Welcome Back

In my 20 years at FAU, I have found that each academic year uncovers new and exciting endeavors that positively impact the University and the communities we serve. And despite the budget challenges we have faced, I feel that this year we will uncover opportunities to advance the mission of FAU at our regional campuses. I am taking on a new role as Vice President and Associate Provost for Regional Campuses with great excitement and with one key word in mind, “collaboration.”

Over the summer, I have had the pleasure of meeting the staff members who give each regional campus its own character and unique qualities. It is thrilling to see the many ways we can exchange ideas, resources and best practices. The regional campus structure differentiates FAU from other universities and is a quality we embrace. Although our campuses span more than 100 miles, it is important to remember that we are all part of one FAU family striving toward common goals.

Last year University leaders guided FAU through ongoing budget shortfalls. We reviewed our programs and operations with a critical eye, seeking creative ways to support our mission through greater efficiencies. We have no choice but to work smarter as we continue to provide higher education opportunities to a growing student body.

During the fall semester, I will continue to meet with faculty and staff on our partner campuses. And my doors are always open. I look forward to getting to know each of you and the wonderful talents you bring to the University.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you happenings across the regional campuses. We have a lot to be proud of!
FAU’s team for the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) autonomous surface vehicle student competition took fifth place in the AUVSI and ONR’s (Office of Naval Research) second International Autonomous Surface Vehicle Competition, which was held in June at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach, Va. The team was a joint effort by several students, faculty and staff. For more information, visit www.auvsi.org/competitions/surface.cfm.

FAU’s Human Powered Submarine Team recently won first place for speed and second place in the overall competition at the 10th International Submarine Race (ISR) at the United States Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Md. Talon 1—FAU’s one-man, propeller-driven submarine—reached a final speed of 6.298 knots, the fastest speed of any submarine in any category earning them the “Absolute Speed” award. The team placed second in the overall team competition winning $1,250 in prize money to use toward building its next submarine.

Now you see them, now you don’t. Five of the modular buildings in Davie have been demolished and replaced with green space. Architecture students will help develop a plan for the design of the area as a passive green space for relaxing and studying.

New “Sympodium” technology was installed in 14 instructional and e-classroom facilities on the Davie campus. Sympodium is a new product, similar to an interactive whiteboard, which allows the professor to use an interactive pen to write and control the presentation. The technology also allows the creation of podcasting audio files. A demo is available at http://smarttech.com/sympodiumdemo.

Broward computing services implemented a learning on-demand system (EchoSystem from the Echo 360 company) in the videoconferencing facilities at the Davie campus. This system allows for the automatic capturing of class lectures (including video, audio and materials) by converting them into podcasts that are accessible on-demand through Blackboard.

Solar panels on the roof of the Higher Education Complex (HEC) building in downtown Fort Lauderdale went online last December and as of July 8 have produced 27,037 KWH and saved 54,074 pounds of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

The HEC building’s solar roof is unveiled. Pictured Left to right: Robert Kornahrens, president and CEO, Advanced Roofing; Dr. Jaap Vos, director, School of Urban and Regional Planning; President Brogan; Gov. Charlie Crist; and Rachel Kalin, graduate student, School of Urban and Regional Planning.
The Broward County Main Library serves as the Fort Lauderdale campus’ library and has a faculty room on the third floor. For access and information, contact Larry Atwell at 954.357.6540.

The computer center in the library is scheduled to move up to the seventh floor into expanded space and will be renamed the “Cybrary.” This service is expected to be relocated sometime in late summer or early fall.

The Second Avenue Studio is an exhibition space for FAU and the Broward community, featuring the work of students, faculty and selected guest artists. The fall semester schedule will include the School of Architecture’s Year in Review (Aug. 20 to Sept. 12), an exhibit on Russian Supremacy posters by Kasimir Malevich (October, TBD) and Screen Media: Student Work in Film, Video and Animation, from the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies (Nov. 30 to Dec. 11). For more information, visit www.fau.edu/broward/fortlauderdale/Second_Avenue_Studio.php.

The Broward Leadership Program, a pilot professional development program for the Broward campuses that aims to build future leaders for FAU, launches this semester and runs through June of 2010. Ten current employees will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and contacts while exploring a variety of leadership topics, including budgeting, community affairs and personnel management.

Harbor Branch, along with its partners, the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW), the University of Miami and SRI, Inc., were informed in May by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that their proposal was selected for a five-year $22.5 million cooperative institute (CI) award. This is the largest research award ever for FAU.

Work has begun to get ready to tie HBOI into the county’s water and wastewater systems, which will require a large-scale dig. The campus will undergo digging, lane closures and disruptions to regular traffic flows. This will begin a multi-phase, multi-year process that will get HBOI out of the water and sewer business.

The state has appropriated $44 million to create a master plan for Harbor Branch, which includes demolishing old buildings, renovating existing ones and erecting a new science building. The Johnson residence is being renovated to become the new marine mammal stranding center. Later this year, the Link Engineering Building will undergo an extensive renovation requiring all who work there to move permanently to other buildings or temporarily move offices; construction will begin on a new 40,000-square-foot LEED Silver certified science building.

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The John D. MacArthur Campus is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Events are planned throughout the fall semester and faculty, staff, alumni and friends are all invited. Visit www.fau.edu/jupiter for a schedule of events.

FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, also celebrating its 10th anniversary, admitted its most talented class. Comprised of 100 students, the class of 2013 includes 2 National Merit Finalists, 5 valedictorians, 2 salutatorians and 14 International Baccalaureate program graduates. Their average weighted GPA is 4.04 and the average SAT score is 1903.

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With the opening of Scripps Florida, the campus research buildings became available for other purposes. The Honors College biology and chemistry departments moved their labs into the state-of-the-art science buildings along with several other groups: the Max Planck Florida Institute and the Center for Environmental Studies.

The Max Planck Florida Institute is the first research institute established by Germany’s internationally acclaimed Max Planck Society in the United States. Due to open in 2011, the planned 100,000-square-foot research facility will be a neighbor to Scripps Florida on six acres at FAU Jupiter. The primary focus of the Max Planck Florida Institute is to further global knowledge of bioimaging. Bert Sakmann, M.D., Ph.D., the 1991 recipient of the Nobel Prize in medicine, will serve as the inaugural scientific director.

Activities on the Jupiter campus for the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) will focus on environmental education programs, teacher training workshops, the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum and an internship/volunteer program. CES also conducts programs at two field sites, Riverwoods Field Laboratory and the DuPuis Management Area.

Loisa Kerwin, director of Riverwoods Field Lab, explains restoration on the Kissimmee River.

The campus admissions office will host the annual “Articulation Luncheon” on Friday, Oct. 16 in the MP building. The event convenes academic advisors from Brevard Community College, Indian River State College and Palm Beach Community College to discuss updates regarding FAU admissions and program information. For more information, contact Willie Finklin at 772.873.3308 or wfinklin@fau.edu.

The Lifelong Learning program, now in its fourth year, will host its Fall 2009 course series on the Treasure Coast campus and at two locations in Vero Beach. For more information, contact Kellie Leveille at 772.873.3338 or kleveill@fau.edu.

With the addition of the MP building, campus facility use for meetings and events is on the rise for both internal and external groups. For more information on room reservations, contact Maria Myers at 772.873.3306 or mmyers17@fau.edu.

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), located in MP building, room 116, regularly offers support group meetings and trainings for families, teachers and professionals in the community. CARD serves individuals of any age with autism, Asperger syndrome, pervasive developmental disability not otherwise specified, Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and deaf-blindness. All services are free of charge. For more information, contact Jennifer Agganis at 772.873.3368 or Agganis@fau.edu.