Wilkes Honors College Celebrates 10th Annual Medallion Ceremony

Prior to the University’s commencement ceremonies in Boca Raton on May 3, 43 graduates from the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College participated in the 10th annual Medallion Ceremony held in the Lifelong Learning Society Auditorium on the Jupiter campus. Students received medallions from their faculty advisors at the ceremony on the Jupiter campus before their degrees were conferred by President Mary Jane Saunders at the graduation ceremony on the Boca Raton campus that afternoon.

During the Medallion Ceremony the graduating class was addressed by Dean Jeffrey Buller and Associate Provost Eliah Watlington, Northern Campuses. Megan Allore ’12 presented the graduation address on behalf of the students. Dr. Walteria Tucker ’04 welcomed graduates into the Wilkes Honors College Alumni Society and FAU National Alumni Association.

Florida Atlantic University’s John D. MacArthur Campus recently earned 2011 Tree Campus USA recognition for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. This is the second year the campus has been named with this distinction.

Tree Campus USA is a national program that honors colleges, universities and their leaders for promoting healthy management of their campus forests and for engaging the community in environmental stewardship. Tree Campus USA is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation and is supported by a grant from Toyota.

“Students throughout the country are passionate about sustainability and community improvement, which makes Florida Atlantic’s emphasis on well-maintained and healthy trees so important,” said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “By achieving Tree Campus USA recognition, Florida Atlantic University will continue to set an example for other colleges and universities and give students a chance to give back to both their campus community and the community at-large.”

The MacArthur Campus in Jupiter is home to the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum, named in honor of FAU’s vice president emeritus and founder of the campus. The arboretum is planted with Florida native plants, including typical species found in pine flatwoods, tropical hardwood hammocks, mixed hardwood swamps and oak hammock.

Each year the campus celebrates Arbor Day with a special program in the arboretum.

This year’s event, held on Friday, April 27, was a celebration of butterflies. Alana Edwards, education and training coordinator at FAU’s Center for Environmental Studies, gave an update on the Arboretum and explained the importance of butterflies to our ecosystem. Paper butterflies created from recycled magazines, wildflower seeded bookmarks and plantings attractive to butterflies were available to those in attendance.

Joanne Julia, director of Instructional Technology at FAU, thanked sponsors for their ongoing support and encouraged others to sponsor a commemorative brick, tree or bench.

For more information about the Huckshorn Arboretum, contact aerwards@fau.edu.
The summer months are often a time to take a breath and prepare for the upcoming academic year. However, this summer was especially busy. Much effort went into the transition of faculty, programs, furniture and equipment from the Treasure Coast Campus. I am sure you have seen the positive changes we’ve been able to make for Jupiter students in classroom areas. Change is always challenging. I would like to thank each of you for your help with adapting to these changes and appreciate your patience as we adjust to them. We welcome the members of the faculty and staff from the College of Education who have now become part of the Jupiter Campus. We also welcome Dr. Rod Murphy, chair of FAU’s department of biological sciences, along with faculty and students in FAU’s Neuroscience program. The Max Planck Florida Institute and neuroscience faculty from the Schmidt College of Science recently initiated a joint graduate program with the inaugural graduate-level advanced neurophysiology course to be offered here at the Jupiter Campus. Students in this course will get exposure to the teaching facilities FAU has established and be able to tap into the special resources that Max Planck has to offer. The new teaching laboratory houses high-tech equipment, purchased by a $300,000 Clustering Grant from the New Florida Initiative, as well as equipment loaned by FAU Provost and internationally recognized neuroscientist, Brenda Claiborne, Ph.D.

On May 17 the Jupiter Campus hosted the University’s Board of Trustees monthly meeting. Everyone pitched in to make the campus look its best for the event, followed by a luncheon to which community leaders were invited. I was especially pleased with the success of this event, and gratified that the luncheon was well attended. As part of our summer maintenance, we’ve had roof repairs made to the Residence Halls, the Burrow Student Union had a ‘facelift,’ with a new configuration of offices and attractive furnishings, and the Dining Hall received a fresh coat of paint. As classes have begun for 2012/13, together we will look forward to a very successful Fall semester and a productive academic year.

Eliah Watlington, Ed.D.
Associate Provost, Northern Campuses

FAU Jupiter Donates Surplus Furniture to United Way Agencies

After a drastic cutback in state funding resulted in the suspension of classes and administrative services on the Treasure Coast Campus at Port St. Lucie, furniture and equipment from there was dispersed to three other FAU campuses: Harbor Branch, Boca and Jupiter. Most of the furniture at the Treasure Coast site had been purchased in recent years. These resources gave Jupiter a chance to update its classroom furnishings, many of which had been moved here from the NorthCorp Center when the MacArthur Campus opened in 1999. With the arrival of all the ‘newer’ furniture, distribution of the older, surplus furniture began.

Agency staff and volunteers provided their own ‘manpower’ and vehicles to pick up the donations. Everyone who visited the campus was impressed with the items they received.

A future article will highlight how the agencies put the donations to good use.

The recipient agencies are: The ARC, ASPIRA of Florida, Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County, Glades Area ARC, Farmworkers Coordinating Council, Home Safe, The Lord’s Place, PACE Center for Girls, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Salvation Army and Seagull Industries.

Administration and staff worked hard this summer to replace and refit the Jupiter classrooms in time for Fall classes. Let us know what you think. Send your comments to Beverly Sargent (bsargent@fau.edu) or Terry Gearing (gearing@fau.edu).

Aida Vázquez from ASPIRA counts tablet desks as they are loaded for transport to classrooms

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Northern Campuses Achievement Awards Presented on Jupiter Campus

The Northern Campuses Achievement Awards were presented on April 23 to recognize outstanding students, faculty and staff from the MacArthur and Treasure Coast campuses.

Congratulations to the 2011-12 Award Recipients!

Volunteer of the Year: Michelle Guerrero
Rising Star Award: Kayleigh Snyder
Owl of the Year Award Jupiter: Alex Lange
Owl of the Year Award Treasure Coast: Chezare Reyes
Club of the Year: MacRSA
Club Advisor of the Year: Sean Pierce
Outstanding Staff of the Year: Leigh Clay
Unsung Hero: Miguel Rivera

Outstanding Student Awards – MacArthur Campus
- Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters: Jennifer Murray
- College for Design and Social Inquiry: Christina Porro
- College of Education: Jenny Samuels (Undergraduate) and Deanna Schneider (Graduate)
- Charles E. Schmidt College of Science: Melannie Pineda (Undergraduate) and Niko Lucas (Graduate)
- Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College: Emma Nunan

Outstanding Student Awards – Treasure Coast Campus
- College of Education: Shannon Hert (Undergraduate) and Elizabeth Gray Swann (Graduate)
- College of Engineering and Computer Science: Fils Dieu-Conserve (Undergraduate)
- Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing: Dawn Chiarenza (Undergraduate)

Exceptional Faculty Awards – MacArthur Campus
- College for Design and Social Inquiry: Keith Platt
- College of Education: Dr. Marianne Russo
- Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters: Dr. Julieann Ulin
- Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College: Dr. John Hess
- Outstanding Adjunct: Kristine Shockley

Exceptional Faculty Awards – Treasure Coast Campus
- College of Engineering and Computer Science: Loren Gibson
- Outstanding Adjunct: Melissa Lucrezia

The event was coordinated by the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership, assisted by student emcees Blake Bailey and Chezare Reyes.

Dr. Corey King, associate vice president and dean of students, extended congratulations to all the nominees. He thanked everyone for their efforts in making the Northern Campuses a vibrant part of student life at FAU.

Dr. A.J. Chase, associate dean of students, said, “The Northern Campuses Achievement Awards provide an excellent opportunity to recognize the outstanding students, faculty and staff in our campus communities. We are especially proud of our students, faculty and staff achievements on both the Jupiter and Treasure Coast campuses.”

Pat Pierson, a member of the Lifelong Learning Society advisory board and chair of their scholarship committee, presented LLS scholarships to five undergraduates and two graduate students. (See story on below.)

A reception was held in AD 101 after the awards presentation. Adam Ferrando, assistant director, Student Involvement & Leadership, reported that participation from students, faculty and staff in this year’s award process was even greater than last year’s.

Lifelong Learning Society Awards Seven Scholarships

The Lifelong Learning Society at FAU Jupiter awarded two graduate and five undergraduate scholarships to students on the Jupiter campus. A total of $7,000 was awarded. Pat Pierson, a member of the LLS Advisory Board and chair of the scholarship committee, presented certificates to the recipients at the Northern Campuses Achievement Awards on April 23.

“Last year, we awarded one graduate and four undergraduate scholarships to students on the Jupiter campus,” said René Friedman, executive director. “This year, proceeds from our annual LUNAFEST film festival allowed us to fund two additional scholarships for female students on the Jupiter campus.”

The primary criteria for scholarship selection were a candidate’s demonstrated academic achievement and leadership performance and potential. The graduate scholarship recipients were Michelle Jeffrey (reading education) and Elizabeth Swann (educational leadership). The undergraduate scholarship recipients were Austin Estes (psychology), Emma Nunan (biology), Emily Sanderrey (international studies), Amalia Gersbo-Mueller (psychology) and Deborah Ross (interdisciplinary critical theory).
AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2012 Honors Convocation Awardes

★ Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching
Nicholas Quintyne, Assistant Professor, Biology
Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

★ Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Advising
Terje Hoim, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

★ Distinguished Student Award
Megan Allore, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

★ University Scholar
Rachel Blythe, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Miguel Ángel Vázquez, Associate Professor of Hispanic Literature, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, was selected to participate in the College Board’s Annual AP Reading in Spanish Writing as a Table Leader. Each June, AP teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather in the United States to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. In 2013, more than 11,000 AP readers evaluated approximately 3.4 million AP exams.

Skylar Benedict, a sophomore in the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, has received the Critical Language Scholarship, a government sponsored grant to study Arabic abroad. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, places students in a work-intensive environment at one of many institutes offering varying levels of study in one of 13 “critical needs languages”. The Arabic portion of the program will last from 8-10 weeks and will place Skylar in one of five institutes in the nations of Jordan, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia or Morocco, where he will study a combination of Modern Standard Arabic and a regional dialect or colloquial form of the Arabic language as well.

James Forgan, Associate Professor, College of Education, recently published a book, Raising Boys with ADHD: Secrets for Parenting Happy, Healthy Sons (Prufrock Press). It is currently featured in the Parenting section at Barnes and Noble.

Terry Gearing, ’73, ’77, Director, University Relations, was elected to the Board of Governors for Leadership Palm Beach County. She is a member of the Class of 1999 and previously served on the board from 1999 to 2003.


EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

20 Years
Jack Scott, College of Education

15 Years
Dr. Mary Lou Duffy, College of Education
Dr. Joe Turner, College of Education
Dr. Deborah Harris, College of Education
David Flanigan, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Jeanette Orlando, Student Services
Dr. Mark Scroggins, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters
René Friedman, Lifelong Learning Society

10 Years
Jeanne Takeda, Academic Affairs
Dr. Miguel Vázquez, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Shelly-Ann Eaton, Cashier’s Office
Lester Lockett, University Police
Mary Maier, Center for Environmental Studies

5 Years
Diane Arrieta, Library
Jennifer Bird, College of Education
Dr. Jeff Buller, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Dr. Veljko Dragojlovic, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
William Howerton, Library
Donna Launzen, College of Education
Sandy Ogden, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Neil Santaniello, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters
Dr. Laura Vernon, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Tangela Walden, University Police

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

Kimberly Bowman, Office Manager, Lifelong Learning Society
Leslie Calhoun, Instructor - Teaching and Learning, College of Education
Dr. Deborah Carlstrom, Instructor - Teaching and Learning, College of Education
Gregory Gilbert, Assistant Director Office of Academic Programs & Student Services
Emilio Gonzalez, AV Support Specialist, Lifelong Learning Society
Josh Hermoso, Mail Room Courier
Donnie Ingram, Officer University Police

Dr. Albert Jurenas, Associate Professor - Educational Leadership, College of Education
Linda Lesperance, Senior Technical Library Assistant
Sammie Linton, Hall Coordinator Residential Life
Amber Lyda, Assistant Director, Counseling & Psychological Services
Dr. Terry Maple, Affiliate Professor - Psychology, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Jolla Molinar, Financial Aid Coordinator
Dr. William Nicoll, Professor Counselor Education, College of Education

Nong Ovathanasin, Coordinator of Residential Life
Mark Pona, Officer University Police
Ibis Villasuso, Academic Program Assistant, College of Education

FAMILY NEWS

Dr. Laura Vernon welcomed her daughter Rosalie Jane on May 29.
**Rooney’s Annual 5k Run/Walk Benefits Wilkes Honors College**

The 5th Annual Rooney’s 5k Run/Walk was held on Saturday, April 14 in Abacoa. This year’s run raised a record $22,500 the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, Autism Project of Palm Beach County, Pathways to Independence and Potentia Academy with the help of sponsorships and 1,120 participants. Participants started on University Drive, traveled down South Central Blvd, and crossed the finish line at Rooney’s Public House. Prior to the awards ceremony, all were treated to a breakfast feast featuring Rooney’s world famous Irish Toast.

"Where do you take FAU?"


FAU travelers shiver at the Heavenly Palace in Beijing.

Terry Gearing and her husband, Bob, enjoy lunch at a café near the Rhine River in Bacharach, Germany.

Dianne Reeves shows her FAU spirit at the Great Wall of China.

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