Florida Atlantic University hosted the installation ceremony of Dr. Mary Jane Saunders, FAU’s sixth President, on Friday, Oct. 29 on the Boca Raton campus. The installation ceremony was the main event of a weeklong series of events that began on Sunday, Oct. 24 and concluded with Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 30. The inaugural celebration intertwined with the University’s Homecoming festivities.

“I am honored to be the sixth President of Florida Atlantic University,” said Saunders. “I continue my commitment to support students in helping them achieve academic success, to work together with faculty and staff in the pursuit of new goals, and to engage the community as we take FAU to the next level of excellence.”

Themed Making Waves: Celebrating and Cultivating Discovery, Diversity and Distinction, the inauguration was designed to introduce the President to the University’s constituents and provide a platform for the expression of the President’s vision for the future of FAU. It also was an opportunity for the entire University community to welcome her.

Saunders was named President by unanimous vote of the FAU Board of Trustees on March 3. She began her term of service on June 7, 2010. Prior to her arrival at FAU, Saunders was Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cleveland State University, where she also was Founding Dean of the College of Science, Director of the Biomedical and Health Institute and a Professor in the Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences. Her professional background also includes academic appointments at the National Science Foundation, the University of South Florida, Louisiana State University and the University of Georgia. She is an award-winning cell biology researcher, educator and academic leader who is known nationally for her commitment to public higher education.

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Saunders holds a B.S. in Biology from Boston University and both an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
I t’s hard to believe that we are now looking at our Thanksgiving celebrations in the rearview mirror and heading quickly toward a new year. I’m sure each of us is asking the same question, “Where did 2010 go?”

This was certainly a year of progress and great change at FAU. Most notable, of course, was the arrival of our new president, Dr. Mary Jane Saunders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who participated in the interview process and then helped celebrate the formal start of her Presidency during Inauguration Week. I would also like to acknowledge the work of many of you who spent the summer and early fall planning activities that involved all members of our community in the celebrations. The Inauguration highlighted the best of FAU — the achievements of our faculty and students and the promise of future accomplishments under the leadership of our new president.

This spring, we also received the go-ahead from our Board of Governors to plan for an independent medical school. We are now in the final stages of a review process led by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. If final approval is granted by the committee, FAU will soon admit its first class of freshman medical students. There are also plans being laid for an academically elite group of these students to join our Jupiter family in the pursuit of a joint FAU M.D./Scripps Ph.D.

With your support, I am confident that 2011 will be just as exciting and productive as was 2010. We will begin a University-wide revision of our strategic plan through which you will have an opportunity to help chart the course of FAU and, closer to home, the Jupiter Campus. The President and the new Vice President of Strategic Planning, Dr. Gitanjali Kaul, are committed to an inclusive process that involves all members of University community in dialogue and decision.

Finally I would be remiss to not mention the planned opening of our new football stadium on the Boca Raton campus. Many of you attended universities where Saturdays in the fall were very special. Saturdays will never be the same at FAU beginning next October. I can’t wait for our first Jupiter tailgate party!

Have a wonderful holiday while enjoying some down time. I look forward to a wonderful 2011 at FAU.

Sincerely,

Joyanne

FACULTY FOCUS: Paul Raeburn

Paul Raeburn is a journalist, blogger, broadcaster and the author of three books including Acquainted with the Night, a memoir of raising children with depression and bipolar disorder. His new book, Why Fathers Matter, will be published by Simon & Schuster in 2011.

He is a media critic at the Knight Science Journalism Tracker, a regular panelist and guest host at “Talk of the Nation: Science Friday” on National Public Radio and the organizer of the annual journalists’ meeting New Horizons in Science. He also conducts his professional writing workshops for reporters and editors across the country, most recently at the American Chemical Society and Virginia Tech.

In the fall of 2010, he launched a new Master’s degree program in Science, Medical and Environmental Journalism at Florida Atlantic University. The program will accept its first students in the fall of 2011.

Unlike many others, the program will include intensive training in multimedia and will have a strong entrepreneurial focus. The centerpiece of the program will be a news website, where the students will write and edit, and learn to promote their stories online. Graduates will be able to step easily into online journalism jobs, and, we hope, be able to create their own jobs, if that’s what they choose.

Raeburn was the science editor and chief science correspondent at the Associated Press from 1981-96 and a senior editor and writer at BusinessWeek for seven years after that. He is a past president of the National Association of Science Writers and a recipient of its Science in Society award, along with numerous other prizes.

A native of Detroit, Raeburn commutes from New York City where he lives with his wife, writer Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn, and their two children.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Michael Metzner

Michael Metzner is currently a junior in the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University. He is a Flagler Scholar, working on a double concentration in biological chemistry and visual arts. Michael currently works at the Scripps Florida Research Institute, doing research in metabolism and aging. A native of New York, he recently spent the past summer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering where he worked on novel brain cancer treatments. Michael is also a professional photographer and was showcased in a solo exhibition at the Hibel Museum of Art last February. In addition, he plays the piano, saxophone and clarinet. At the Community Leaders Luncheon held in October, he played his original composition, “Only for You.” Michael’s future career goal is to be become a pediatric neurosurgeon.
When was the last time you found all of the following students in the same room: four undergraduate students who had just completed a summer of research as part of a prestigious national program, four who had just come back from studying overseas, five who had completed a corporate internship, four who had experienced an intense Outward Bound program and four who had completed a non-profit internship? All of them were in attendance at the annual Flagler Scholar Retreat of FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College.

The Henry Morrison Flagler Scholarship Program, created by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, supports exceptional undergraduate students from the state of Florida to attend the Wilkes Honors College. The scholarship is a full-merit award that provides extraordinary student-leaders with the financial freedom to pursue their higher education goals and participate in annual enrichment programs. The program seeks to further personal and intellectual development of outstanding scholars within the environment of FAU’s residential Honors College as a foundation to promote global awareness, understanding, interaction and peace.

In addition to receiving full coverage of their tuition, room and board, Flagler scholars are also given the opportunity to participate in four enrichment programs during their summers. These opportunities include an Outward Bound program the summer before freshman year, a nonprofit program before sophomore year, an enterprise/corporate program before junior year and a study-abroad program before senior year.

Among the students who attended this year’s Flagler Scholar Retreat were David Friedman, Kira Geiger, Philip Olsen and Alexa Robinson — the freshmen who were initiated into the program through their Outward Bound experience. David went on a two-week sailing trip in Maine, Kira experienced an eight-day river rafting adventure, Philip conquered a two-week Alaska mountaineering expedition and Alexa tackled a 15-day rafting and kayaking voyage.

Imarhia Enogieru, Natalie Harrison, Maxwell MacEachern and Kelly Novinski are sophomores who completed non-profit internships. Imarhia performed research at Colorado State University as part of a research experience for undergraduates. Natalie was a part of TEAM-Effort, a summer mission trip, where she spent eight weeks helping with roof renovations, paint jobs and landscaping in Cherokee, N.C., and Gatlinburg, Tenn. Maxwell worked for Shake-A-Leg Miami, which offers a universally accessible water sports facility for people with disabilities, youth and families. Kelly worked for WatchingAmerica.com, a site that has translations of foreign opinion pieces so that Americans and non-Americans alike can become aware of the global opinion about the United States.

Megan Allore, Rachel Blythe, Michael Metzner, Elizabeth Santo and Meridith Wailes are juniors who completed corporate internships. Megan and Rachel both worked for a local entrepreneur, Lani Click. Later in the summer, Rachel also performed research at the University of Maryland’s Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. Michael did research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for 10 weeks. Elizabeth worked for David Stern Jewelers in Boca Raton. Meridith interned at Hopping, Green & Sams, an environmental law firm in Tallahassee.

Alexa Billow, Eric Bishop, Valerie Cannon and Alan Gray are seniors who studied overseas. Alexa attended a study-abroad program in Heidelberg, Germany. Eric interned for 10 weeks at Open University in Milton Keynes, United Kingdom. Valerie and Alan were both in Spain, with Valerie completing an academic study program and Alan internning with a tax/immigration attorney.

“Each year I’m amazed by the sheer breadth of the Flagler Scholars’ experiences,” said Dr. Jeffrey L. Buller, Dean of the Wilkes Honors College. “For bright, highly motivated Florida students, the Flagler program is an incomparable way to develop their leadership skills. These students are on their way to incredible futures.”
Debate Team Shines at Tournament

The Florida Atlantic University Debate Team attended the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMCA)’s Southeast Regional Moot Court Tournament, hosted by the University of Tampa on November 19 and 20. Working through a field of 28 teams from eight undergraduate institutions, Team President Alan Gray and Secretary Wesley Mathieu advanced to the semifinal round, earning themselves a seed at the ACMCA’s National Championship, which will be hosted by Tulane Law School in New Orleans in January. Gray was also named the Third Best Orator overall. Hannah Gladyszewski and Rachel Tunick also competed at the tournament.

FAU Donates to El Sol’s Computer Lab

In September, FAU Jupiter donated 13 computers to the El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center. The computers will be used in the center’s computer lab, which hosts classes twice a week and provides clients with access to the Internet.

Lifelong Learning Society to Present California Guitar Trio

The California Guitar Trio will perform at the Lifelong Learning Society auditorium in Jupiter on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. The group will perform a fusion of classical, rock, blues, jazz, world, progressive and surf music. They have been featured on NPR, NBC, CBS, CNN and ESPN TV. Discount tickets are available for FAU faculty, staff and students. For ticket information, call 561-799-8547.

Faculty, Staff & Student Briefs

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS


Timothy J. Steigenga, Professor of Political Science, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, participated in a fellowship with the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2010.

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Paul Raeburn, Instructor, Science Journalism

Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Dr. Warren McGovern, Assistant Professor, Mathematics
John Hess, Visiting Assistant Professor, American History
Jeremy Hoyt, Senior Faculty Secretary

Administration & IRM
Melissa Baker, Senior Clerk

Student Affairs
Cynthia Brothers, Program Assistant

Library
Cheryll Sampson, Library Service Assistant

Lifelong Learning Society
Becky Puehn, Receptionist
Carri Summers, Executive Secretary

FAMILY NEWS

Marc Verdieu and his wife welcomed a son, Kaury, in August 10.