A Message From the Vice President

As we begin the fall semester, it is my pleasure to share with you some of our most important accomplishments during the past year and update you on an exciting event that will take place next year.

Thanks to our many friends, alumni and community partners who helped make our second annual Broward Campus fundraiser, the “Seaside Shindig”, such a wonderful success. This past spring, over 300 supporters gathered at Dania Beach to celebrate the contributions of outstanding organizations and community leaders who made significant contributions to FAU and Broward County – City Furniture, Holy Cross Hospital and alumni Marsha Levy ‘77, ’83 and Cindy Stoddard ’81. Proceeds from the first Shindig provided scholarships for 12 students. This year, we will double the number of students supported by your generosity.

I would also like to thank the members of our Broward delegation for their continued support of FAU initiatives, particularly the expansion of our Davie campus. Next year you will be invited to the groundbreaking for our first building on a major new section of the campus. The Broward delegation’s commitment to public higher education in Broward County will continue to play a significant role in the growth of the Davie campus from 6,000 to 10,000 students over the next decade.

The always welcome your input. I encourage you to let us hear from you on your experiences with FAU and ideas to better serve our community. As we continue to build new facilities and expand academic programs, we look forward to strengthening our relationship with each of you.

Again, I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you this fall.

Regards,
Dr. Joyanne Stephens
Vice President, Broward campuses

Dr. Carolyn Stewart Named Assistant Vice President, Community Relations, FAU - Broward

Dr. Carolyn A.R. Stewart has been named assistant vice president of community relations for the Broward campuses. Stewart will design and lead University programs that build and strengthen FAU’s partnerships and community relationships in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

“As assistant vice president of community relations, Carolyn brings all of her experience—as well as her energy, deep enthusiasm and commitment—to serving the University and the South Florida community,” said Dr. Joyanne Stephens, VP, Broward campuses. Stewart received her bachelor’s and master’s degree from St. Thomas University and completed a doctorate in adult education and human resource development from FIU. She has served Florida Atlantic University for nearly a decade as associate director of the Broward campuses’ Career Development Center.

FAU - Broward Names Director of Development

Lori B. Richards has been named director of development for the Broward campuses. With more than six years of development experience in higher education Lori most recently served as Leadership Gifts Officer at Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts. She also served as assistant director of development for the Isenberg School of Management, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Lori will focus her efforts in establishing and maintaining key Broward partnerships and fund raising initiatives to further FAU in Broward. Lori is pleased to relocate to Florida where she worked in Broward county years ago. She is looking forward to meeting our Broward community and alumni supporters in the weeks to come. Lori B. Richards may be reached in the FAU – Downtown campus at lori.richards@fau.edu or 954-762-5016.

Seaside Shindig Making Waves

For the second consecutive year Broward campuses raised needed funds through the Seaside Shindig. Over $20,000 were raised to support the Broward Vision Fund, Challenge Fund as well as alumni initiatives in Broward. Outstanding FAU partners were also honored at the event.

The Corporate Wave Maker Award was City Furniture, which Robert Forde ’74, senior vice president of City Furniture accepted for the company. Holy Cross Hospital was honored for their continued partnership and support of the University. Mark Dissette ’89, vice president of marketing for the hospital attended along with the CEO and president John Johnson. The individual Pearl of Broward Award was presented to Cindy Stoddart, ’81 for her outstanding individual service to FAU. Cindy is now serving as executive director of the Ponte Vedra Cultural Arts Center in North Florida. The Outstanding Alumni Award was given to Marsha Levy, ’77, whose longstanding contribution to education in Broward has changed the lives of many students that normally would not have had the opportunity to succeed without help from her S.T.A.R.S. program. This New England-style lobster bake is an annual highlight for the Broward community.
Spotlight on Marsha Levy, BHS ’77, MS ’83

It may seem redundant to use the word “dependent” to describe children. All children depend on something, right? Educators like Marsha Levy ’77, ’83 often use a more technical definition when talking about dependent children. “Dependent kids are abused, neglected, abandoned youth,” Levy says. “They are children whose lives have been affected by court intervention.”

As a decades-long Broward County educator, Marsha Levy’s career has focused on a problem of great social concern. How do you provide future for thousands of kids who travel through the vast network of governmental social services? In Broward, approximately 4,000 children are placed in foster care or protective services.

Levy, who received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in special education from FAU, has been a figure in HANDY (Helping Abused, Neglected, Disadvantaged Youth), and is a cofounder of the STARS Academy at BCC, (Steering Teens to Academic Rewards and Success), a tutoring mentoring program for dependent young people 12 to 18.

She has served as a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) for 13 years and is involved as a board member of the Jack and Jill Children’s Center, JAFCO East (Jewish Adoptions and Foster Care Options), and Children’s Home Society. Each of these agencies delivers services to dependent youth. In addition, she has been involved in numerous Florida Bar committees, and state and county beautification programs that impact the future of Florida.

The many titles held by Levy, however, are remote from the activities constituting her daily routine in support of Broward children. At HANDY, “we clothe, pay rent, provide food, and provide school supplies and toys for the holidays,” says Levy. HANDY works with foster care and protective services to meet the needs of dependent children. The kids are encouraged to get their GED in order to become more self-sufficient. Upon completion, HANDY provides scholarship assistance for college or for a vocational education.

As a GAL, Levy devotes her time to adjudicated youth. Their placements are constantly changing and “You become more perceptive about why these kids are angry and insecure.”

Levy also serves as counselor to other groups working with children, such as the United Way of Broward County, which develops systems to help youth who are aging out of foster care. “Marsha always brings it back to what’s important and best for the kids,” says Elizabeth Wynter, United Way transitional independent living coordinator. “Her focus has always been education and making sure that kids get access to higher education.”

Levy feels that mentoring at risk youth is the key to turning their lives around, “Our FAU alumni have had excellent training, and we can make our community stronger, by making a difference in the lives of these kids. As educated alumni, we can be more involved by addressing their academic needs...through mentoring one child at a time.”