



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
VOL. 4, ISSUE 1 | A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

## Welcome New Faculty and Staff

FAU College of Education welcomed two tenure-earning faculty members, five non-tenure track faculty, two postdoctoral fellows and 12 staff members during the COE Welcome Back event on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023 at the Live Oak Pavilion C & D on the Boca Raton Campus.

In addition, six new faculty and three new staff members joined A.D. Henderson University School/Florida Atlantic University High School.

### Dean's Office

**Kristin Bird, CFRE**  
Director of Development for COE  
Deans' Office

**Sheila Rodriguez-Walden, Ed.D.**  
Director of Accreditation,  
Assessment and Analytics, OAAA

**Mariana Rivera, B.A.**  
Development Associate  
Deans' Office

### OASS

**Yanique Booth, M.Ed.**  
Academic Advisor

### CE

**Adriana Labarta, Ph.D., LMHC**  
Assistant Professor

**Arielle Bendit, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow

**Christina (Tina) Ladd, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow

### CI

**Melissa Antonelli, Ph.D.**  
Visiting Instructor

### CSD

**Kelly Steele, M.S.**  
Clinic Director and Instructor

### ELRM

**Elijah Watlington, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor

**Justin Faulkner, Ed.D.**  
Clinical Instructor for the School  
Leaders Program (PROPEL)

**Cynthia Bauman, Ph.D.**  
Associate Director for the School  
Leaders Program

**Ashley Brannan, M.Ed.**  
Coordinator, Administrative  
Services, COE Appreciative Edu.

**Christina Butler, A.A.**  
Professional Development  
Administrator, OELL

**Sunny Gross, B.A.**  
Program Assistant

### SE

**Elisa Cruz-Torres, Ed.D., BCBA-D**  
Instructor

**Angelica Downey, Ph.D.**  
Visiting Instructor

**Nina Bachemin, M.B.A.**  
ACI Support Manager

**Jeffrey Lucas, B.A.**  
CARD Clinical Associate

**Chandra McKinney-Clarke, M.S.**  
CARD Coordinator, Clinical  
Programs

**Rachelle Tolliver, Ed.S.**  
CARD Clinical Support Specialist

### ADHUS & FAU High School

**Christopher Gaspar, M.Ed.**  
High School Counselor

**Christine Porges, M.S.**  
High School Mental Health  
Therapist

**Erin Anguilano, M.Ed.**  
Elementary Teacher

**Andrea Brody, B.A.**  
Elementary Teacher

**Lillian Gray, B.A.**  
Elementary Teacher

**Colleen Hickie, B.A.**  
Elementary Teacher

**Ariana Guerrero**  
AIT Student Teacher

**Kyle Hardigree**  
Facilities Manager

**Emma Khoury**  
Procurement & Accounts Payable  
Specialist



## New COE Appointments

COE Dean Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., announced appointment of the chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction after a national search and named the interim chair of the Department of Special Education, who will add this role to his present position:

**Charles Dukes, Ph.D., Ed.D.**  
Chair  
Department of Curriculum and  
Instruction

**Paul Peluso, Ph.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean and  
Interim Chair  
Department of Special Education

## COE Faculty Tenure and/or Promotions

**Ayse Torres, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor & Tenure

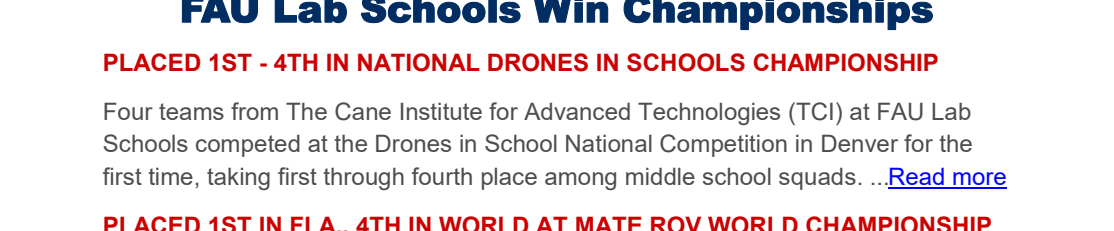
**Robyn Klein, Ed.D.**  
Senior Instructor

## COE CI Creates Pathway to Teaching for PBC High School Students

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction (CI) in Florida Atlantic University's College of Education has developed a dual enrollment pathway program for high school students that leads to eligibility for certification to teach in elementary school. The program entitled Fast Track: Teach Palm Beach, is projected to start in Fall of 2023, and is a collaborative initiative between the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University.

The program was initially conceived by the Department of Teaching and Learning in conjunction with faculty leaders from Palm Beach State College. However, today the program is co-coordinated by Bianca Nightengale-Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Assessment Coordinator, CI, and Robyn L. Klein, Ed.D., Senior Instructor and Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Programs, CI. "The pathway was created in response to the state-wide teacher shortage as an affordable and time efficient program that provides comprehensive wrap-around services to high school students to support their successful matriculation into the teaching profession," Nightengale-Lee explained.

To that end, the Fast Track program focuses on developing the next generation of highly qualified educators by introducing eligible students to the pathway during their sophomore year of high school through meetings with school counselors and professional development sessions held by the Pathway Team. Interested students will earn college credit by taking introductory education and lower division courses in their junior and senior year of high school as dually enrolled students at Palm Beach State College, then transfer to FAU. Students who successfully complete the program will earn a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with ESOL and Reading endorsements from FAU College of Education. To learn more, view the [Fast Track: Teach Palm Beach](#) video, or contact [Klein](#) or [Nightengale-Lee](#).



## A.D. Henderson & FAU High School Faculty Promotion

**Samantha Sylvestri, B.A.**  
Univ. School Accomplished Instr.

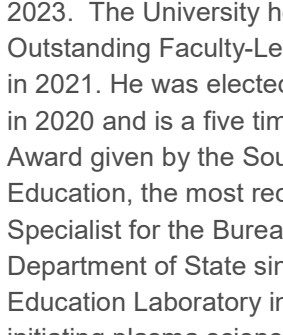
## The Cane Institute MS and HS Students at FAU Lab Schools Win Championships

### PLACED 1ST - 4TH IN NATIONAL DRONES IN SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Four teams from The Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies (TCI) at FAU Lab Schools competed at the Drones in School National Competition in Denver for the first time, taking first through fourth place among middle school squads. ...[Read more](#)

### PLACED 1ST IN FLA., 4TH IN WORLD AT MATE ROV WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

"The FAU High School Night Owls represented TCI at FAU Lab Schools extremely well at the MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) ROV Competition World Championship," according to Allan Phipps, University School Accomplished Instructor and District Science Specialist for Florida Atlantic University Schools. "This is the largest underwater robotics competition in the world. In addition to winning the Sharkpedo Award for Engineering Innovation, the team placed 4th in the in-pool challenge, 3rd in the engineering presentation, 5th in marketing presentation, earned a perfect score for our company spec sheet, a perfect score on the secret mission, and 2nd in corporate responsibility." This earned the title of 1<sup>st</sup> in



## Fall 2023 FAU Public Health Information & Resources

## FACULTY FOCUS

[David Kumar, Ed.D.](#), Professor of Science Education, is a distinguished and productive researcher in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE), focusing on science Problem Based Learning with computers, nanoscale materials education, science teaching and learning, evaluation and policy. He has published books with reputed publishers and articles in refereed journals such as the *Journal of Science Education and Technology* and *School Science Review*, and has been invited to deliver the Chemical Pioneer Lecture by The American Institute of Chemists (AIC) and the Sir Ramasamy Mudaliar Lecture by the University Kerala. He was awarded the Sir Ron Nyholm Education Prize by the Royal Society of Chemistry and invited to deliver the Nyholm Lectures at several UK universities, including the University of Edinburgh. In addition, he and his colleagues have secured several large grants from agencies that include the National Science Foundation.

The College of Education has recognized Kumar's research, having awarded him the COE Researcher of the Year at the Professor level in 2023. The University honored him with the Presidential Award for Outstanding Faculty-Led Community Engagement for Research/Scholarship in 2021. He was elected a Fellow of the International Academy of Education in 2020 and is a five time winner of the Outstanding Faculty Position Paper Award given by the Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education, the most recent one in 2022. Presently, he is a Fulbright Specialist for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the U.S. Department of State since 2021 and is the Founding Director of the STEM Education Laboratory in FAU's COE since 2015, through which he is initiating plasma science education for science teachers and students in collaboration with the Science Education Department at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

## GRANT FEATURE

### FAU ACI AWARDED TEACHING GRANT

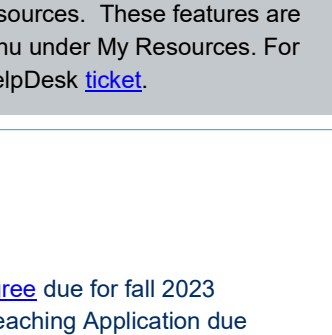
[Florida Atlantic University's College of Education](#) has received a three-year \$1.5 million grant through the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) for the [FAU Academy for Community Inclusion](#). The funds will help sustain the academy, an approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP) that serves the community through continuing employment and independent living skills opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. ...[Read more](#)

### CSD RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT

[Ali Danesh, Ph.D.](#), Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, received a research grant (\$9,600 value) in the form of research equipment supplies from Cognivue, Inc., for his research on memory. He will incorporate their computerized Cognivue memory screening tool in studying those with hearing loss and Parkinson's Disease.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Students can connect to a hand-picked team of FAU advisors, faculty, tutors and other support staff through the *Success Network* powered by [Navigate](#), an online communication system. Download the mobile app on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#) today to access a network of support and resources needed to be successful at FAU.



## Important Dates

### Faculty

Sept. 8—Faculty Assembly

### Students

Sept. 8—[Application for Degree](#) due for fall 2023

Sept. 15—Spring Student Teaching Application due

Sept. 21—[Graduate College Open House](#)

Sept. 22—[COE Scholarship](#) submission deadline for 2023-2024

Sept. 30—Explore FAU

Oct. 13—Defense announcement and signature page draft due to Graduate College ([online submission](#))

Oct. 14—Explore FAU

Oct. 23—Fall Dissertation Defense deadline

Oct. 30—Fall Dissertation due in the Dean's Office

## Awards

**Reyes-Guerra, D.** (2023, June 13-15). *2023 FASA Champion of Education Award*. Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbKdTVYELx0>

## Publications



### Book

**Forgan, J. W., & Balsamo, N.** (2023). *Parent's Quick Start Guide to Dyslexia*. Taylor & Francis.

### Book Chapter

**Griffith, C., & Villares, E.** (2023). Research design: Quantitative approaches. In Zyromski, B., & Dimmitt, C., (Eds.), *School Counseling Research*. Oxford University Press.

### Peer Reviewed Articles

**Azhar, M.Q., Powers, J., & Musgrove, A.** (2023). Examining the Computational Thinking and Robot Knowledge and Interest of Undergraduate Students in Two Teacher Education Courses. *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges*, 38 (6), 40-50.

\***Bendit, A., Mariani, M., Peluso, P., & Calabrese, E.** (2023). Supporting early college high school students: The effects of CBT-P on perfectionism, negative affectivity, and social-emotional wellbeing. *The Professional Counseling*. Accepted for publication.

**Colgan, L. A., Parra-Bueno P., Holman, H. L., Tu, X., Jain, A., Calubag, M. F., Misler, J. A., Gary, C., Oz, G., Suponitsky-Kroyter, I., Okaz, E., & Yasuda, R.** (2023). Dual regulation of spine-specific and synapse-to-nucleus signaling by PKC $\delta$  during plasticity. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 43 (30) 5432-5447. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0208-22.2023>  
\*FAU High School student

**Dernikos, B. P., Nightengale-Lee, B., Thiel, J. J., Lenters, K., & Bailey, E.** (2023). Theorizing Literacies as Affective Flows: Attuning to the Otherwise Possibilities of Hip-Hop's "In-the-Red Frequencies". *Journal of Literacy Research*, 1086296X231178513.

**Dernikos, B. P., Thiel, J. J., Nightengale-Lee, B., Lenters, K., & Bailey, E.** (2023). Attuning to In the Red. *Frequencies with/In Readers Workshop*. *Literacy*.

**Jackson, I., Ball, A. F., Nightengale-Lee, B., Shaw, S., & Hernandez, A.** (2023). "There's So Much That Young People Need to Learn That Only the Community Can Teach Them": A Conversation With Dr. Arnetta F. Ball. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 25(1), 43-51.

**Kearney, K., Torres, A., & Quezada, S.** (2023). Teaching young adults with visual impairment and intellectual/developmental disability how to determine appropriate job fit. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-230038>

**Knapinska, A. M., Drotleff, G., Chai, C., Twhill, D., Ernce, A., Tokmina-Roszyk, D., Grande, I., Rodriguez, M., Larson, B., & Fields, G. B.** (2023). Screening MT1-MMP Activity and Inhibition in Three-Dimensional Tumor Spheroids. *Biomedicine*, 11 (2), 562. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicine11020562>  
\*FAU High School students

**Villares, E., Brigman, G., Carbonneau, K., Lemberger-Truelove, M., & Bowers, H.** (2023). The effects of the Student Success Skills program on academic achievement and social-emotional skills and competence: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling*, 9(2), 192-204. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23727810.2023.2236144>

### Popular Media

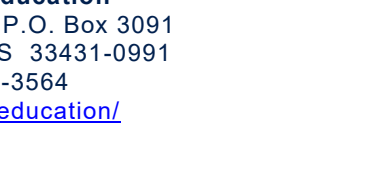
**Amenabar, T.** (2023, July 21). Scared of sharks? Take our quiz for, uh, reassurance. **Meredith, T.** (one of the contributing scientists). *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/interactive/2023/shark-attacks-bites-rare/>

## Prestigious Lectures

### Invited

**Exume, T.** (August 2023). *Disparities in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in identification and services during the early years for Black children* [Invited Lecture]. St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis.

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