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FAU High School Launches Owls Imaging Lab

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Holmes Scholars Present at AACTE Conference

Thanks to the generous support of donors, five doctoral students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) presented their research at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)'s annual conference held Feb. 28 - March 1, 2020 in Atlanta, Ga. These students are members of the [AACTE Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU](#). The conference also provided networking ... [Read more](#)



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FAU High School Launches Owls Imaging Lab



Florida Atlantic University (FAU) High School officially unveils its Owls Imaging Lab on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Anthony Barbar, Chair Emeriti, FAU Board of Trustees; Abdol Moabery, Chair, FAU Board of Trustees; Tricia Meredith, Ph.D., University School Assistant Professor, A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS) and FAU High School; John Kelly, Ph.D., President, FAU; Joel Herbst, Ed.D., Assistant Dean, PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs and Superintendent; Gianna Caserta, Anchor, WPCF 25 News, and alumna, ADHUS; and Nick Pizzo, student, FAU High School.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2020

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) High School officially unveiled its [Owls Imaging Lab](#) on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 on the Boca Raton Campus. The lab is home to the only high school research program of its kind in the country, according to Tricia Meredith, Ph.D., who directs the innovative FAU High School Research Program. Leadership from FAU, ADHUS and FAU High School participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Special guests were ADHUS alumna, Gianna Caserta, Anchor,

“This is a one-of-a-kind laboratory.

Students are able to research some of the world's most challenging problems at an early age, can share that research and publish it in peer reviewed journals.”

— Tricia Meredith, Ph.D.

University School Assistant Professor, A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School

WPCF 25 News, and FAU High student in the research program, Nick Pizzo. Caserta spoke about her experience at ADHUS and her enthusiasm for its future. Pizzo has submitted two papers for publication under the mentorship of Xing-Hai Zhang, Ph.D., Professor, Biology, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science.

Thanks to the generosity of the Batchelor Foundation, ADHUS/FAU High students in grades K-12 and FAU faculty, who serve as mentors, now have access to state-of-the-art histology equipment and compound fluorescence microscope. The lab also has a micro-computed tomography scanner, a scanning electron microscope, critical point dryer, sputter coater and stereoscope. This high-level research equipment will allow them to generate data and conduct research and scholarly inquiry in a variety of disciplines and create solutions to local, state, national and international problems.

The lab was created by Meredith and team, who

designed and implemented the FAU High School Research Program, to further students' research capabilities. The program offers ADHUS and FAU High students research courses, whereby research skills are taught and developed. Teaching the ninth-grade research classes is Amy Tift, Ph.D., University School Instructor, ADHUS/FAU High. The college research courses for FAU High students after ninth grade are offered through the College of Education (COE)'s Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology (ELRM) where Meredith is also an Affiliate Research Instructor. Jasmine Coyle, M.S., and Alexandra Lolavar, Ph.D., Research Program Coordinators, ADHUS/FAU High, are also Affiliate Instructors, ELRM.

The program supports students' research through mentoring by FAU faculty throughout the University and opportunities to practice research skills, such as writing research grants, presenting at conferences, patenting research output and publishing research findings in peer-reviewed journals. For example, FAU High students presented their research findings at FAU's 10th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosted by the FAU Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI), virtually from April 3 - 6, 2020.

Many FAU High students have been selected for top Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduate programs and medical schools and landed jobs in the biomedical and technology fields. Since Meredith began the program in 2015, students have co-authored 40 articles in peer-reviewed publications, cited 268 times by other researchers. They have been awarded 115 grants and have delivered 255 research presentations at symposia and conferences, locally, nationally and internationally. Two students hold patents as a result of their research. ADHUS/FAU High is a Title 1, K-12 public laboratory school under the auspices of the State University System of Florida as part of FAU's COE.

For more information about the schools, visit their websites at www.adhus.fau.edu and <http://www.fauhigh.fau.edu/>. To explore ways to give, contact Mickey Zitzmann, Development Director, Office of PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs at FAU at mzitzmann@fau.edu.

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Holmes Scholars Attend AACTE Conference



Five Florida Atlantic University (FAU) doctoral students from the College of Education (COE) present their research at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) conference in Atlanta, Ga., in February 2020. They are Shanett Dean (second from left), Paul Massy, (third from left), Adriana Labarta (fourth from left), Eleanor Jin –Su-Keene (third from right) and Danna Demezier (second from right). Each of them are members of the Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU as is Jennifer Amador (fourth from right), who also attended the event along with Stephen Silverman, Ed.D. (left), Dean, COE, and Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D. (right), Professor, Exceptional Student Education, and Coordinator, Holmes Scholars® Program. The photograph was taken at the induction ceremony at FAU's COE.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2020

Thanks to the generous support of donors, five doctoral students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) presented their research at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)'s annual conference held Feb. 28 - March 1, 2020 in Atlanta, Ga. These students are members of the [AACTE Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU](#). The conference also provided networking and professional development opportunities for Holmes

“Conference attendance provides College of Education Holmes Scholars, who are underrepresented doctoral students, the opportunity to share their research findings with other educators in their fields.”

— Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D.
Professor, Exceptional Student Education, and Coordinator, Holmes Scholars® Program at Florida Atlantic University

Scholars, who are doctoral students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, especially racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities.

This year Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., Dean, College of Education, and Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D., Professor, Exceptional Student Education, and Coordinator, Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU, also attended the event along with Jennifer Amador, a doctoral student working on an Ed.D. in ESE, and a Holmes Scholar at FAU. The Holmes Scholars shared their topics and ideas with Ramasamy prior to the conference. Here is a summary of the Holmes Scholars' research posters:

Shanett Dean, a doctoral student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, discussed her research studies titled, I am going to Teach You a

Lesson: Power, Hypervisibility, Double Consciousness and the Inevitability of the School to Prison Pipeline.

Danna Demezier, doctoral student working on a Ph.D. in Counseling, reviewed the impact of cultural factors on the parenting behaviors of immigrant parents from her dissertation project in a roundtable discussion. She also collaborated with Adriana Labarta on a poster presentation, regarding their investigation of counseling interventions used to treat youth offenders around the world.

Labarta, a doctoral student progressing toward a Ph.D. in Counseling, shared her dissertation literature review, The Effects of a Transdiagnostic Model for Eating Disorders on the Treatment Outcomes of LGBTQ+ Clients in Residential Treatment, in a roundtable discussion. She also collaborated with Demezier on a conceptual poster highlighting the use of Relational-Cultural Theory as a framework for mentoring graduate students of color.

Eleanor Jin Su-Keene, a doctoral student seeking a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership: School Leaders (K-12), presented research that showed the tensions in practicing social justice leadership in public schools, specifically between the ethics and efficiency of schooling.

Paul Massy, a doctoral student seeking a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, expounded on his research topic, Development of Students' Literacy and Overall Writing Proficiencies through Critical Hip Hop Literacy and Music.

Other benefits of the Holmes Scholars® Program are opportunities for Holmes Scholars to hone their leadership skills during Washington Week as they engage with elected officials and their staff on Capitol Hill and leaders in education policy. Please extend your generosity to fund expenses for FAU Holmes Scholars to attend next year's conferences.

For more information, contact Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D., Professor, Exceptional Student Education, and Holmes Scholar Coordinator, at rramasam@fau.edu. To explore ways to give, contact, the College of Education at coedevlopment@fau.edu.

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COE Alumna Gives Keynote Address, Receives AACTE Award



College of Education (COE) Alumna, Margarita Bianco, Ed.D., gives the keynote address at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) preconference on Feb. 27, 2020 in Atlanta, where she was honored with the Researcher in Teacher Diversity Award for her exemplary research in the area of teacher diversity. She holds a doctorate in Exceptional Student Education from Florida

By Josephine Elliott | April 30, 2020

Margarita Bianco, Ed.D., who earned her doctoral degree in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education, shared her own experiences as a woman of color in the keynote address in response to [Holmes Scholars'](#) questions and was honored with the Researcher in Teacher Diversity Award by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) during its preconference in Atlanta, on Feb., 27, 2020. The award recognized her exemplary research, which includes strategies to recruit and retain teachers of color and Grow Your Own (GYO) teacher programs for high school students of color in urban and rural communities.

Bianco's work has been published in leading educational journals, including *Theory into Practice*, *The Journal of Negro Education*, *The Urban Review*, *Urban Education*, *Teacher Education and Special Education*, and *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

"The relationships I formed at Florida Atlantic University with my professors and my dissertation committee was important to my success. They really helped shaped who I am as a faculty member, advisor and mentor."

*--Margarita Bianco, Ed.D.
Associate Professor, School
of Education and Human
Development, University of
Colorado Denver*

Recently, she has co-authored articles such as: Pathways 2Teaching: Addressing the Teacher Diversity Gap through a Grow Your Own Program, *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 2019; Examining Grow Your Own Programs Across the Teacher Development Continuum: Mining Research on Teachers of Color and Nontraditional Educator Pipelines, *Journal of Teacher Education*, August 2018; and To Diversify the Teacher Workforce, Start Early, *Education Leadership*, May 2018.

Presently, Bianco is Associate Professor, School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado Denver, which she joined as an Assistant Professor in 2006. She is also founder and Executive Director, [Pathways2Teaching](#), a concurrent or dual enrollment program whereby high school students can earn college and high school credits simultaneously by taking a series of three-credit courses for a total of nine credits and earn a paraprofessional certificate. The program requires field experience with children in elementary schools.

What differentiates this program from a typical GYO program? "Think of teaching as an act of social justice," Bianco revealed. Becoming a paraprofessional is "important for students of color and first-generation students because it allows them to work to earn money after high school and also introduces them to the teaching profession." To date, 1300 students have completed the Pathways2Teaching program. Sixty percent of them are Latinx students, 35 percent, African American and 38 percent, young men. Nationally, 83 percent of public school teachers are white, female monolingual English speakers, according to Bianco, who never had a teacher of color while attending grades K-12. In fact, it was while a paraprofessional herself after graduating high school that Bianco decided to become a special education teacher.

Bianco went on to earn her bachelor's in special and general education from William Patterson University in Wayne, NJ, and a master's in special and gifted education from Florida International University in addition to her doctorate. Among her awards are the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Council for Learning Disabilities, the Rosa Parks Diversity Award from the University of Colorado Denver and the 2011 President's Diversity Award, 2012 Teaching Excellence Award and the Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador Award from the University of Colorado, having served as Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador from 2017-2019. Bianco's advice for Holmes Scholars and students pursuing doctoral degrees in education is "to follow their passion. Make their passion part of their dissertation and research agenda and remain passionate throughout their career trajectory."

For more information on degree programs offered by the COE, contact an advisor at the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#). To explore ways to give, contact, the College of Education, at coedevlopment@fau.edu.

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Karen Slattery ERCCD Engages Children Through Play, Academics



Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education provides children from birth to five years of age activities and learning opportunities through its lab school, the Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development (ERCCD). Using the latest research and theory in child development, the Center helps young children grow intellectually, socially and emotionally. The playground, which needs to be renovated, serves a vital role in helping children play, learn and grow.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2020

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” — Fred Rogers

Vibrant. Enthusiastic. Joyful. These words describe the eagerness with which young children, who attend [Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development](#) (ERCCD), engage in enriching experiences and the willingness with which parents provide support. As an early childhood lab school for Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE), located on the Boca Raton Campus, the Center has garnered international recognition as a high quality model program, according to Lydia Bartram, MSW, Director, Karen Slattery ERCCD. It serves as a school for children from birth to five years of age, a research site, an interdisciplinary training model, a destination spot for innovation in early childhood curriculum, and a

“With limited resources, we have been able to implement a model program that allows us to innovate practices for young children. With additional support, we will be able to enhance and expand our impact on the College, University and Community.”

— Lydia Bartram, MSW

Director, Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development

place where parents witness their children being well educated and prepared for the 21st century.

What makes Slattery ERCCD unique from other preschools? Its curriculum and extraordinary teachers, noted the Center's lead curriculum consultant and professor-in-residence, Nancy Brown, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry in FAU's COE. The curriculum is both academic and play based. “The Slattery teachers work as collaborative teams, continually revising and creating an enriched ‘project-approach’ integrated curriculum, based on the latest research in brain development and early literacy learning,” Brown explained. “Building on children's interests, strengths, and academic levels, motivation is high and attention span increases. Classroom projects educate children through group and individualized experiences and indoor and outdoor learning. The children investigate the world through language and literacy, math, music and movement, expressive arts, block building, science, woodworking, cooking, and nature explorations. The learning standards come alive in daily classroom activities. Parents are welcome to come into the classrooms and share their expertise.”

Moreover, “the children are learning the social and emotional skills to make them good citizens of the classroom, school, and community,” noted Brown,

whose book, based on research at Slattery, recently earned an “Award of Excellence in Education” at the United Nations. “The curriculum emphasizes kindness and empathy, within a diverse and multicultural population of children.” In fact, the curriculum has earned an outstanding accreditation score from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the leading early childhood professional accreditation organization in the United States. The Center boasts a nationally certified butterfly garden, edible food forest and library.

Slattery also serves as an interdisciplinary training site for students from a range of disciplines in the FAU community. Students from the fields of early childhood education, medicine, nursing, psychology, and social work complete their training assignments and internships at Slattery. Last year, the Center provided more than 35,000 hours of student employment, internships, clinical placements, and other training to students. The COE's Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Clinic provides speech screenings, evaluations and speech therapy for children.

In anticipation of its 30th anniversary in fall 2020, the Center has established an [Early Childhood Enrichment Fund](#) with the immediate goal of renovating playgrounds for the three and four-year olds. Additional funds will be used to enhance facilities and infrastructure, to offer trainings to the larger professional community, and to support research initiatives. Please consider helping the Center reach its goals.

For more information about how you can support the Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development or ways to give, contact Lydia Bartram at lbartram@fau.edu.

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