Four faculty members and two students in the College of Education (COE) were recognized during Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s 50th annual Honors Convocation on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the University Theatre on the Boca Raton Campus. FAU President John Kelly and Provost Bret Danilowicz hosted the event. Len Sperry, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Counselor Education, and Cristobal Salinas, Jr., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology were selected as Scholars of the Year at the Professor level and Assistant Professor level, respectively. Lori Dassa, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, was one of four FAU faculty members who were honored for Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching.

Keishla Pesantes, an undergraduate student majoring in Exceptional Student Education received the University Scholar Award for FAU’s COE. Keisha was one of eight undergraduate recipients. The University Scholar Awards are given in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and upon the recommendation of faculty in each of the eight undergraduate colleges.

Michael Correa, an undergraduate majoring in Exercise Science and Health Promotion received the Undergraduate Researcher Award for FAU’s COE. Michael was one of nine undergraduate recipients. The Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Awards are based on student involvement in research, inquiry, or scholarly activities. College deans make the final selection from three finalists selected from each college by a committee of faculty, staff and students.

**EXCEED PROGRAM SELECTED AS A FINALIST**

The Association of Teacher Education (ATE) selected the Establishing Excellence in Elementary Education (EXCEED) program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education (COE) as one of three finalists for the Distinguished Teacher Education Preparation award to present at the February 16-20 meeting in Atlanta, Ga., which culminated with the announcement of the winner. “Although we did not win, it was an honor to be a finalist,” noted Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, COE.

The EXCEED program enhanced the College of Education undergraduate elementary education program offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning, beginning in spring 2017. The program improved by adding content courses in mathematics, science and social studies, increasing emphasis on classroom management, as well as enhancing coursework and the student teaching component to incorporate State requirements for the Reading Endorsement. These changes made in collaboration with the Broward County Public Schools and the School District of Palm Beach County, the sixth and 11th largest school districts in the State of Florida, respectively, strengthened the elementary education program.
I am proud to have led the College of Education in meeting its mission and aspiration of improving the lives of people and communities by becoming a leading resource for research, professional preparation, policy and public engagement.

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

DEAN’S DISPATCH

As I finish my final year as dean, a kaleidoscope of achievements by the College of Education plays across my mind. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of the faculty, staff, and students of this awesome college. I am especially grateful for my “team” spread across many FAU locations consisting of the Dean’s Office staff, Associate/Assistant Deans, Department Chairs, and Directors. And so I bid adieu as dean with a final “TA DA!”

CHAIR CORNER

Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education, announced the following faculty members have agreed to serve as Interim Chairs:

Dale F. Williams, Ph.D., Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders, assumed the responsibilities as Interim Chair effective January 1, 2019. Deena Wener, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor, who served as Chair from 2001-2018 stepped down as Chair to return to teaching, service and research.

Hanizah Zainuddin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry, will assume the responsibilities as Interim Chair effective July 1, 2019. Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D., Professor, who served as Chair from 2016-2019, stepped down as Chair to return to teaching, service and research.

The other departments in the College of Education are headed by Paul Peluso, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, Chair and Professor, Counselor Education; Robert Shockley, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology; Michael Brady, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Exceptional Student Education; and Barbara Ridener, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor, Teaching and Learning.

COE SENDS FOND FAREWELLS

Leslie Calhoun, M.Ed., Senior Instructor, Teaching and Learning, to retire Aug. 6, 2019. A Florida Atlantic University alumna, she served the COE for 13 years.

Mary Lou Duffy, Ph.D., Professor, Exceptional Student Education and Academy for Community Inclusion Coordinator on the Jupiter Campus, retired on May 10, 2019. She served the COE for 23 years.

Donald J. Torok, Ph.D., FACSM, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Broward Campus, retired effective Jan. 25, 2019. He served the College of Education for 25 and a half years, 13 of them as Associate Dean, one year as Interim Chair of the Department of Instructional Technology and Research and seven years as Chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Health Promotion.
A TOUCHING TRIBUTE: VALERIE J. BRISTOR, PH.D.


Having served Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for more than 30 years, eleven of them as Dean of the College of Education (COE), Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D. will be returning to teaching reading and language arts education courses, service and research, effective July 31, 2019. Throughout the years, she has been an inspiration to faculty, staff and students.

Bristor encourages all students to achieve their potential, removing barriers and navigating University channels to ensure their success. One example Bristor recalled was when she attended the Weppner Legacy Reception on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017. A remarkable Exercise Science and Health Promotion student, Marek Madro, gave a great speech. Afterwards, Bristor chatted with him and learned that he wanted to attend a conference in South Carolina but could not. Bristor offered him the travel support the COE provides students.

As COE Dean, Bristor has guided faculty and staff through constant changes in teacher preparation, forged relationships with the community, national and international partners. (See EXCEED program article on page one). In addition, Bristor has been instrumental in winning major grants for FAU. Her publications and conference presentations have focused on her research interest of reading in the content areas and teacher education.

Under her leadership, the COE ranked No. 77 for the "Best Online Education Programs" in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report national rankings. A.D. Henderson University School/FAU High School was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2018 based on overall academic performance by the U.S. Department of Education. “Not only have we received exceptional recognition and awards, but thanks to many charitable donations, our accomplishments were made possible and scholarship awards have been made available,” Bristor noted.

The appointment as COE Dean in 2009 followed an extensive national search review of the Search Committee’s report and direct input from individuals. Previously, Bristor served FAU in a variety of capacities. (See sidebar.) Prior to joining FAU in 1988, Bristor was a classroom teacher for nine years in Mobile, Alabama. Bristor began her education at Evangel University where she earned a B.A. in Elementary Education. She furthered her discipline by attaining an M.Ed. at the University of South Alabama and a Ph.D. at Ball State University.

She served as Chair for the American Reading Forum for two terms. She has been the Institutional Representative for the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) since 1995 and for the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities (TECSCU) where she is also currently serving as the elected Regional 2 Representative since 2013. Bristor has been a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House and American/Canadian Cancer Societies and is currently a member of the board of directors for the Broward Education Foundation since 2000.
COE RECOGNIZES FACULTY/STUDENTS AT HONORS AND AWARD CEREMONY

Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education (COE) held its annual Honors and Award Ceremony on May 2, 2019 in Room 119 of the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus, recognizing the achievements of COE faculty and students. During the ceremony, Patricia Heydet-Kirsch, Ed.D., Assistant Dean, Accreditation and Assessment presented Bristor with the COE Lifetime Achievement Award (see page two) and recognized the honoree for Excellence & Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching (see FAU Honors article on page one).

Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean, COE, presented faculty awards to the COE Honorees of the Year, including the Scholar of the Year at the Professor and Assistant Professor levels, who were also honored at FAU’s 50th Annual Honors Convocation (see FAU Honors article on page one), the Researcher of the Year at the Professor and Assistant Professor level and Distinguished Mentor of the Year (see recipients below). The selection of the COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year was announced. Bristor also presented students at the undergraduate and graduate level the Dr. Rosanna Gatens Student Award for Outstanding Community Service and the Dean’s Award (see page six), as well as recognized the Undergraduate Researcher of the Year.

The Chair of each department presented Outstanding Undergraduate and/or Outstanding Graduate awards for their respective departments. A.D. Henderson University School/FAU High School was the only one in the state of Florida and one of only 14 districts across the country to receive this coveted distinction.

This national recognition was given based on ADHUS and FAU High School’s innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness and ensure effective sustainability education. “This incredible recognition by the U.S. Department of Education acknowledges our school-wide commitment to sustainability,” stated Sherry Bees, M.Ed., Principal/Director, ADHUS/FAU High School.

FAU LAB SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED GREEN RIBBON

The U.S. Department of Education announced Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS) and FAU High School as a 2019 Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee on May 22, 2019. The FAU Lab School District was the only one in the state of Florida and one of only 14 districts across the country to receive this coveted distinction.

ADHUS/FAU HIGH AWARDS

LEGE OF UCATION

Principal/Director Sherry Bees, M.Ed., congratulates District Teacher of the Year Jenny O’Sullivan, (left) and District Related Employee of the Year Cesar Carnero.

Sherry Bees, M.Ed., Principal/Director, A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS)/Florida Atlantic University (FAU) High School honored Jenny O’Sullivan, Elementary STEAM, as the 2019 District Teacher of the Year for Florida Atlantic University (FAU) School District #72 and recognized Cesar Carnero, Custodian, as the FAU District Related Employee of the Year. The awards were presented during the College of Education’s Honors and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in ED-119 in the Education Building on the Boca Raton Campus.

FACULTY AWARDS

Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education, announced the following awards for spring 2019:

Melanie M. Acosta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry, has been awarded, along with two co-authors, the 2019 Outstanding Article in the Journal of Teacher Education, by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) during the AACTE 71st Annual Meeting, Feb. 22-24, 2019 in Louisville, Ky. The award recognizes exemplary scholarship published in the AACTE’s official journal. At the time the article, Why Seek the Living Among the Dead? African American Pedagogical Excellence: Exemplar Practice for Teacher Education, was submitted, Acosta was at the University of Alabama. She joined Florida Atlantic University in August 2018.

Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry, received the Nietzel Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Kentucky. His obligations included serving on dissertation committees and providing public lectures during the spring 2019 semester. He delivered lectures relating to rethinking early childhood education by integrating more place-based and experiential learning

Nancy Brown, Ed.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry, received an Excellence in Education Awards from the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN), based on her book, “Internationalizing Early Childhood Curriculum: Foundations of Global Competence.” The award was presented on April 5, 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Cristobal Salinas, Jr., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, received the 2018-2019 Vice President’s Diamond Award/Faculty from the Division of Student Affairs. This award recognizes outstanding individuals who have provided exemplary service for the advancement of student success at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Salinas also received the Equity and Social Justice Scholar Award during the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Education, May 28 - June 1, 2019 in Portland, Ore.
A FOND FAREWELL: EXERCISE SCIENCE AND HEALTH PROMOTION

The Department of Exercise Science and Health Promotion (ESHP) in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education (COE) transitioned to FAU’s Charles E. Schmidt College of Science (COS) effective June 1, 2019. “I believe this will be a very productive realignment of programs and faculty,” stated Bret S. Damilowicz, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in his May 13, 2019 announcement to FAU Deans. Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, College of Education (COE) added, “It has been a privilege working with the faculty, staff, and students of ESHP during the department’s rapid growth and development over the last decade.”

“Reassigning ESHP to the COS is consistent with a growing national trend wherein higher education views exercise science/health promotion programs as an applied science,” noted Michael Whitehurst, Ed.D., FACS, Chair and Professor, Exercise Science and Health Promotion, citing the department’s basic and translational research as evidence. “Importantly, ESHP is at the center of a global interest in attempting to identify cost effective interventions to reduce chronic disease and ballooning health care costs associated with lifestyle choices.”

“EXERCISE is Medicine.”
— Motto of the Department of Exercise Science and Health Promotion

Exercise Scientists in ESHP disseminate research that addresses major health issues stemming from physical inactivity and mentor a growing number of ESHP students. Under the guidance of four principal investigators, ESHP students apply basic and clinical science techniques to conduct advanced research in ESHP’s Exercise Biochemistry Laboratory. The four principal investigators in ESHP are: Whitehurst, Ed.D., FACS; Chung-Jung Huang, Ph.D., FACS, Associate Professor; Michael Zourdos, Ph.D., CSCS, Associate Professor; and Andy Khamoui, Ph.D. Assistant Professor.

Presently, ESHP has a combined student enrollment of nearly 2,000 students, pursuing interdisciplinary bachelor and master’s degree programs. The undergraduate program is designed to prepare students for careers in diverse fields, such as physical therapy, sports medicine, cardiac/pulmonary rehabilitation, corporate fitness, medical school, allied health, coaching (strength and conditioning), country club fitness and other industry positions, and is nationally endorsed by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). The graduate program offers a choice of three tracks of study (strength and conditioning, exercise physiology and health promotion) and prepares graduate students for continued research and doctoral studies or advanced careers in clinical, corporate, commercial and/or community physical fitness and wellness education.

In addition to Whitehurst, Huang, Zourdos, and Khamoui, ESHP faculty comprise of Robert Zoeller, Ph.D., Professor; Sue Graves, Ed.D., FACS, FISSN, ACSM CEP; Associate Professor; Tina Penhollow, Ph.D., MCHES, Associate Professor; Michael Hall, Ph.D., Associate Professor; Jan Pyka, M.S., CSCS, Instructor; Chris Boerum, M.S., M.B.A., Senior Instructor; Laura Canteri, M.S., Instructor; and Michelle Papania, M.S., C.P.A., Instructor. ESHP staff includes Nishant Visavediya, Ph.D., Coordinator of Research Programs, who oversees the day-to-day operation of ESHP’s Exercise Biochemistry Laboratory; Peggy Donnelly, Program Assistant; and Denise Merrill, Senior Secretary.

ESHP also offers students the opportunity to join the ESHP Club to make personal and professional connections, participate in community events and attend local seminars/conferences within the field. The internship program, the final requirement for the bachelor’s in ESHP, allows students to explore or clarify professional goals, acquire new skills and develop professional contacts in their chosen field. Graduate Teaching Assistantships are available competitively to graduate students officially admitted into the master’s in ESHP to assist with research and to teach undergraduate courses.
Our Mission

The mission of the College of Education is to use research and scholarship to prepare and support teachers, leaders, counselors, speech language pathologists, and exercise and health professionals to improve the lives of people and communities.

Our Aspiration

As researchers, scholars and educators, we aspire to be a leading resource for research, professional preparation, policy, and public engagement in local, state, national and international communities.

HONORS AND AWARDS: COE STUDENTS

College of Education (COE) students were recognized at Florida Atlantic University’s 50th Annual Honors Convocation on April 17, 2019 (see FAU Honors article on page one) and at the COE Honors and Awards Ceremony on May 2, 2019 (see College-wide recipients below).

“The Dr. Rosanna Gatens Student Award for Outstanding Community Service honors Rosanna Gatens, Ph.D., who promoted human rights and justice in society during her service as Director of Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education.” — Valerie J. Bristor, Dean and Professor College of Education

Q & A: COE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Thinking of applying to a graduate program after graduation? The College of Education offers a variety of master’s, specialist and doctoral degrees. For more information on areas of specialization, majors or areas of study and combined degrees, visit the department websites below or email the contacts.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS
M.S. Speech Pathology and Audiology
Contact: Jeremy Bayne, jbayne@fau.edu

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION
M.Ed. Counselor Education
Ed.S. Counselor Education
Ph.D. Counseling
Contacts: Mikaela von Kursell, mkursell@fau.edu
Darlene Epperson, frederic@fau.edu

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM, CULTURE, & EDUCATIONAL INQUIRY
M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction
Ed.S. Curriculum and Instruction
Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Contact: Lizeth Garcia, lgarci18@fau.edu

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
M.Ed. Educational Leadership
Ed.S. Educational Leadership
Ph.D. Educational Leadership
Contact: Kathy Dubois, khdubois@fau.edu

DEPARTMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
M.Ed. Exceptional Student Education
Ed.D. Exceptional Student Education
Contact: Ellen Ismalon, eismalon@fau.edu

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
M.Ed. Elementary Education (K-6)
M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification (K-6)
M.Ed. Reading Education (K-12)
M.Ed. Secondary Education plus Certification
M.Ed. Instructional Technology
M.Ed. Educational Psychology
M.Ed. Environmental Education
Contact: Jill Lancieri, jlancieri@fau.edu