On the Jupiter campus, the two highly sophisticated facilities that were built as temporary homes for Scripps Florida and the Max Planck Florida Institute have been renovated and returned to the University. Several faculty members from the departments of Psychology and Biology have moved from Boca Raton to Jupiter to establish a major new neuroscience program. This continues the development of the Jupiter campus as a flourishing center of biomedical research and education.

Also, faculty from our Integrative Biology Ph.D. program have teamed with scientists from the Max Planck Florida Institute to create a doctoral program that combines Integrative Biology with Neuroscience. The first course in this exciting new program was offered on the Jupiter campus last spring in a teaching laboratory featuring more than $300,000 worth of state-of-the-art equipment purchased with a grant from the New Florida Initiative. Midway through the semester, the lab was visited by two Nobel laureates from Max Planck – Bert Sakmann and Erwin Neher, who shared the Nobel Prize for their development of methods to study single ion channels in living cells.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Saunders, Ph.D.
President, Florida Atlantic University
Students from FAU’s campus in Jupiter recently participated in KidsFest, an event held at Roger Dean Stadium to benefit Little Smiles, a non-profit organization working with local childcare staff and medical professionals to grant the wishes of sick children. The FAU booth, staffed by students from the Wilkes Honors College and MacRSA, offered owl masks to decorate, along with a coloring sheet and crayons to take home. More than 4,000 children attended KidsFest and enjoyed physical activities in the outfield, a play area with bounce houses and inflatable slides, clowns, balloon shapers and face painters.

Florida Atlantic University is seeking reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This process is already underway and will be finalized in 2013. As part of this process, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will propose the enrichment of educational quality at FAU beyond 2013. The plan will focus on supporting student learning and on accomplishing the mission of our university. Focused on the theme of “Distinction Through Discovery,” FAU’s QEP is an endeavor to expand a culture of undergraduate research and inquiry across all disciplines at the University. Our QEP is already “making waves” in the FAU community. Several initiatives have already been put in place. New initiatives are currently in development, all with the ultimate goal of expanding this culture of undergraduate research and inquiry.

FAU’s QEP document is available online at www.fau.edu/qep. The QEP Steering committee encourages feedback from the FAU community on these proposed plans. You can provide your comments by clicking on the link provided on the website, or by emailing qep@fau.edu. The University looks forward to your feedback.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

WALTERIA TUCKER, BA ’04, MA ’06, PhD ’11

2011 HARRIET L. WILKES HONORS COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Walteria Tucker, Ph.D., is a lifelong resident of Belle Glade and three-time graduate of FAU. She graduated cum laude in 2004 and was the first Honors College student to receive FAU’s highest undergraduate distinction, the Kenneth R. Williams Leadership Award. She also was named University Scholar and Owl of the Year for the John D. MacArthur Campus. In 2005, Tucker was inducted into the FAU Parliament of OWLs alumni leadership honor society. She received a master’s degree in comparative literature in 2006 and became one of only 25 students in Florida to receive a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship. Throughout her undergraduate and graduate careers, Tucker served as an FAU student ambassador, interacting with potential donors and dignitaries. She also taught numerous courses at FAU between 2004 and 2009, including Spanish and French language and culture, and upper-level seminars in Latin American literature. Additionally, she has been called upon to sing to former FAU President Frank Brogan, author Art Linkletter and former Florida governor Jeb Bush. Tucker is one of 10 children and the daughter of pastors Rick and Sandra Bethel. She is a youth pastor and head of the Fine Arts Ministry at Compassion Christian Center Inc., and has coordinated various humanitarian outreach projects and mission trips around the world. Tucker currently teaches Spanish at Palm Beach State College in Belle Glade and aspires to one day become the president of a Florida university.

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT 2011-12: 1,590
Undergraduate............1,376
Graduate..................153
Non-degree................61
Average Age:
Undergraduate...........25
Graduate..................34
Most Popular Majors:
Elementary Education
Liberal Arts & Science
Criminal Justice
Social Work
Psychology
English
Biological Science

QUESTIONS? Please contact Terry Gearing ’73, ’77, John D. MacArthur Campus University Relations, at 561-799-8026 or gearing@fau.edu