COE Highlights

HERBST NAMED SUPERINTENDENT

Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Education (COE), announced that Joel D. Herbst, Ed.D., Assistant Dean, PK-12 Schools & Educational Programs, has been appointed by Florida Atlantic University (FAU) President John W. Kelly, Ph.D., as Superintendent of FAU Lab Schools (Florida School District 72) effective July 1, 2018. The District comprises the Alexander D. Henderson School (ADHUS), FAU High School, and Palm Pointe Educational Research School at Tradition.

“His work as Assistant Dean of PK-12 Schools and Educational programs has been exceptional since he came on board in April 2012,” stated Bristor. “FAUS is extremely fortunate to have him as Superintendent in addition to his role as Assistant Dean, which also includes oversight of the Pine Jog Environmental Educational Center and Karen Slattery Educational Research Center for Child Development.”

Under Herbst’s leadership, FAU Lab Schools was ranked fourth out of 3,332 Public and Charter Schools in the State of Florida and was the only Title 1 school among the top 10 schools in 2017. The FAU Lab Schools network was named a 2017 Google for Education Reference District, one of only 109 districts in the world. FAU High launched the nation’s first M.D. pipeline program in 2017 that places high school students from FAU High School directly in-line for medical school at FAU. That same year, ADHUS, FAU High and Palm Pointe were named Schools of Excellence by the Florida Department of Education. In June 2018, ADHUS/FAU High won first place in the 10th annual Green Schools Awards bestowed by FAU’s Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

Previously, Herbst served in the Broward County School Board Office as the South Area Superintendent of Schools. He has held leadership positions during 20 of his 29 years working in Florida’s educational system.

COE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY, STAFF

Four new tenure-earning faculty members, six non-tenure-earning faculty members and six staff joined Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education (COE) in 2018. In addition, thirteen new University School Instructors, administrators and staff at Alexander D. Henderson University School (ADHUS)/FAU High School were recognized by Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean, COE, during the COE’s Welcome Back reception on August 16, 2018 at the Delray Acura Club in the FAU Stadium. Promoted faculty and staff were also recognized.

The Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry welcomed Hoang Tran, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Multi-Cultural Education; Bianca Nightengale-Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction; and Melanie Acosta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction. The Department of Counselor Education welcomed Ayse Torres, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling. Read more.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Application for Degree due Sept. 7, 2018 for fall 2018.
Welcome to another academic year as we introduce the inaugural issue of our college newsletter! It is exciting to showcase college highlights, new faculty and staff, faculty achievements, partnerships with school districts, student news, and student success activities in one issue, so stay tuned for more in future issues! I want to give a special shout out to Josephine Elliott for taking on the writing and editorial duties and to Teresa Crane for her photography and guidance in the production of this newsletter.

Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education

Valerie J. Bristor, Dean, College of Education announced the following tenure and/or promotions for 2018:

Susannah Brown, Ph.D., Teaching and Learning, promotion to full professor.

Michael Hall, Ph.D., Exercise Science and Health Promotion, tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

John Hardman, Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, promotion to Senior Instructor.

Christopher Boerum, M.S., M.B.A., Exercise Science and Health Promotion, promotion to Senior Instructor.

Chayane Daniels, B.B.A., A.D. Henderson University School, promotion to University School Accomplished Instructor.

Tzeitel Chacon-Rosado, M.S., A.D. Henderson University School, promotion to University School Accomplished Instructor.

Ana Vidal Simzer, M.Ed., A.D. Henderson University School, promotion to University School Accomplished Instructor.

COE SENDS FOND FAREWELLS

Rosanna Gatens, Ph.D., Instructor, College of Education, retired effective July 1, 2018. She served the COE for 15 and a half years, 13 and half of them as Director of Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education from 2003 to 2016.

Marsha Lynch, M.S., Assistant Director of Advising, Office for Academic and Student Services on FAU Davie, to retire September 28, 2018. She was recognized as Staff Member of the Year at the 2018 Broward Achievement Awards luncheon, hosted by the Student Affairs and Broward Campus Administration. She served the COE for 18 years.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

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Ana Vidal Simzer, M.Ed., A.D. Henderson University School, promotion to University School Accomplished Instructor.
Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology in Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education, coordinates the School Leaders master’s, specialist, and doctoral programs.

FACULTY FOCUS: REYES-GUERRA

Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology (ELRM), in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education is in the forefront of improving school leadership education programs. In fact, he is in his second year directing professional learning programs in partnership with local school districts thanks to the $5.6 million Wallace Foundation grant awarded in 2016 (see article at right).

As a result, ELRM completely rewrote its School Leaders Master of Education program by co-constructing it with a committee of representatives from all four partnering districts. “What is important is the emphasis on social justice, social emotional learning and systems thinking,” declared Reyes-Guerra. “Through our recruitment and selection process, we really look for people who are looking to make a difference and improve the lives of the students that they teach in the schools they will run.”

Reyes-Guerra—as ELRM’s School Leaders Program Coordinator—oversees the master’s, specialist and doctoral programs in school leadership. In that role, he facilitates program faculty meetings to review curriculum and get faculty consensus on program business. He supervises administration functions, schedules courses and oversees recruitment and selection. In addition to teaching doctoral-level courses such as Executive Leadership, Seminar in Administration and School Improvement, Reyes-Guerra chairs or serves on dissertation committees. His research interests include internship, leadership and social justice, educational leadership policy and university-school district partnership.

Reyes-Guerra joined the University in 2002 as a Principal-in-Residence in ELRM’s Grow Your Own Program, while earning a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from FAU. He became an Assistant Professor in 2009. Previously, he was a Secondary Principal at the American School of Asuncion in Paraguay for seven years and a High School Principal at the Escuela Americana in El Salvador for three years. Prior to that, he taught English and social studies for a total of seven years at the American School of El Salvador and the American School of Guatemala. He holds a M.S. in Educational Administration from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and a B.A. in History and Government from Cornell University.

A past President of the Florida Association of Professors of Educational Leadership, he has been instrumental in shaping policy initiatives in leadership preparation. “We live in a State that is tied to high stakes accountability and that is based on student performance on standardized tests,” noted Reyes-Guerra. Educational leaders “are trying to break from that and find other ways to measure success” and produce “democratic, critical thinking citizens.”
CCEI TEAMS UP WITH BROWARD SCHOOLS

Bill Bigelow, curriculum editor of Rethinking Schools and veteran High School Social Studies teacher, will be a guest speaker on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 as part of the Educational Equity Partnership Project (EEPP). “He is probably one of the most prolific curriculum developers of multicultural and social justice curricula,” noted Diliys Schoorman, Ph.D., Chair, Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry (CCEI) in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education.

Collaborators in the Educational Equity Partnership Project include (from left) Kalisha Waldon, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor; Diliys Schorman, Ph.D., Chair; and Traci Baxley, Ed.D. (third from right), Associate Professor, in the Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry. Angela Brown (third from left), Director, Coaching and Inductions; Christopher Gates (right) and Myrlaine Salter, Ed.D., are from Broward County Public Schools.

Bigelow will be addressing Teacher Leaders in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) as part of CCEI’s second of five modules: Developing Multicultural Curriculum led by Schoorman and Kalisha Waldon, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor, CCEI, this fall. “Our involvement in this grant is to develop Teacher Leaders, who are able to take a lead in their schools in terms of implementing curriculum and instructional practices,” Schoorman explained. This partnership recognizes the crucial importance of multicultural education in the success of teachers.

CCEI, in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs, launched the EEPP project in collaboration with BCPS in fall 2017. Funded by a Teaching Incentive Fund (TIF) grant awarded to BCPS, EEPP offers selected Master Teachers in Title I schools professional development modules taught by CCEI faculty. Angela Brown, Director, Coaching and Induction, BCPS, is the Principal Investigator of the TIF grant. A former Principal of Dillard Elementary, Brown was named 2015 Principal of the Year and was awarded the 2016 Shine Award by Florida Governor Rick Scott.

The goal of the TIF grant is to provide educators with research-based strategies and resources to serve students of diverse populations better. The goal of the TIF programs is to increase the number of effective educators in high-needs schools in order to improve students’ academic achievement. To that end, TIF funds projects that develop performance-based teacher compensation systems. “The EEPP project is intentionally collaborative,” stated Schoorman. “We have to listen. We have to adapt and, ultimately, we have to learn from and with the teachers.”

NEW FACULTY ATTEND ORIENTATION

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) hosted the 2018 New Faculty Orientation Luncheon on Monday, August 13, 2018 at FAU Stadium’s Delray Acura Club. FAU President John W. Kelly, Ph.D., and Provost Bret Danilowicz, Ph.D., welcomed the new Faculty Owls to FAU; College of Education (COE) Dean Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., greeted new COE faculty. Among them (from left) are: CCEI’s Bianca Nightengale-Lee, Ph.D.; Melanie Acosta, Ph.D.; Hoang Tran, Ph.D.; CCE’s Ayse Torres, Ph.D.; ESE’s Kelly Kearney, Ed.D.; ESHP’s Michelle Papania, M.S., C.P.A.; ELRM’s Elizabeth Jekanowski, Ph.D.; and TL’s Ron Persin, Ed.D. They are all Owl fans now!
OASS WELCOMES FACULTY, STUDENTS, STAFF

Student Success is one focus of Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s Strategic Plan. Providing a comprehensive system of student, faculty and staff support to enhance student success is the primary mission of the College of Education (COE)’s Office for Academic and Student Services (OASS).

The advising staff have been busy at work preparing for the new academic year. This summer alone, the advisors have participated in more than 50 freshman and transfer orientation sessions where they welcomed over 550 new College of Education students!

The fall semester kicks off with student success as a top priority! OASS would like to invite the faculty to participate in the many upcoming initiatives and events, such as FAU’s Fall Expo for high school students, who are interested in applying to FAU, on Oct. 13, 2018 and Choose FAU Days for accepted students, who are considering FAU, on March 22, 2019 and March 29, 2019. OASS welcomes the opportunity to work with and support COE faculty, so if there is anything that the OASS staff can do to assist COE departments, please contact OASS.

“Advising plays a vital role in student success. I am proud to be part of a team that is dedicated to providing the best academic service to students.” — Deborah Shepherd, Ed.D., Associate Dean, Office for Academic and Student Services

MEET OASS STAFF ACROSS THE CAMPUSSES

The Office for Academic and Student Services in the College of Education (COE) has staff located on three campuses: FAU Boca Raton, FAU Davie and FAU Jupiter. Undergraduate advising is provided by Sita Ramnarace (right), Andre Amirato (fourth from right) and Victoria Smith (second from left), all Academic Advisors in the Education Building, ED-47, Suite 230, on the Boca Raton campus. Marsha Lynch (third from right), Assistant Director, and Lisa Ciacci (second from right), Academic Advisor, offer COE students advising in the Education and Science building, ES, Room 202, on the Davie campus; and Greg Gilbert, Assistant Director, in Education Building, MC-12, Room 202, on the Jupiter campus. Jessica Watts (left), Coordinator, Graduate Advising and College Initiatives, and Joe Waters (third from left), Associate Director, and Traci Catto (left in the picture at right), Director, Clinical Placements, are on the Boca campus.
INTERNS PERSERVERE DESPITE TRAGEDY

When tragedy struck Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, three alumni, who graduated on May 3, 2018 from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education (COE), were student teaching at that high school. They emerged stronger and committed to the teaching profession. In fact, two of them are now teaching at MSD High School and the other, at Deerfield Beach Elementary School (DBES). Both schools are in the Broward County Public School District.

A graduate of MSD High School, Elizabeth Smith earned a B.A. degree in Exceptional Student Education with ESOL Endorsement from the COE’s Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE). She holds an ESE teaching position teaching in a second/third-grade classroom at Deerfield Beach Elementary School.

Lauren Rower received a B.A.E. degree in English Education from the COE’s Department of Teaching and Learning (TL). She teaches ninth and tenth-grade English at MSD High School. Anthony Melei earned a B.A. in Social Studies Education from the COE’s TL. He teaches ninth-grade geography at MSD High School.

Following the tragedy, Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, ESE, recalled that Elizabeth was eager to assist MSD students readjust back to school and support one another because she was not only a student teacher, but was a former student of that high school as well. Robyn Klein, Ed.D., Field Director and Secondary Methods Instructor, TL, noted that both Lauren and Anthony exceeded the expectations of FAU interns and showed their support for the community.

“That experience taught me I am so much stronger than I would have ever thought. It also taught me I am EXACTLY where I belong.”
— Elizabeth Smith, FAU alumna and ESE teacher

Q & A: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The start of a new academic year is a good time to explore joining a student organization. So what are the choices?

The College of Education offers a variety of organizations:

**COLLEGE WIDE**
Kappa Delta Pi (Rho Omega Chapter)
Faculty Advisor: Lydia Bartram, MSW, lbartram@fau.edu
Student Achievement Council
Faculty Advisor: Lydia Bartram, MSW, lbartram@fau.edu
President: Sylvia Collazo, M.Ed., scollaz2@my.fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS**
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association
Faculty Advisor: Carol Tessel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ctessel@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION**
Chi Sigma Iota (Beta Rho Chi Chapter)
Faculty Advisor: Carman Gill, Ph.D., cglk@fau.edu
President: Alison Bourdeau abourdeau@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM, CULTURE, & EDUCATIONAL INQUIRY**
Talon Club (professional networking for graduate students)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu
ESHP Club
Faculty Advisor: Michael Zourdos, Ph.D., mzourdos@fau.edu
President: Michael Correa mcorrea2015@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION**
HOOT Honors
Coordinator: Sharon Darling, Ph.D., sdalring@fau.edu
Charles Dukes, Ed.D., cdukes@fau.edu, Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D., lfinnegan@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE SCIENCE & HEALTH PROMOTION**
IMPACT Autism
Faculty Advisor: Elisa Cruz-Torres, Ed.D., ecruz4@fau.edu
Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCC)
Faculty Advisor: Katie Miller, Ph.D., kmillerk@fau.edu, Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D., lfinnegan@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**
Chi Eta Phi (National Education Honor Society)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION**
Kappa Delta Pi (Phi Lambda Chapter)
Faculty Advisor: Carol Tessel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ctessel@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION & HUMAN DIVERSITY**
Torero Student Organization (TSO)
Faculty Advisor: Lynn Peters, Ph.D., cnpeters@fau.edu
St. Jude’s Club
Faculty Advisor: Michael Zourdos, Ph.D., mzourdos@fau.edu
President: Michael Correa mcorrea2015@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED ARTS & HUMANITIES**
Art Club
Faculty Advisor: Michael Zourdos, Ph.D., mzourdos@fau.edu
President: Michael Correa mcorrea2015@fau.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**
Kappa Delta Sigma (Beta Chapter)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu
Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCC)
Faculty Advisor: Katie Miller, Ph.D., kmillerk@fau.edu, Lisa Finnegan, Ph.D., lfinnegan@fau.edu

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
Chi Eta Phi (National Education Honor Society)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

**SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS**
Chi Eta Phi (National Education Honor Society)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

**SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS**
Alpha Chi Omega (Professional Fraternity for Women)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
Chi Eta Phi (National Education Honor Society)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

**THEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
Kappa Delta Sigma (Beta Chapter)
Faculty Advisor: Sabrina Ssembiante, Ph.D., ssembiante@fau.edu

For information about programs, contact the Office for Academic and Student Services:
Boca 561-287-3570
Davie 954-836-1028
Jupiter 561-799-8135

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