A Message From the Dean

Congratulations to History Professor Stephen Engle, who was awarded the FAU Distinguished Teacher of the Year award at the 2016 Honors Convocation held in April. Other awards in the College included the Scholar of the Year award, which went to Alejandro Sánchez Samper, and the Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Advising Award, which went to Anna Anoufrieva. Marny Glasser, chair of the College’s Advisory Board, received the FAU Board of Trustees Service Award.

Among student awards, Rebbekah Faustin received the University Scholar Award for the College, and Kelsey Willis received the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Award. Congratulations to these recipients and to all those who were recognized for their achievements. It is a privilege to serve as Dean of such a vibrant, acclaimed faculty.

- Heather Coltman, DMA

The album “Bogotá – Buenos Aires,” which was produced at FAU’s Hoot/Wisdom Recordings under the direction of FAU Associate Professor Alejandro-Sánchez Samper, received a GRAMMY nomination in the “Best Tango Album” category for the 16th annual Latin GRAMMY Awards. The album was one of six nominated in the tango category. “Bogotá – Buenos Aires,” is a fusion of contemporary Argentinian arrangements and Colombian Andean folk rhythms interpreted by the Quinteto Leopoldo Federico, a contemporary tango quintet from Colombia.

Hoot/Wisdom Recordings is part of the Commercial Music Program in the Department of Music. It is a student-run record label where students are involved in all aspects of the label, including songwriting, choreography, production, engineering, recording services, video services, promotion and marketing, talent scouting, web site management, newsletter production, finance, legal issues and accounting.

Hoot Wisdom was established in 2003 and has produced 22 albums to date.

FAU Jazz Band director Major Bailey won a Latin GRAMMY award for his performance on the album “Ed Calle’s Mamblue,” which was nominated in the “Best Instrumental Album” category. Bailey has been a professional musician for more than 20 years and is a two-time GRAMMY nominated jazz artist. Bailey, a U.S. sergeant first class major, was the bass trombonist for the Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band from 2001-2009, and has been on several Jazz Ambassador recordings and performed in hundreds of events in 49 states, Canada and Norway. Bailey joined FAU’s Department of Music in the Fall of 2015 and currently directs the FAU Jazz Band and teaches trombone and euphonium.

Wells Fargo to Sponsor Concerts

The Department of Music is very thankful to once again have Wells Fargo as a sponsor, supporting student scholarships. During the 2015/16 academic year, the company matched all concert donations/ticket sales. This was a total of $25,000, which provided more than $50,000 in scholarship support. This will be the fifth year that Wells Fargo has pledged matching support. Since 2012/13 our partnership with Wells Fargo has raised $221,918 for scholarships to deserving music students.

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Diplomacy Program
The FAU Diplomacy Program, under the direction of Political Science Professor Jeffrey Morton, received the Distinguished Delegation Award at the National Model United Nations competition in New York City this year. Thirty-six FAU undergraduates joined more than 5,000 college students from 350 universities in 65 different countries in the annual competition where schools represent countries and students step into the shoes of diplomats to solve global problems. To date, FAU’s diplomacy program has won 13 national and international awards for academic excellence. The Diplomacy Program received its first endowed scholarship fund in 2016. Established by Les and Judy Fishman, longtime supporters of FAU’s Diplomacy Program, the Jack Fishman and Marvin Helf Endowment honors both of their fathers while benefiting FAU students who participate annually in Model United Nation competitions in Washington, D.C., Seattle, Portland and elsewhere.

Groundbreaking Study on Monkey’s Eating Habits
The Department of Anthropology’s recent master’s graduate Elizabeth Tapanes was first author of a study of Cercopithecus monkeys, a study resulting from FAU team research in Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Observations from the study, directed by FAU anthropology professor Kate Detwiler, suggest an alternative pathway for bat-to-monkey disease transmission that has implications for zoonotic disease transmission to humans. The study, titled “Bat Predation by Cercopithecus Monkeys: Implications for Zoonotic Disease Transmission,” is published in the current issue of the journal EcoHealth.

Since FAU Theatre Lab’s grand opening in October 2015, more than 1,500 people have attended either a reading of a play, a concert-reading of a musical, a cabaret, or an improv comedy show. Under the direction of Lou Tyrell (Executive Director and Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar of the Arts), Theatre Lab is dedicated to the development and production of new works in American theater, and offers FAU students an opportunity to be a part of it. This past year, students learned from and worked with playwrights Israel Horovitz, John Guare and many others, and had the opportunity to meet Peter Sagal of NPR’s “Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me.”

In addition to the opportunities provided to FAU students, Theatre Lab also has launched the Future PAGES Project, generously funded by the Heckscher Foundation for Children, which allows local students in grades 3-12 the chance to share their voices and stories. Students participate in writing workshops and then are invited to attend a live performance at Theatre Lab. Since the fall of 2015, the Future PAGES Project has produced 32 creative writing workshops and 15 live theatrical performances for almost 1,600 students elementary, middle and high school students in Palm Beach and Broward counties.

Next season, Theatre Lab plans to fully produce three plays in its built out theater space in Parliament Hall. For more information on Theatre Lab or to find out about its upcoming events, visit www.fau.edu/theatrelab.

Theatre Lab’s inaugural season was generously sponsored by Edith and Martin Steín. Marta and Jim Batmasian have also underwritten a Matching Gift Challenge, seeking to raise $50,000 for program funding and to complete renovations of Theatre Lab’s new stage to accommodate design elements for full productions in 2016/17. To learn more, contact Laurie Carney at 561-297-3606.
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a visiting artist from the Broadway show
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The College sponsored several
Summer camps. The Teaching Outstanding
Performers (TOPS) Piano and Creative
Writing Camp celebrated its 22nd year
with a total of 138 students ranging in age
from Kindergarten through 12th Grade.
The campers had fun while spending
an intensive week developing and
enhancing their artistic skills. In addition
to exposure to world-class teaching and
performing, the camp cultivates an all-
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our culture. The campers participated in
piano performance, creative writing, world
drumming, painting and other activities,
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areas of FAU such as the galleries and
anthropology lab. There was also a visiting
artist from Austria who taught painting,
a visiting artist from the Broadway show
"Stomp" who taught the students body
percussion, and an FAU student from South
Africa who shared Zulu and African tales.
TOPS concluded with a celebration concert
featuring FAU faculty and campers on stage
in the 352 Keys Piano Gala Extravaganza.
FAU’s annual band camp welcomed more
than 170 students from South Grade
Elementary School, Lake Worth; Highland
Elementary School, Lake Worth; K.E.
Cunningham Canal Point Elementary
School, Lake Worth; and Plumosa School of
the Arts, Delray Beach. Students attended
a week-long camp where they learned to
play a musical instrument while having a
great time at summer camp. Most of the
students had never held an instrument
before, much less played one. In a week’s
time, after lessons and rehersals led
by FAU Music Education students and
band teachers from their own schools,
the campers not only played but gave a
concert for friends and family. We are
very grateful to the Boca West Foundation,
the Boca Río Foundation, the Palm
Beach County School District, and the
administration of the four schools for their
support of this fun and artful summer
camp experience!

The Artist Mentorship Camp, sponsored by
the Community Foundation of Palm Beach
and Martin Counties and FAU’s University
Galleries, brought in pre-teens and teens
from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm
Beach County, Children’s Home Society,
and Vision Quest Foster Care. They
designed and painted a mural on campus,
made home-made paper, learned relief
blockprintmaking, and visited the Jaffe
Center for Book Arts.

Visual Arts and Art History student Ashley Kerr was awarded a
2016 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary
Sculpture Honorable Mention by the International Sculpture
Center. Ashley was chosen from 376 students from more than
148 colleges and universities worldwide. The jury reviewed
more than 959 images of student art work to make their
selections for this prestigious award. Ashley will be recognized
in the 2016 October issue of Sculpture magazine, as well as on
the www.sculpture.org website.

Students
FAU’s Rho Omicron Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the
National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, was
selected as the recipient of the prestigious Ignacio
and Sophie Galbis Award, presented annually to
the most outstanding chapter nationwide for activities
accomplished during the academic year. In addition,
FAU was named an “honour chapter.” This distinction was
awarded to only 13 chapters nationwide in 2016 and it
is the 8th year in its chapter history that FAU has earned the
distinction. Nancy K. Poulson, FAU’s chapter adviser
and FAU professor of Spanish and Latin American studies,
was instrumental in earning this year’s national honor.
Poulson singled out the recent student chapter officers
Betsaida Casanova, Elizabeth Gillespie and Cundy Hurdado
as instrumental in providing the leadership for the events
and activities that made FAU’s chapter stand
out nationally.

Alumni
Emiliana Molina, B.S. Communication Studies, 2013, recently
won a 2016 White House Correspondent Scholarship, and
attended the White House Correspondent’s Dinner, meeting
the Obamas. She currently attends the Medill School of
Journalism at Northwestern University. Emiliana was born in
Medellin, Colombia and moved to the United States at age
10. A bilingual, curiosity-driven multimedia journalist with a
focus on politics, she has covered the Iowa caucuses, Black
Lives Matter demonstrations in Chicago, and the attempts
to recall Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Molina earned her
Bachelor’s degree from FAU where she interned for NBC
Universal/Telemundo 51 and worked at Heart Media. Her
passion to do meaningful journalism for the profession grew
from her experience as news director for the student-run TV
station Owl TV. Shortly after graduation, Molina worked in
Bogota, Colombia as a freelance video reporter for CM &
La Noticia.

Melissa Hart, M.F.A. Theatre, 1990, was chosen as the FAU
2016 Distinguished Alumnus for the College of Arts and
Letters. Veteran of several Broadway musicals, Melissa Hart’s
Broadway credits include “Candide,” “Scarlet Pimpernel,”
“Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” “The Apple Tree,” “Georgy” for which
she got a TONY nomination, and “Cabaret” in which she
played Sally Bowles on Broadway and in the first national
company. Off-Broadway credits include “Peg O’ My Heart,”
“Radio Gals,” “Cat’s Paw” “Tock Tick,” “Cyano,” “Third
Person,” and the award-winning “Fleet Week.” Hart received
Philadelphia’s Philly Award, Chicago’s Joseph Jefferson
Award, and three South Florida Carillon Awards.

Kandy Lopez, MFA ’14, was appointed assistant professor of
Painting at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. Kandy has
served as assistant professor of design painting and Drawing
at Daytona State College for the past two years, and she has
decided to return to south Florida to be closer to her family.

Festival Rep
Festival Rep 2016 featured the musical comedy “Once
Upon a Mattress,” the comedy “Hay Fever” a Piano Gala
Extravaganza and two Big Band Concerts. More than 4,500
attended the shows, with many of the performances sold
out. Kudos to faculty involved in the shows: Jean Louis
Baldet, Kathryn Johnston, Thomas Sharrock, Jessica Cowden,
Department of Theatre and Dance and Kyle Prescott,
College Research

The College of Arts and Letters was pleased to support more faculty than ever before with research and creative achievement grants during the 2015-16 academic year. More than $320,000 was awarded to faculty in support of their scholarship and creative work. Much of this support funded travel to present papers at conferences and to visit archives, do fieldwork, mount exhibitions and stage performances.

The activities of our College Advisory Board working in partnership with the Dean, our development team and several of our Ambassador of the Arts, raised $203,000 which represents an increase of 26% over last year. We thank the wonderful dedication of the whole board, under the incredible leadership of Marny Glasser. The College was able to award six Scholarly and Creative Achievement Fellowships to faculty from across our disciplines in support of their scholarship and creative work.

The College's interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Comparative Studies welcomed another new cohort of students into the Cultures, Languages and Literatures (CLL) track this fall semester. As of fall 2016, we have 42 students in the CLL track, 4 in the Public Intellectuals (PI) track, 3 in the Literatures, Literacies and Linguistics (LLL) track, and 2 in the Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) track. The program supports 24 of our current students with graduate teaching assistantships. The students teach courses in their host departments, gaining valuable experience in pedagogy and providing our programs with excellent instructors. The program had a productive year in 2015-16, graduating 7 students from three tracks of our program. We also continued the "Crossing Disciplines" colloquium, and our students organized and hosted the semi-annual CSSA Conference, "Crossings and Intersections." We are also proud of our student scholars who presented at national and international conferences and published articles in journals and other venues. Please visit our website for more details of our students' successes and our alumni news. http://www.fau.edu/comparativestudies/

Congratulations to Carol Prusa, Ph.D., professor, VAAH; Jane Caputi, Ph.D., professor, WGS; Susan Mitchell, professor, English; Tom Martin, Ph.D., associate professor, English; Rebecca LeMoine, Ph.D., assistant professor, political science; Phillip Lewin, Ph.D., assistant professor, sociology. These awards provide professors releases from teaching so they can devote more time to specific projects.

Our partnership with Lifelong Learning continues to support two LLL Professorships. The 2016-17 Lifelong Society Professor in Arts and Humanities is Simon Glynn, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and the Lifelong Society Professor in Current Affairs is Fred Fejes, Ph.D., professor of communication.

The College awarded a cluster research grant to fund a "Digital Arts and Social Justice Exhibit" which will see its outcome on display in the spring of 2017. The School of the Arts awarded a total of $15,000 for individual creative and artistic grants. Six $1,000 grants for Humanities projects were awarded to individuals and the Morrow fund continued to support social science research, including the sponsorship of a year-long, innovative sociology seminar.

In addition, seven of our College faculty were awarded a total of $16,000 in research grants from the PIHR Initiative. Many thanks to the ROCA committee for its hard work last year assessing applications and making many of these awards. To see some of the highlights of our faculty's achievements this past year, please visit the College’s Research page: http://www.fau.edu/artsandletters/research/

The 2016-17 year looks to be equally exciting. In addition to the continuing programs mentioned above, two new University initiatives that recognize the value of the Arts and Humanities in our University’s “race to excellence” will bring even more support to our College’s faculty. The South Florida Arts and Culture platform will announce individual and collaborative grants very soon. In addition, the Division of Research has made a commitment to provide at least $25,000 for summer research support for Arts and Humanities projects.

Faculty/Staff

Jane Caputi, professor, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, was recently selected by the Popular Culture/American Culture Association as their Eminent Scholar for 2016. This award recognizes significant contributions by a scholar working in a field under the umbrella of Popular or American culture. She was the featured speaker at the association’s awards ceremony.

Shane Eason’s (assistant professor, School of Communication and Multimedia Studies) documentary “PAPA” was recently awarded “Best Editing of a Documentary” and “Best Story” at the Film Fest International in Madrid, Spain. “PAPA” is a feature documentary that chronicles the Ernest “Papa” Hemingway Look-Alike Contest annually held in Key West, FL. PAPA has been shown at many film festivals throughout Florida.

Taylor Hagood, associate professor, English, was awarded the prestigious C. Hugh Holman Award by the Society for the Study of Southern Literature for his book, “Faulkner and Disability.” The book is the first to consider the role of impairment in the works of William Faulkner.

Noemi Marin, professor, School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, appeared on Romanian National Television in the feature documentary “Performing Rhetoric.” The Romanian television crew visited FAU and filmed several areas of campus. This is the first time FAU has been featured on Romanian television.

Deandre Poole, Instructor, School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, was selected by the Hispanic Education Coalition of Palm Beach County (HEC) as a recipient for one of this year’s Leadership awards for his contributions and dedicated service toward promoting educational equity for Hispanics/Latino students.

Kevin Wagner, director of graduate studies in political science and Research Fellow of the FAU Business and Economics Polling Initiative, has garnered national media attention for a series of polls leading up to the 2016 presidential election.

Laura Mooney, director of Student Academic Services, was one of 10 internationally to be selected to serve as a mentor for the 2015-17 Class of Emerging Leaders for NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising. The purpose of the Emerging Leader program is to provide a mentoring experience to those interested in becoming more involved in the association. This will be Mooney’s second term as a mentor. She was selected because of her outstanding success with her first mentee and because of her commitment to the program and her involvement and leadership in the association.

Image left: (L/R) Marny Glasser, College Advisory Board Chair; Mango Green, Berenice Raminski, Advisory Board Members

Ph.D. in Comparative Studies

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