

The DeTail

Volume 5 Issue 1

Fall 2015

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Special points of interest:

- **Approved Plan of Study must be on file with the Graduate College by Dec. 11, 2015 for spring 2016 graduation.**
- **Applications for Fall 2016 Student Teaching are due Jan. 31, 2016.**
- **Graduate applications for Summer 2016 are due April 1, 2016**
- **Welcome to FAU!**

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Letter from the Chair

By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

As you can see by the delay of the newsletter, fall has come and gone. As always, faculty have been extremely busy and productive. In addition, our students are shining. In our initial preparation programs we are trying to deal with the changes required by the State of Florida to use the district's assessment instrument to evaluate our student teachers. Everyone has come together to work on this and to

achieve the most meaningful implementation possible. I am always blown away by this department and how outstanding each and every one of the faculty is to work with. The dedication shows in the way they tackle issues, the way they look for creative solutions, and the quality and care they treat all of our programs and students. They are all stars!

Happy Holidays and out with fall and soon on to spring!



**Barbara Ridener, Ph.D., Chair
Department of
Teaching & Learning**

DTL Adds Four Faculty Members in Reading, Social Science & Instructional Technology

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) welcomed four faculty members as Assistant Professor in August 2015. Dr. Bessie P. Dernikos teaches courses in reading and language arts; Dr. Rina Bousalis teaches courses in social science education. Both Dr. Ann Musgrove and Dr. Jillian Powers, who joined the DTL faculty last year, teach various courses in instructional technology.

Dr. Dernikos previously was an Instructor for the Literacy Specialist Program at Columbia University's Teachers College, where she earned her doctoral degree in Curriculum & Teaching with a specialization in Literacy Education and a master's in Reading. Prior to that, Dr. Dernikos founded an educational company offering specialized tutoring and multisensory intervention services to K-12th



Dr. Bessie Dernikos



Dr. Rina Bousalis



Dr. Ann Musgrove



Dr. Jillian Powers

grade students, as well as literacy coaching and professional development services to public and private schools. She also taught in language schools in Greece. Dr. Dernikos has authored articles for peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, and presented at national conferences. She also holds a A.M. and A.B. in Literatures and Cultures in English from Brown University.

Dr. Bousalis previously was an Instructor at Hillsborough

Community College and Social Studies Teacher at Thomas Jefferson International Studies High School in Tampa, Fla. Prior to that Dr. Bousalis taught in elementary schools for eight years and was an Adjunct Instructor at the University of South Florida, where she earned a doctoral degree in Curriculum & Instruction with specialization in Social Science Education, a master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction with specialization in education, and a bachelor's

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Grant Reviewers Conduct Baseline Visit of Center of Excellence



Inspectors for the Collaborative Transformation: Establishing Excellence in Elementary Preparation (EXCEED) Grant conducted a baseline visit of the Florida Atlantic University Center of Excellence for Teacher Preparation. They conducted interviews during the week of Monday, March 30, 2015 through Friday, April 3, 2015. Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair, Teaching and Learning, is the Principal Investigator (PI), and Dr. Valerie J. Bristol, Dean, College of Education, is Co-PI of the EXCEED grant.

Feedback from the grant inspection team has been a catalyst for changes that have been made to student teaching. In an address to the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) faculty at the DTL meeting on Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, Traci Catto, Assistant Director,

Academic Support, Office for Academic and Student Services, reported, "When grant inspection team came to review our program, they saw different students and different schools." They recommended two things:

1. Improve observation and feedback from supervisors.
2. Shift focus to student learning.

"Before evaluations were all about what the student teacher is doing: managing the classroom, following procedures. Now, the focus is on what is the K-12 student doing," explained Catto.

Supervisors have gone through training and have implemented the use of an observation tool, aligning our assessments to our

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Story ideas may be submitted to deptteachlearn@fau.edu. Include your name and contact information.

Please update your email address if you have graduated so we can keep in touch with you. Send it to deptteachlearn@fau.edu.

Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair, Teaching and Learning, took part in an international collaborative event, coordinated by Learning First and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in Australia.

DTL Chair Represents Exceed Grant at Int'l Event

A team from Learning First and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invited Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education, to participate in the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Community of Practice Workshop held in Melbourne, Australia, from Sept. 8-11, 2015. "The idea is to generate a working research plan to address some of the existing challenges in Initial Teacher Preparation," Dr. Ridener said.

FAU was one of a few universities and colleges from the United States and other countries selected to

send representatives to meet with global experts from Shanghai, Korea and England for the purpose of discussing initial teacher preparation reforms in order to improve teacher quality and ultimately student outcomes. The Melbourne Workshop is the first of three international meetings scheduled for this project.

During the workshop, participants worked in a variety of groupings and attended a variety of panels, seminars and workshops. Each team was assigned a Workshop facilitator who helped teams apply their learning from the day to

their plans for ITE reform. The facilitators assisted participating teams with mapping the systems in which ITE operates, in order to learn, build and share how key stakeholders, incentives and reform levers can work together to drive effective ITE reform.

"It surprised me to learn how similar the concerns are around Initial Teacher Education, whether from Florida, Australia, or Finland. But, we also saw a lot that we are doing well, and that was rewarding. I'm looking forward to some wonderful collaboration over the next two years," Dr. Ridener said.

New Assistant Professors

(Continued from page 1)

degree in Elementary Education. In addition, she holds A.A. degrees in Art and Design from Academy of Art and Design, Chicago, Ill., and in Business Merchandising from St. Petersburg College, Clearwater, Fla. She has authored articles for peer-reviewed journals, such as *Ohio Social Studies Review Journal*, and presented at national conferences.

An FAU alumna, **Dr. Musgrove**

has a long period of service at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), including Instructional Designer. Dr. Musgrove was part of a small team to establish the Center for eLearning at FAU where she helped faculty transition to the online teaching environment. She has also directed large federal teacher education grants to help high school and undergraduate students on their path to becoming teachers. Her academic publications include book chapters, articles in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at local state and international

conferences. Dr. Musgrove earned doctoral, specialist and master's degrees at FAU in Adult and Community Education, Educational Technology/Adult and Community Education/Leadership, and Educational Foundations/Instructional Technology, respectively. In addition, she holds a B.S. in Biology from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Fla. and A.A. degree from Northern Virginia Community College.

Also, an FAU alumna, **Dr. Powers** previously was an Instructional Designer for Palm Beach State

College. She has designed and facilitated numerous technology trainings for in-service educators and presented at a conference. Dr. Powers also has over ten years of experience as preschool through eighth grade computer teacher. Dr. Powers earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction with a specialization in Instructional Technology and master's degree in Elementary Education from FAU. She also holds M. Phil. and M.Ed. in Politics and Education from Columbia University, as well as a B.A. in Spanish from Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.

Two New Master's Programs to Debut in Spring 2016

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) has replaced the M.Ed. Social Foundations of Education: Educational Psychology and M.Ed. Social Foundations: Instructional Technology with two new programs: M.Ed. Educational Psychology and M.Ed. Instructional Technology, respectively, beginning in the spring 2016 term.

"The change is the result of hard work and thoughtful insights of the Department of Teaching and

Learning faculty to strengthen both programs and provide courses and programs of study that align with current needs in each field," said Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair, Teaching and Learning.

While the M.Ed. Instructional Technology will continue to provide graduate students with the flexibility to complete the program fully online, the M.Ed. Educational Psychology may require some coursework to be done in person.

The required courses and restricted electives for the 36-credit comprehensive programs were carefully chosen to provide practical tools and skills professionals can use.

The M.Ed. Educational Psychology is a valuable degree for all educators, including teachers, administrators and educational researchers, who seek to further their understanding of: (a) student learning and effective instruction;

(b) motivation, self-regulation, and self-efficacy; and (c) human cognitive, social, and personal development; and (d) peer cultures and peer aggression. The degree does not lead to certification in any area.

The M.Ed. Instructional Technology provides professionals the knowledge and background necessary to

(Continued on page 4)

EIEIO Elementary Ed. Honors Students Meet with Principals



Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) students in the EIEIO Elementary Education Honors Program met with Broward County Public School's Boyd Anderson Zone Principals (below) during a luncheon held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 in the College of Education Dean's Conference Room on the Boca Raton Campus. Undergraduate Elementary Education majors who meet eligibility criteria may apply for the Honors-in-the-Major Program, which provides the opportunity to engage in undergraduate research and inquiry, explore formal discipline-research based practices and experience mentorship within coursework and in the field. Visit the 2015-2016 Florida Atlantic University catalog at <http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/PREcatalog/.education.php#teaching> for more information. DTL Graduate Assistant Jana Chusid (above, right), a graduate student in the M.Ed. School Counseling K-12, served as a graduate mentor to these honor students. Dr. Andrew Brewer (sixth from right), Associate Director of Academic and Assessment Support, also took part in the meeting.

Florida Atlantic University faculty—Dr. Lori Dassa, (center) Assistant Professor/Coordinator for Effective Teaching Practices, Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Patricia Heydet-Kirsch (left) Assistant Dean of Accreditation and Assessment, College of Education—met with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Principals—Orinthia Dias (second from left), Park Lakes Elementary; Dr. Richard Garrick (third from left), Lauderhill Paul Turner Elementary; Dr. Ingrid Osgood (fifth from left), Oriole Elementary, and Adjunct Instructor, Teaching and Learning, FAU; Dr. Ryan Reardon (sixth from left), Lauderhill 6-12, and Adjunct Instructor, Teaching and Learning, FAU; and Ducarmel Augustin, Royal Palm Elementary.



Eight DTL Students Land AIT Positions



Six elementary education majors and two English education majors have landed positions as Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT) Student Teachers for the fall 2015 semester, according to Jan Andrew-Rudin, Director of the Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) program. Seven of them are teaching in Palm Beach County and one in Okeechobee County.

English education majors—Douglas Henry and Melody Monroe—teach English in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) at Wellington Landings Middle School and John I. Leonard High School, respectively. Elementary Education majors who are teaching in SDPBC are Nancie Friedman, Rolling Green Elementary, Grade 3; Tyler Turner, Rolling Green Elementary,

Kindergarten; Sally Pray, Highland Elementary, Grade 5; Kristen Long, Starlight Cove Elementary, Grade 2; and Jennifer Paniagua, KEC Canal Point Elementary, Grade 1. Another elementary education major, Kristi Miller, is teaching Grade 2 at Central Elementary in Okeechobee County.

AIT is a collaborative program between Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and local school districts, whereby AIT Student Teachers serve as full-time teachers during their final semester and have complete responsibility for their own classrooms. Instead of a Clinical Educator, the AIT Student Teacher is supported by an experienced educator who serves as a mentor in the AIT classroom. For more information about the AIT program, including eligibility

requirements and deadlines, visit <http://www.coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/fiat/ait.php>. Meeting eligibility does not guarantee inclusion in the program.

EXCEED Grant Inspectors

(Continued from page 2)

districts, according to Catto. Student teachers will “practice being assessed on the tool they will be assessed on as teachers...They will also receive support from the New Teacher Center and Learning Sciences International.”

“We also implemented a new tool, ‘knowing teachers,’ from the New Teacher Center,” said Catto. It is an opportunity at the start of the semester for student teachers to dialogue with the cooperating teachers about their vision of a successful teacher and pedagogy and to understand expectations and each other’s backgrounds

Dr. Ridener added, we are “making sure what we are doing is meeting the needs of the students.”

Congratulations
Summer 2015
Graduates of
Department of
Teaching and
Learning Master’s
Degree
Programs!

DTL Students Earn Master’s

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, four graduate students in the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) earned Master’s in Education degrees from Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education (COE) in the following majors:

M.Ed. Elementary Education
Leila A. Rothe

**M.Ed. Social Foundations:
Educational Psychology**
Courtney A. Smith

M.Ed. Reading Education

Julie M. Berger
Thomas G. Handweg

New Master’s Degrees

(Continued from page 3)

successfully integrate modern technology into instruction in educational and corporate settings. Professionals will gain applied skills in instructional design, distance learning and instructional technology to engage learners and create web

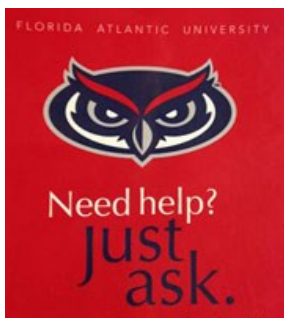
based and multimedia instructional content.

To view the program sheets, please click on the following links:

- [M.Ed. Educational Psychology](#)
- [M.Ed. Instructional Technology](#)

Questions about the program may be directed to deptteachlearn@fau.edu or 561-297-3791.

Help is Available at FAU Just for the Asking



Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) students in Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education who need assistance have a number of ways of getting help:

The [Student Resources website](#) offers information about FAU’s many student support services.

The [FAU Mobile App](#) is a terrific tool. It contains interactive campus maps, course schedules, directory and admissions information, shuttle tracking and more.

The [Center for Learning and Student Success](#) offers learning communities, e-learning assistance, supplemental instruction and tutoring. [About Success](#) provides helpful tips for in and outside the classroom, preparing for exams, etc.

[University Advising Services](#) provides first and second year undergraduate students a broad, comprehensive array of services. Seek their help in developing and implementing an appropriate and meaningful education plan.

Academic Advisors in the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#)

assist undergraduate and transfer students in getting officially admitted into the College of Education and programmed. They are available by appointment on the Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter Campuses.

[Faculty Advisors](#) are assigned to all programmed DTL undergraduate and admitted degree-seeking graduate students. Be sure to make an appointment to ensure proper sequencing of courses and staying on track for your major.

Have additional questions? Email deptteachlearn@fau.edu.

Christensen-Sharpe Teaches 6th Grade English/Language Arts

Although Sarah Christensen-Sharpe wanted to be a teacher from childhood, she was concerned about teacher's pay versus the cost of obtaining the education needed to become a teacher. "I was working for a company, made good money and benefits, but not happy," she recalled.

So while working full time as a manager at Starbucks, Christensen-Sharpe earned an A.A. degree from Palm Beach State College in 2011 and pursued a B.A. in Elementary Education from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) until her student teaching semester. During her final semester, she was selected to be an Accelerated Induction into Teaching

(AIT) Student Teacher at the Palm Point Educational Research School at Tradition, an FAU College of Education Laboratory Research School in St. Lucie County. (See story on page 4 to learn more about the AIT program.)

After completing her bachelor's degree, graduating Summa Cum Laude in December 2013, Christensen-Sharpe taught fourth grade at Beacon Cove Intermediate School in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) for a year and half. During that time, she completed the M.Ed. Elementary Education at FAU in December 2014 in order to be able to also teach at the college level.

This fall, Christensen-Sharpe began teaching English/Language Arts to

sixth graders at Independence Middle School in SDPBC. In addition, she became an adjunct instructor this fall at Palm Beach State College.

While an undergraduate student at FAU, Christensen-Sharpe valued the field experiences in public school classrooms. Her advice for elementary education majors, is to "keep everything you ever made for classrooms because you'll use them. Take practicum seriously." It is "important to ask practicum teachers what you do on the first day and how to handle classroom management," she continued. "These teachers have a lot of experience."

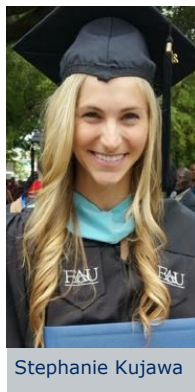


Sarah Christensen-Sharpe

Kujawa Teaches Sixth Grade Science in Broward

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Florida Gulf Coast University in December 2013, Stephanie Kujawa decided to further her studies, earning the M.Ed. Elementary Education from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in May 2015. "I've always wanted to be a teacher," said Kujawa. "I'm a life-long learner. I learn something new every day."

She began teaching sixth grade science at Gulfstream Middle School in Broward County this fall. Kujawa credits the cross curriculum teaching



Stephanie Kujawa

strategies she learned at FAU with incorporating picture book making and children's literature into her science lessons. She also drew on Dr. Janet Towell's advice about getting to know students' interest outside of class in

order to help a student understand the solar system by explaining it in soccer terms.

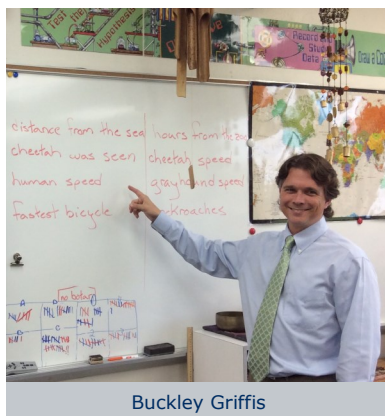
While a graduate student at FAU, Kujawa worked with professors in the College of Education on the Davie Campus as a graduate assistant. "It was a good learning experience," she said, especially when it came to research. Kujawa hopes to instill her love for learning new things in her students. "I would like to help them be the best person they can be," she declared.

"The M.Ed. Elementary Education provides certified elementary school teachers the opportunity to pursue further study and earn an advanced degree."

Griffis Instructs Fourth Grade Students in Palm Beach County

"I've always loved kids," said Buckley Griffis, an alumnus of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) who found his way into teaching through drumming. "I'm also a world percussionist...working with drums and instruments from around the world."

So after teaching world percussion in schools, grant programs in community centers, hospitals and rehabilitation centers for 15 years to students ranging in age from two years old to adults, and teaching instrumental music—percussion instruments and the recorder—for 10 years at Palm Beach Day Academy, a private school, Griffis choose to become an elementary teacher. "I wanted to teach a group of kids all subjects all day," he said.



Buckley Griffis

Now in his second year teaching math, science and social science at Benjamin School in north Palm Beach County, Griffis splits teaching fourth grade with

another teacher. It is "proving to be very rewarding," he said. "I think teaching is an art. Allowing kids to find their own answers and way of learning empowers them to gain strength in themselves and gain self-esteem."

Griffis acknowledged that the M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification he earned from FAU in 2015 helped him develop the skills and tools needed in the classroom. He especially draws on the technology-based skills and assessment tools and practices he learned at FAU.

Griffis who holds a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University

noted, it is "important to provide a safe learning environment for a successful classroom. I like to do a lot of arts integration, particularly with music." Griffis incorporates music in his math, science and social studies lessons. He encourages his students to be creative in expressing what they are learning by using sound and acting out stories.

To those considering a career in teaching, Griffis said that FAU prepares you well for teaching in the classroom. "Working with kids is a wonderful opportunity."

New Faculty Attend Orientation Luncheon, Gear Up for Fall

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) hosted the 2015 New Faculty Orientation Luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2015, at the FAU Stadium's Delray Acura Club. President John Kelly and Provost Gary Perry welcomed the new Faculty Owls to FAU; Dr. Valerie J. Bristol, Dean, College of Education (COE), welcomed new COE faculty. Among them were (from left) Dr. Rina Bousalis, Assistant Professor, Teaching & Learning; Dr. Bessie P. Dernikos, Assistant Professor, Teaching & Learning; and Dr. Samantha Uribe, Instructor, Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry. They are all Owl fans now!



DTL Welcomes New Research, Graduate Assistants

Three students in Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) master's degree programs received assistantships, beginning with the fall 2015 semester. Amelia Forem joined the Collaborative Transformation: Establishing Excellence in Elementary Preparation (EXCEED) Grant team as a Research Assistant. Michael Clinch and Benjamin Hines joined DTL as Graduate Assistants on the Boca Raton and Jupiter Campuses, respectively.

A graduate student in the M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification, Biology, Forem earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with minors in Chemistry and Psychology from Florida State University in 2015. She brings to the Grant team four years of experience visiting Broward County Public Schools and observing excellent teachers while participating in the Urban Teacher Academy

Program during her high school years. Forem volunteered at Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee, Fla., from May 2015 to August 2015 and as Waterway

Cleanup Committee Co-Chair for the Marine Industries of South Florida in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., from March 2010 to March 2011. In addition, she worked as a cashier and in customer service for Bass Pro Shops in Tallahassee, Fla., from July 2015 to August 2015.

Clinch, who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in 2015, is a graduate student in the M.Ed. Environmental Education program. Clinch was named Undergraduate Student of the Year by the College for Design and Social Inquiry in 2015 for his efforts in the development of a program for students in recovery from substance use disorders and mental health



Amelia Forem,
Research
Assistant for
EXCEED Grant



Michael Clinch,
Graduate
Assistant, Boca
Raton Campus



**Benjamin
Hines,** Graduate
Assistant,
Jupiter Campus

concerns and being the founding Student President of the Collegiate Recovery Community at FAU. Clinch's work experience includes giving presentations for the Living Skills in the Schools program in elementary, middle and high schools in the School District of Palm Beach County, while the Clinical Outreach Coordinator from October 2014 to June 2015 for Life of Purpose Treatment, the first academically-focused substance use disorder treatment facility on a college campus. Previously, he worked as a Behavioral Health Technician at the Life of Purpose Treatment Center from April 2014 to October 2014 and as a Receptionist and Surgical Assistant at the Jaffe Eye Institute from November 2011 to May 2013.

Also a graduate student in the M.Ed. Environmental Education program, Hines earned a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science with

specialization in Environmental and Biological Conservation from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., in 2011. As a Residential Outdoor Educator for the Friends of the National Zoo at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Va., Hines took campers from 5th grade to 10th grade on guided nature hikes through national and state parks during summer 2015. As Environmental Educator for the University of Georgia's Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island, Ga., he delivered educational programs, including beach, marsh and forest ecology, history and herpetology from 2013-2015. He became an AmeriCorps member, serving the Jekyll Island Authority's Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island, Ga., from 2012-2013, where he educated guests about sea turtle, box turtle and diamondback terrapin conservation, as well as taught structured programs to visiting school groups. Prior to that, he was a Marine Science Instructor for the newfound Harbor Marine Institute in Big Pine Key, Fla., in 2011, and a Greenhouse Technician, aiding the head of the University of Virginia's Biology Department Greenhouse in 2010. That same year, he was a Research Intern for Stream Watch, a Charlottesville-based organization that collects and analyzes data on water quality, ecology, and local geography to determine stream and watershed health.

Kenney Teaches Gifted Third Grade Students in Jupiter

Cheryl Kenney, a third grade teacher of gifted students, touts the M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification degree she earned from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in 2007 as a great way to change a career to teaching. After many years in advertising and becoming a mom, Kenney chose teaching as a second career. "While being a single mom, I could get through the program," she recalled.

"It completely helped me

to be ready to teach in the classroom and in ways I couldn't imagine," Kenney declared. In fact, when she took Palm Beach County's professional development courses as a teacher, Kenney said they taught the same things I had already done at FAU three years earlier. "The district just caught up. I was prepared on every level."

The program provides students with plenty of classroom observations and hands on experience. All of Kenney's practicums and student teaching internship

took place in elementary schools in the Jupiter area. "I had a phenomenal clinical educator for that scaffolding—observation, 10% working my way to 100% a couple of weeks doing the lessons and then taper off to reflect. I think it [student teaching] is a necessity. Now as a seasoned teacher I have student teachers in my classroom."

Typically student teachers Kenney has in her classroom are young, working on their bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education. "The experience is very different for them than it was for me" as a mom with three children and being a parent volunteer, Kenney remarked. "Student teaching is an eye-opening experience in a classroom and a dialogue with a seasoned teacher first hand."

While a graduate student at FAU, Kenney was a graduate assistant on the Jupiter Campus. The

experience provided her with the opportunity to develop relationships with professors, who served as sounding boards and provided advice, and to make connections that have lasted seven years. "It taught me a lot about research," she noted. Kenney worked with Dr. Deborah Harris and assisted Dr. Joseph Furner with research for an article that was published years later.

In her ninth year teaching at Limestone Creek Elementary in Jupiter, Kenney reflected on her teaching philosophy, "I serve as a facilitator to guide students driving their own learning. Of course we cover the state standards." Kenney added ESOL and gifted endorsements to her initial certification. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida in mass communications.



DTL Participates in COE Welcome Back Reception

Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) faculty participated in the College of Education (COE) Welcome Back Reception hosted by Dr. Valerie J. Bristol, COE Dean. The festivities took place on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015, at the Delray Acura Club, Florida Atlantic University Stadium at 4:00 p.m.,

2015-2016
School Year

following the DTL's first faculty meeting of the 2015-2016 school year from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 313 of the Education Building on the Boca Raton Campus.

"The M.Ed. Elementary with ESOL plus Certification is designed for career changers who seek initial certification to teach grades K-6."

DTL Faculty Listing by Subject Area

Chair Dr. Barbara R. Ridener	Environmental Dr. Bryan Nichols Dr. Nancy Romance	Mathematics Dr. Joseph Furner Dr. Don Ploger
Art Dr. Susannah Brown	Foreign Language Dr. Eileen Ariza	Science Dr. Patricia Heydet-Kirsch Dr. David Kumar Dr. Julie Lambert
Educational Psychology Dr. Alyssa Gonzalez-DeHass Dr. Angela Rhone Dr. Patricia Willems	Instructional Technology Dr. Ann Musgrove Dr. Jillian Powers	Social Science Dr. Rina Bousalis Dr. Penelope Fritzer
Elementary Education Dr. Lori Dassa Mrs. Jodi Leit All faculty	Reading Dr. Jennifer Bird Mrs. Leslie Calhoun Dr. Bessie P. Dernikos Dr. Deborah Harris Dr. Susanne Lapp Dr. Philomena Marinaccio Dr. Janet Towell	Associate Director Dr. Andrew Brewer
English Dr. Penelope Fritzer		Professor Emeritus Dr. Sharon Crawley Dr. Marta Cruz-Janzen Dr. Felicia Romeo

Campus Key: ★ Boca ★ Davie ★ Jupiter

DTL Bids Farewell, Happy Retirement

Senior Secretary Catherine Politi of the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) retired, receiving well wishes from staff and faculty in the College of Education during a reception held Aug. 7, 2015. She first came to FAU for what was supposed to be a two-week temporary assignment in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology (ELRM) and, after being hired full-time on Jan. 3, 2003



by ELRM, served Florida Atlantic University for twelve and a half years. She joined DTL half-time in 2009, while working half-time at ELRM until joining DTL full-time in 2011. Previously, Politi had her own English Language School in South America for 15 years, having taught at least 10,000 students. She is looking forward to pursuing hobbies and spending quality time with family.

Florida Atlantic University

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tl/default.aspx](http://www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/tl/default.aspx)

Preparing informed, capable,
and ethical practitioners who
are reflective decision-makers.

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Reach for the Stars!



Master's Degree in Elementary Education

A 36-credit graduate degree for certified (professional or temporary) elementary school teachers, who seek to:

- Improve teaching skills and pursue further study
- Exchange ideas/collaborate with faculty and colleagues
- Learn about changes in the field of education

Program
of Studies



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Questions & Answers: Financial Aid/Scholarships

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Office of Student Financial Aid assists students who are seeking financial aid and scholarships to finance their

*For information
about programs
contact:*

Boca

undergraduate

561-297-3570

graduate

561-297-3791

Davie

954-236-1028

Jupiter

561-799-8135

education. Here are some answers:

How can students get started?

Students may file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online beginning January 1 for the following academic year. Be sure to include your housing plans on the FAFSA. Visit <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/> for more information.

What is the deadline for applying for financial aid?

Important dates and deadlines for financial aid may be found at <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/resources/dates.php>.

Who can students talk to about their specific questions or concerns?

Check the frequently asked questions at <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/resources/faq.php>. After reviewing this information, students who have additional questions may find their assigned financial aid counselor's name and email address via MyFAU and then contact him or her by email. Instructions for finding an assigned financial aid counselor, as

well as campus locations and contact information for the FAU Office of Student Financial Aid is available at <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/contact.php>.

How can students check on their financial aid status?

Visit MyFAU and follow instructions at <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/maintaining-aid/check-finaid-status.php>.

How do students search for and apply to FAU Financial Aid Scholarships?

Log into MyFAU and follow the instructions at <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/scholarships.php> to apply. This site also has a search engine for scholarships. Scholarships offered by the College of Education (COE) and Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) may be found at <http://www.coe.fau.edu/students/scholarships/> and <http://www.coe.fau.edu/students/scholarships/tl.aspx>, respectively. Please follow instructions carefully as additional application forms and

documents may be required for COE or DTL scholarships. In addition, deadlines may differ from FAU Financial Aid Scholarships.

Is there any financial assistance for buying books?

Yes, students may apply for a short-term advance and, if eligible, to the FAU Bookstore Line of Credit Program. For details, visit <http://www.fau.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/books.php>.

Why must students complete the mandatory course entry survey?

Completing the mandatory course entry survey by the end of add/drop is necessary in order for FAU to document that students have begun attendance in each class in which they are receiving Title IV financial aid (for example, loans, Pell Grants and Work Study). Failure to do so will result in reduction or cancellation of financial aid. The survey is available through Blackboard and is emailed to students each semester during the first week of classes.

