Wilkes Honors College Celebrates 8th Annual Medallion Ceremony

Prior to the University’s commencement ceremonies in Boca Raton on May 6, graduates from the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College participated in the 8th 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 in the morning and had their degrees conferred by President John Pritchett at the graduation ceremony on the Boca Raton campus that afternoon.

During the ceremony the graduating class was addressed by Dean Jeffrey Buller; Dr. Joyanne Stephens, vice president and associate provost for regional campuses; Nisha Nagarsheth ’10, presenting the graduation address on behalf of the students; Kathryn Lewis ’04, representing the Wilkes Honors College Alumni Society; and Dr. Daniel White, professor of philosophy.

After the ceremony, a continental breakfast was served in the LLS auditorium atrium. Graduates and their families then boarded several buses and traveled to the Boca Raton campus for the Spring 2010 Commencement ceremony.

MEET FAU’S SIXTH PRESIDENT – Welcome, Dr. Mary Jane Saunders

Mary Jane Saunders, Ph.D., was selected as Florida Atlantic University’s sixth president by the University’s 13-member Board of Trustees on March 3.

“What a wonderful day for FAU,” said Board of Trustees Chair Nancy Blosser. “We are extremely fortunate to have M.J. Saunders leading FAU through what will undoubtedly be an extraordinary time in the University’s history. M.J.’s track record of being an effective and productive leader will help to ensure the University’s growth and success.”

Saunders has been the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Cleveland State University (CSU). She was named interim provost in 2006 and provost in 2007.

“I am humbled and thrilled to be selected as the next president of FAU,” said Saunders. “It is such an honor to have the opportunity to lead the University to its next level of excellence, accomplishing great things together with the University community.”

Saunders joined CSU in 2003 as director of the Biomedical Health Institute and a professor in the department of biological, geological and environmental sciences. She was founding dean of the College of Science, CSU’s second largest college. Prior to arriving at CSU, Saunders was a program officer and deputy division director at the National Science Foundation, director of the Institute of Biomolecular Science at the University of South Florida and an assistant professor in the botany department at Louisiana State University.

Saunders received her Ph.D. in botany from the University of Massachusetts, and she did postdoctoral work at the University of Georgia. She received her master’s degree from the University of Massachusetts and bachelor’s degree from Boston University.

Saunders succeeds former FAU President Frank T. Brogan, who was named chancellor of Florida’s State University System.
Huckshorn Arboretum Grows on FAU’s Jupiter Campus

The student-based Enviro Club assisted with sod removal, plantings and maintenance. As each area was created, sod was removed and trees planted. Walkways and lighting were installed, and several local Eagle Scouts constructed roped pathways. “It’s taken a lot of hard work,” said Edwards. “But the result is truly wonderful.”

The centerpiece of the arboretum is a gazebo contributed by the Chastain Foundation. A commemorative brick walkway is part of the gazebo structure, and students, alumni, faculty and staff have purchased individual bricks to commemorate a special event or person.

In addition to bricks, FAU friends and family have contributed trees and benches. One area, the tropical hardwood hammock, was named “Terry’s Hammock,” in honor of Terry Dodge, a CES staff member who died several years ago from leukemia. His widow and family donated most of the trees and plantings in that section, along with several benches. Other trees and benches celebrate births, graduations and special events in the lives of the campus family.

“But a few years ago this area was only sod, now the plants are full-grown and the trees are tall,” said Dr. Huckshorn. “It’s really incredible to see how the arboretum has matured.”

Each year the campus celebrates Arbor Day, an event established in 1872 to encourage the planting of trees and honor their importance to human life. On April 23, students, faculty and staff, along with members of the community, gathered to plant a dahoon holly in honor of the campus’s 10th anniversary. The tree was purchased through campus donations as a growing example of how far the Jupiter campus has developed in its short history.

“FAU is proud of our Jupiter campus, and the arboretum is a special place for people to enjoy nature in peaceful surroundings,” said Dr. Joyanne Stephens, vice president and associate provost for regional campuses. “We invite the community to visit the arboretum and experience our wonderful legacy in honor of Bob Huckshorn.”

For more information on the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum, call 561-799-8462 or go to www.ces.fau.edu/education/jupiter/arboretum.
Palm Beach Symphony Performs at FAU Jupiter

FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College presented a concert by the Palm Beach Symphony in the Lifelong Learning Society’s auditorium on Wednesday, March 17. The event was part of the year-long 10th anniversary that the Jupiter campus and Honors College celebrated, and marked the first time the Palm Beach Symphony had appeared in Jupiter. The full orchestra of 50 musicians, under the direction of Dr. Ray Robinson, performed works by Debussy, Shostakovich and Beethoven.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rivken were the honorary chairs of the event, which was dedicated to the memory of Robert Blum. Mr. Rivken was the first chairman of the Wilkes Honors College Advisory Board and has continued his involvement with the college. Blum’s vision for a special evening to benefit and celebrate the college’s 10th anniversary was the impetus for this inaugural performance.

A VIP reception followed the performance for sponsors, underwriters and special guests. Proceeds from the concert benefitted scholarships and academic programs of the Honors College.
The Max Planck Florida Institute is one step closer to moving into its permanent location on six acres at Florida Atlantic University’s John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter. On June 23, Dr. Peter Gruss, president of Germany’s Max Planck Society, presided at the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new 100,000-square-foot biomedical research facility – the first Max Planck Institute in the United States. With a focus on cutting-edge research in the neurosciences and integrative biology, the Max Planck Florida Institute adds a powerful international dimension to the state’s growing bioscience cluster. It is equally important as a cornerstone of Palm Beach County’s economic platform with the goal of becoming a magnet for the best scientific minds and research organizations in the world.

The Max Planck Florida Institute will also have a tremendous impact on education around the state and beyond. Students will be presented with some of the finest science-related programs and opportunities anywhere in the country. Plans are in development for internship and mentor programs, plus regular lectures by leading international scientists and researchers.

Construction on the new building is expected to be completed by early 2012. For more information, visit www.maxplanckflorida.org.

North County Art Association’s Talents Showcased at FAU Jupiter

“Where the Wild Things Are,” an exhibit featuring artwork by 18 members of the North County Art Association, runs through August 4 in the SR Atrium.

A “Meet the Artists” reception was held on June 9. Artists, along with family and friends, gathered for light refreshments. Katy Di Gioia, president of the association, thanked FAU for hosting the exhibit.

Ribbons were awarded to four artists:
1st Place – Sue Noonan, watercolor, “Cypress Slough in Winter”
2nd Place – Lois Barton, acrylic mixed media, “On the Move”
3rd Place – Tess Lindsay, oil on canvas, “Fall Tree”
Honorable Mention – Karen Reinhart, oil on canvas, “Waiting for Dinner”

For more information on the “Art in the Atrium” exhibit series, contact Terry Gearing, director of University Relations at gearing@fau.edu.
The 11th Annual MacAWARDS were presented on April 19 to recognize outstanding students, faculty and staff from the MacArthur campus.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009/10 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Volunteer of the Year: Rachel Blythe
Rising Star Award: Joe Williams
Unsung Heroine: Donna Mercer (Staff)

Outstanding Student Awards
- College for Design and Social Inquiry: Christopher Palermiti
- College of Education: Rachel Kuhl (Undergraduate) and Carol Hochstaedt (Graduate)
- Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters: Stephanie Pitts
- Charles E. Schmidt College of Science: Jessica Collins (Undergraduate) and Sara Klco (Graduate)
- Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College: Stephen Rowe

Exceptional Faculty Awards
- College for Design and Social Inquiry: Dr. Sameer Hinduja
- College of Education: Jennifer Bird
- Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters: Dr. Mary Faraci
- Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College: Dr. Julie Earles
- MacArthur Campus Adjunct: Gregory Richter

Staff of the Year: Laura Aponte
Club of the Year: MacRSA (Resident Student Association)
Club Advisor of the Year: Sean Pearce
Owl of the Year: Megan Allore

Adam Ferrando, assistant director of Student Involvement & Leadership and Laura Aponte, program assistant, coordinated the event. Students Joe Williams and Megan Allore served as emcees for the awards presentation.

Vice President Joyanne Stephens extended her congratulations to all the nominees and expressed her appreciation for their efforts in making the Jupiter campus a wonderful part of FAU.

“The MacAWARDS provide an excellent opportunity to recognize the outstanding students, faculty and staff in our campus community,” said A.J. Chase, associate dean of students. “We are proud to present this program each year.”

Pat Pierson, a member of the Lifelong Learning Society advisory board, presented LLS scholarships to four undergraduates Tara Boulos, Olsi Gjyshi, Nicole Henken and Christopher Persaud, and to one graduate student, Kathryn Austin. A reception was held in the SR Atrium after the awards presentation. Ferrando reported that participation from students, faculty and staff in this year’s award process was exceptional.

Lifelong Learning Society Awards Five Scholarships

The Lifelong Learning Society at FAU Jupiter awarded one graduate and four undergraduate scholarships of $1,000 each to students on the Jupiter campus.

“For the past three years, we have awarded one graduate and two undergraduate scholarships to students on the Jupiter campus,” said René Friedman, executive director. “This year, a Lifelong Learning Society student made a donation to fund two additional scholarships.”

The graduate scholarship recipient was Kathryn Austin. The undergraduate scholarship recipients were Tara Boulos, Olsi Gjyshi, Nicole Marie Henken and Christopher Persaud. The primary criteria for scholarship selection were a candidate’s demonstrated academic achievement and leadership performance and potential.
AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

At the University’s 41st annual Honors Convocation on April 14, the following FAU Jupiter faculty were honored:

Distinguished Teacher of the Year:

Dr. Sameer Hinduja, associate professor of criminal justice, College for Design and Social Inquiry

Undergraduate Teaching Awards:
Dr. Julie Earles, associate professor of psychology, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Dr. Keith Jakee, assistant professor of economics, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Dr. Douglas McGetchin, assistant professor of history, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Undergraduate Advising Award:
Dr. Timothy Steigenga, professor of political science, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Dr. Steigenga has also accepted a fellowship to serve in the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, from May through July 2010.

René Friedman, executive director, Lifelong Learning Society of Jupiter, received the Community Leadership Award from Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional honorary society of women educators.

Terry Gearing, director of University Relations, was selected to serve on the board of directors of the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce.

At its volunteer recognition luncheon on April 10, the Lifelong Learning Society of FAU Jupiter honored more than 80 volunteers. Sandra Henry and Ruthye and Leslie Plump won Daytime Greeters of the Year award, while Joan Summer was awarded the Evening Greeter of the Year.

STUDENT HONORS

University Scholar
Ryan Grubich, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Stan and Renee Wimberly Scholar
Valerie Cannon, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

5 years: Ernest Brewer, Chitra Chandrasekhar, Serena Edic, Jacqueline Fewkes, Nicole Hernandez Hammer, Sameer Hinduja, Marian Judka, Kimberly Kanter, Shree Kundalkar, Amy McLaughlin, Dianne Reeves

10 years: Jacklyn Chwalik, Julie Earles, Christopher Ely, Michael Harrawood, Paul Kirchman, Suzanne Prior, April Schimmel, Tim Steigenga, Susan Willey

15 years: Valerie Bryan, Kimberly Stanley, Ron Voigt

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

Center for Environmental Studies
MaryBeth Mudrick, senior secretary

Center for Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Dr. Herbert Weissbach, director & distinguished professor
Dr. David Brunell, instrumentation & core facility manager
Dr. Shailaga Kesaraju, postdoctoral fellow
Dr. Daphne Sagher, research associate professor
Marjorie Cazeau, assistant to the director
Liz Wojtisek, graduate research assistant

Center for Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
Dr. Julieann Ulin, assistant professor – English

Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Cecelia Chin-Falles, program assistant to associate dean

Student Services
Johanna Martin, assistant director, career development
Farley Leiriao, assistant director, diversity services

Library
Cheryll Sampson, library service assistant

University Police
Lt. Tracey Merritt

FAMILY NEWS

Lauren Kellar married FAU alumnus Zachary Mueller on December 4, 2009.

Serena Edic and her husband Scott welcomed their son, Gabriel Elias Waddicor, on February 28.

Dr. Doug McGetchin and his wife Joy, along with sisters Anika and Malia, welcomed Finn Arik McGetchin on April 19.