr. Joseph A. Riesen, Professor of Mathematics, was selected to participate in the annual Reading and Scoring of the College Board’s AP Examinations in Calculus, which took place in Fort Collins, Colo., during June.

Each year the AP program gives more than one million capable high school students an opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses and examinations and, based on their exam performance, to receive credit and/or advanced placement when they enter college. Approximately 2.3 million examinations in 20 disciplines were evaluated by over 8,000 readers from universities and high schools. The AP Reading is a unique forum in which academic dialogue between secondary school and college educators is fostered and strongly encouraged.

“The Reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professors that the world has to offer,” said Trevor Packer, Executive Director of the Advanced Placement at the College Board. “It fosters professionalism, allows for the exchange of ideas and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching. We are grateful for the contributions of talented educators like Patrick Joe Riesen.”

Goodwin Helps Organize Math Conference

Professor of Mathematics Susan Goodwin teamed with Pierpont Community & Technical College math colleagues Linda King and Lalah Larew, as well as Robin Hensel from West Virginia University, to organize the state meeting of the West Virginia Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges, held at the Fairmont State Gaston Caperton Center in March. The keynote speaker for the meeting was Dr. Michael Bartlett from the University of Wisconsin-Marinette. His topic was “Why Should I Study Math?”
FSU Wins Regional Concrete Canoe Competition

For the third consecutive year, the Fairmont State ASCE Student Club won the ASCE Regional Virginia’s Conference Concrete Canoe Competition, which was held in April on the campus of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Fairmont State has competed in the regional competition. Competing schools include West Virginia University, WVU Institute of Technology, Virginia Tech, University of Pittsburgh and others.

Team captains Gregory Wilson and Tim Windland led their team and represented Fairmont State and the region at the invitation-only ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., in June. Other participating ASCE team members include Mike Brown, Charles Moody, Nathan Miller, Kara Cunningham, Marcella Dantzler, Bethany Vandetta and Katie Mick.

The Fairmont State team’s canoe, named “Gotta Have It,” measures 21 feet long, 2 feet 7 inches wide and only 1 foot deep, the longest canoe design by Fairmont State to date. The hull is, on average, 3/8 inch thick and the concrete density is 56.17pcf, all resulting in a total weight of approximately 170 pounds. Considering the low unit weight, the canoe developed remarkable strength of 1,500 psi (7 day) compressive and a flexural strength of 630 psi (28 day). The reinforcement was comprised of epoxy coated carbon fiber with 1 inch by 1 inch openings.

The regional competition’s theme, “All Day/All Night,” inspired the design of the canoe. The innovative color scheme on the outside of the hull was made using a single mix design that faded from white to black (day to night.) The inner hull was white with a concrete inlay of a clock that marked the hour that the canoe cast was completed.

“Our ASCE Student Club would like to thank all of their sponsors who assisted them with this year’s effort,” said Tia Richardson, the club’s faculty adviser.

Architecture Students Earn Prizes

Three FSU architecture students received cash prizes as winners of an end-of-the-semester competition sponsored by the Fairmont Renaissance Corporation. The first place winner, Brian Robinson, was awarded $500. Erin Smith and Alex Leib shared second place and received $125 each. The winners were chosen from a field of 29 entries from two design studios led by Kirk Morphew, AIA, Associate Professor of Architecture at Fairmont State.

The students were asked to design a project at the corner of Adams and Quincy streets in Fairmont, calling for a mixed-use, urban infill solution that provides underground parking, commercial space, affordable apartments and market-rate apartments. Key considerations in the judging were context and the potential of spurring downtown revitalization efforts.

Judges for the competition were Bill Yoke, AIA, of WYK Associates; Rebecca Key, AIA, of Alpha Associates; Greg Eddy, Associate AIA, of Omni Associates; and Philip Freeman, AIA, of Fairmont State. Rich Wood served as the Fairmont Renaissance Corporation’s representative.

Water Crossing Award for Race Car

Fairmont State mechanical engineering technology students brought home the Briggs & Stratton Award for water crossing during the Mini Baja East Competition held in April in Auburn, Ala.

The Mini Baja is sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers and features three regional competitions. The East Competition includes three days of competitions in hill climbing, acceleration, braking, speed, suspension, water crossing and a four-hour endurance race. Students from close to 70 colleges and universities competed in the event at Auburn University, testing their skills at designing and building an off-road vehicle that can sustain itself through rough terrain and water. The vehicles are powered by a 10-horsepower engine.

FSU students competing in the event were Derek Payne, Chris Goodwin, Dave Calhoun, Jason Bell, Chris Hall, Adam Rogers, Vince Gala, Dan Morris, Janelle Piercy, William Varner, Christina Cartrill, Jared Lowery, Craig Poland, Jeff Bolen, Chris Jones and Jessica Titus.

Merle Thomas, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, said about half of the FSU students competing this year were on last year’s Mini Baja East Competition team, which brought home the trophy for Overall Best Rookie Team.

Sophomore Adam Rogers is looking forward to competing again next year when the East Competition is held in West Virginia.

Race sponsors included Bill Kelley Racing, Novellis, T & F Exploration, Precision Coil, Pratt & Whitney Engine Services, Inc., Wilson Ford, Rocket Chassis and the American Production and Inventory Control Society for which John Ciesla serves as President of the Mountaineer Chapter.
Chemists Enjoy Summer Research

Four highly motivated chemistry majors from Fairmont State spent their summers doing research and seeing new places. Megan Damm and Sam Tenney were accepted into nationally competitive Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs at the University of Kansas and University of Virginia, respectively. Masako Shimamoto spent the summer at Marshall University as part of the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE) program. Stephanie Boblett worked at West Virginia University all summer, also under the auspices of WV INBRE. All four students were paid for their summer work and will give seminars this Fall on their results.

Parajulee Elected Student Government Treasurer

Computer Science major Sudha Parajulee was elected as the 2006-7 Treasurer for Student Government at Fairmont State. A total of 607 students voted in the online election, up from 359 who voted in the 2005-2006 election. Parajulee received 150 votes more than her closest competitor.

Students Travel to WV Expo

Civil Engineering Technology and Architecture students traveled with faculty member Tia Richardson and Academic Lab Manager Dennis Mitchell to the WV Expo at the Charleston Civic Center on March 22 & 23, 2006. The WV Expo is the state’s major trade show for the Construction, Engineering, and Architectural Industries. Students took advantage of the opportunity to visit various booth displays and attend professional presentations in their disciplines. In addition, members of the ASCE Student Club got a chance to display their award-winning concrete canoe, give a presentation and attend a WV Section Board meeting on Thursday. The Club also hosted a Fairmont State booth at the Expo.

Ware Receives National Honor

Michael Ware, 2006 graduate in Computer Science and Computer Security, was notified in April 2006 that he was awarded an Honorable Mention in the National Science Foundation’s highly competitive Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The Graduate Research Fellowship competition is open to applicants from all science, math and engineering fields. It provides three years of support for graduate study leading to research-based master’s or doctoral degrees and is intended for students who are at the early stages of their graduate study. Ware competed against students who were already in their first year of graduate study.

Of the 10,000 students who applied for the fellowships, 909 received fellowships and 1866 received Honorable Mentions. Ware is one of only 110 students to receive Honorable Mention in the Computer Science, Information Systems and Computer Engineering category. Ware was also one of only three students from West Virginia institutions to be recognized in the 2006 competition. Fairmont State University and West Virginia University each had one Honorable Mention student, and one student from Wheeling Jesuit University received a fellowship award.

Ware begins graduate study in Computer Science with a concentration in Secure Software Engineering at James Madison University this fall. His creative research ideas, excellent undergraduate research record and strong support from mentor Don Tobin, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, earned him not only the Honorable Mention award but also a full tuition waiver and paid research graduate assistantship at his top choice graduate institution. JMU is recognized by the National Security Agency as a Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education.

Damm et al. Receive Mentoring Grant

Back in 2004, Megan Damm came up with the idea behind the SciTech Mentor Link program that begins this fall. Damm, currently a senior chemistry major, worked for a year and a half to build support for the program. During the spring of 2006, she and chemistry colleagues Stephanie Boblett, Dana Calica, and Melinda Huff submitted a successful grant proposal for the Mentor Link program to the North Central West Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society Student Grants Program. The award provides $750 of support for program activities during the first year. In addition, the program has received substantial support from Title III Strengthening Institutions grant at Fairmont State and also from the College of Science and Technology.

College Assistant Marcie Rice will serve as administrative coordinator for the program, which links entering students in science and technology with successful upperclass students and alumni from their home counties. The goal is to provide new students with support, advice and positive role models as they first encounter the substantial expectations of college classwork in science, math and technology. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Rice by email at mrice4@fairmontstate.edu or by phone at 304-367-4269.

Undergraduate Research Grants

Several students received research support during academic year 2005-6 through the Undergraduate Research Program administered by the Office of Research and Graduate Study at Fairmont State. Student researchers included biology major Contessa Hill, who worked with Mark Flood, Professor of Biology; chemistry major Stephanie Boblett, who is working with Sarah Dodson, Assistant Professor of Biology; computer science majors Robert Ball and John Richards, who worked with Erica Harvey, Professor of Chemistry; and computer science major John Boker, who worked with Yi Wang, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.
First Annual College-Wide Picnic

Despite a downpour that began exactly at the scheduled start time of the first annual SciTech End-of-Year Picnic, 30-40 participants enjoyed the May 2 event, which was co-sponsored by all the SciTech student clubs and the dean’s office. Students, faculty and staff enjoyed traditional picnic food and celebrated the end of a busy, productive year under the shelter of the pavilion by the football field on campus.

Math Students Honored

Three Fairmont State University students were recognized during the West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference on March 17 at Flatwoods.

Tracy J. Shingleton of Mannington, a graduate of Lincoln High School, was named the winner of the Walter Regula Mathematics Teacher-in-Training Grant. Shingleton is an education major with a specialization in grades 5-12 mathematics. The $600 award is made annually to an outstanding college or university senior who is training to become a mathematics teacher and intends to teach in West Virginia.

Senior Dawn Phillips, an elementary education major from Elkins, W.Va., won first place in the “Math is Mega Fun,” poster contest. Elementary education major Jennifer Shaw, a senior from Keyser, W.Va., won second place in the poster contest.

Scholarships and Awards

Dustin Cogar, senior technology education major and a 2002 graduate of Lewis County High School, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Technology Education.

Holly Debolt, a senior chemistry major and 2002 graduate of East Fairmont High School, received the Vincent and Catherine Sansalone Scholarship.

Roger L. Harris, senior computer science and computer security major and a 1991 graduate of Pine Grove High School, received the Ernest Frye Outstanding Student in Computer Science Award.

Jason R. Galloway, a senior electronics engineering technology major and a 2000 graduate of East Fairmont High School, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Electronics Engineering Technology.

Ashley L. Harshberger, a senior graphics technology major and 2003 home schooling graduate, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Graphics Technology.

Charles M. Helmick, senior architectural engineering technology major and a 2002 graduate of Buckhannon Upshur High School, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Architectural Engineering Technology.

Contessa Hill, a senior biology major and 2001 Robert C. Byrd High School graduate, received the Outstanding Senior Biology Student Award.

Melinda Huff, a senior chemistry major and 1998 Liberty High School graduate, received the William C. Ruoff Outstanding Senior Chemistry Award.

Brandon K. Knotts, a safety and environmental engineering technology major and 2003 Grafton High School graduate, received the Consol Inc. Scholarship.

Jennifer Leizer, a senior mechanical engineering technology major and 2000 Boonsboro High School graduate, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Jared A. Lowery, a junior mechanical engineering technology major and 2003 Elkins High School graduate, received the Walter F. Phillips Jr. Endowed Scholarship.

Marcia J. Manley, a mathematics education major and 1978 West Virginia Wesleyan College graduate, received the James A. LaRue Mathematics Award.

Whitney D. Moore, a junior chemistry major and 2004 graduate of Robert C. Byrd High School, received the Eleanor M. Ford Outstanding Junior Endowed Scholarship in Science and Math.

Frank M. Muldoon, a senior aviation administration and mathematics double major and 2003 Pike View High School graduate, received the Bachelor of Science Academic Achievement Award in Aviation Technology and the A. Joyce H. Coleman Memorial Scholarship.

Janelle L. Piercy, a sophomore mechanical engineering technology major and 2004 Lewis County High School graduate, received the Consol Inc. Scholarship.

Adrienne L. Riggi, a freshman chemistry and biology double major and 2005 Fairmont Senior High School graduate, received the Outstanding Freshman in Chemistry Award.

Kenneth L. Sell, a senior majoring in civil engineering technology and 2001 graduate of Maple River High School in Greensboro, Pa., received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Civil Engineering Technology.

Jennifer L. Shaffer, a senior safety and environmental engineering technology major and 1994 South Harrison High School graduate, received the Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Safety/Environmental Engineering Technology.

Tracy J. Shingleton, a senior math education major, a 1997 Fairmont State graduate in accounting and a 1993 Lincoln High School graduate, received the A. Joyce H. Coleman Memorial Scholarship.

Jill L. Taylor, a senior biology major and 2002 graduate of Philip Barbour High School, received the Eleanor M. Ford Outstanding Senior Award in Science and Math and the Coleman-Cobb-Postawa Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research.

Michael S. Ware, a senior computer science and computer security major and 2002 Martinsburg High School graduate, received the Coleman-Cobb-Postawa Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research.

W.Va. Academy of Sciences Presentations

On April 22, 2006, faculty, staff, and students from the College of Science and Technology presented oral and poster presentations at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Science held at Shephard University. Biology faculty members Sarah Dodson, Mark Flood, Albert Magro, Tony Morris, and Donald Trisel traveled with approximately 17 students and one staff member to the meeting.
Academic Alliance

Student success was the focus of a series of kick-off Academic Alliance meetings between high school and Fairmont State faculty members in April 2006. Forty-five teachers from 13 different high schools in the region attended the events, which were held on four different days to encourage broad participation. The centerpiece of each day was a presentation and discussion session with James Maxey, Senior Research Scientist of Special Research Initiatives at American College Testing, who presented data tracking ACT scores and high school/college grades for students from our service region in West Virginia. Lunch in the new Falcon Center, brainstorming sessions on possible joint initiatives and tours of facilities in Hunt Haught Hall and the Turley Center followed the research presentation. Support for the events was provided by West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (WV-INBRE) and the Fairmont State GEAR-UP Partnership.

Yonzon, Tristani Honored by Alumni Association cont. from page 12

the design, development and deployment of global professional services methodologies. He is also the Founder and CEO of a software startup, Medical Republic, Inc., which is headquartered in Chicago with regional operations in San Jose, Calif., and Fairmont. He resides in South Elgin, Ill., with his wife, Gina, and their three children: Abigail, Anna and Ella.

Chanda Ranjit Yonzon graduated from Fairmont State in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She received her Doctorate in Chemistry from Northwestern University in 2006. During her time at Fairmont State, Yonzon was named the outstanding freshman in chemistry, the outstanding junior in chemistry and received the William C. Ruoff Award for the outstanding senior in chemistry. In 2005, she was named the Materials Research Society Graduate Student Gold Award winner and earned the Outstanding Research Award at Northwestern University. Her graduate research, at the forefront of an exciting, interdisciplinary area, involved the development of biosensors based on nanotechnology. One of her projects, for example, centered on the development of new glucose sensors to help people with diabetes.

Yonzon has given several presentations and is active in a variety of organizations, including the Graduate Chemistry Honor Society, Phi Lambda Upsilon. She is currently a Senior Scientist with Schering-Plough in New Jersey, where she resides with her husband, Binoy Yonzon, and 1-year-old daughter, Anuva.

Outreach

Coal in the Heart of Appalachia

Fifteen science teachers (grades 6-12) spent five days in July learning innovative ways to meet West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) in biology, chemistry, physics and geology using a relevant integrating theme: coal.

The workshop, titled Coal in the Heart of Appalachia, is part of a series of curricu-

lar initiatives made possible by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to FSU. In addition to new teaching activities and enhanced content knowledge, participants took home a $500 stipend, $350 worth of classroom materials, a coal-black T-shirt, and graduate credit. Workshop participants could earn three graduate credits (at the cost of $99) in science upon completion of all work associated with the five classroom days and a feedback session.

Workshop instructors included Deb Hemler, Professor of Geoscience Education, and Andreas Baur, Professor of Chemistry, both from FSU, and Tom Repine of the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey. The workshop was supported by Fairmont State University, the NSF CCLI Grant (DUE-0310653), the Fairmont State GEAR-UP Partnership, WVGES and the WVGES RockCamp Program.

Student Organization News

■ ASCE CLUB

Congratulations to Fairmont State’s American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student club and to advisor Tia Richardson, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Technology, for receipt of the 2006 “Outstanding Student Club” Award from National Association. Fairmont State’s ASCE Student Club has been rated the Most Outstanding Student Club by ASCE National in 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The FS club also won the regional concrete canoe competition in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

■ ACS CLUB MERITORIOUS

Congratulations to the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates club, which received a Meritorious Chapter award for 2005 from the National American Chemical Society. The club’s advisor is Andreas Baur, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

■ FORENSIC SCIENCE CLUB

The newly organized Forensic Science Club was officially recognized as a student organization by Student Government in the spring of 2006. The club advisor is Jim Weekley, Instructor of Chemistry.

Stay Connected to Fairmont State

NAME: __________________________
GRADUATION: Year ________ Major __________________________
ADDRESS: __________________________________________________
E-MAIL: __________________________________ PHONE: __________

I am interested in (check all that apply)
___ Joining the SciTech Student/Alumni Forum (electronic forum)
___ Finding out more about the Mentor Link Program
___ Obtaining an Alumni Spotlight form
___ Other (specify) ________________________________________

E-MAIL INFORMATION TO: mrice4@fairmontstate.edu
OR MAIL TO:
College of Science & Technology
Fairmont State University
1201 Locust Ave.
Fairmont, WV 26554
Yonzon, Tristani Honored by Alumni Association

The Fairmont State Alumni Association has selected two College of Science and Technology alumni for 2006 Outstanding Young Alumni awards. The awards honor recent graduates who bring distinction to the institution through professional activity and community service. Awardees will be honored at the 2006 Homecoming Alumni Awards Luncheon, which is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11:30 a.m.

Brian Tristani came to Fairmont State on a full basketball scholarship. He is the son of Joseph Tristani of Fairmont and Sheila Claypoole of New Martinsville. He graduated from Fairmont State in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering and earned a Master of Science in Industrial and Labor Relations from West Virginia University in 1992.

Tristani then joined Remedy Corporation (currently BMC Software) in Chicago as Senior Manager, CRM Business Unit. He holds several responsibilities, including managing

Fairmont State University
College of Science and Technology
1201 Locust Avenue
Fairmont, WV 26554

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED