

The DeTail

Volume 4 Issue 2

Spring 2015

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Special points of interest:

- **Application deadline for summer 2015 graduate programs is April 1, 2015.**
- **Approved Plan of Study must be on file with the Graduate College by May 1, 2015 for summer and fall 2015 graduation.**
- **Application for Degree must be submitted by May 29, 2015 for summer 2015 graduation.**

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Letter from the Chair

By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

One semester follows the next. Some stand out as exceptional, but we often do much of what we did the semester before. We, the faculty, work hard to teach well, to find studies to research, and we serve our students. But in that repetition, I find the moments that are different and significant that stand out as exceptional. The faculty member who is recognized for excellence in instruction. The researchers who devote year after year to move the knowledge base

forward. The students who receive scholarships because of their excellence and their interest in excellence. Those affiliated with the Department of Teaching and Learning are truly exceptional!

With this semester we embark on an exciting new partnership. One in which we will set ourselves and our elementary education program apart as one that develops excellence in our graduates. We embark on work that is exciting and groundbreaking. We move to set ourselves apart.



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

DTL Lands Grant to Establish FAU Center for Excellence in Elementary Teacher Preparation

The State of Florida awarded a \$4.3 million grant to Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) to establish a Center of Excellence for Elementary Teacher Preparation, whereby content, teaching and assessment strategies in University coursework are linked with clinical experiences and measureable outcomes, according to an announcement by Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair, Teaching and Learning, and Principal Investigator (PI), on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. FAU is one of four recipients to receive the grant, Collaborative Transformation: Establishing Excellence in Elementary Preparation (CTE3P), and Dr. Valerie J. Bristol, Dean, COE, is Co-PI.

"The grant will allow us to establish a Center of Excellence for Elementary Education and

transform our [undergraduate] program so we can continue the tradition where research and excellence will be ongoing," Dr. Ridener stated. "I am thrilled and very excited about this opportunity!"

CTE3P will provide an opportunity for the Department of Teaching and Learning to collaborate on an innovative partnership between FAU's COE, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, Learning Sciences International and the New Teacher Center. Notably, both Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), the sixth and 11th largest school districts in the State of Florida respectively, will be partnering with the COE as part of CTE3P to improve clinical experiences for undergraduate

elementary education majors to better prepare for K-5 classroom success and ultimately impact K-5 student achievement. To accomplish this, DTL will be hiring a project coordinator, a project manager, a part-time webmaster and four graduate assistants as part of the grant.

The goal of the project is to develop a strengthened, replicable, sustainable and comprehensive teacher preparation program that focuses on improving pre-service teacher training and content knowledge in core subject areas (mathematics, science, social studies, English/language arts and reading); identifying and training highly effective cooperating teachers; documenting pre-service candidate instructional

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Dr. Marinaccio Wins 2014 Faculty Talon Award



Dr. Philomena Marinaccio
Associate Professor

Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s Alumni Association bestowed one of four awards on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014 to Dr. Philomena Marinaccio, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) in the College of Education (COE). Dr. Gary Perry, Provost, presented the Faculty Talon Award to her during the 2014 Talon Leadership Awards Ceremony held on the Boca Raton Campus at the Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center.

Dr. Marinaccio received the award for the leadership, dedication and service she demonstrated in her research, mentoring, and advising of FAU students and student researchers. She is an FAU alumni, having earned the Ed.S. in Curriculum & Supervision, before earning a Ph.D. at the University of Miami. She has taught reading

education courses at FAU for more than ten years.

In her acceptance remarks, Dr. Marinaccio dedicated her award in memory of her mentor, Dr. Stephen H. Voss, "one of FAU's founding fathers" who maintained "an open-door policy" for his advisees. Among those in attendance were Marleen Forkas; FAU President John Kelly; Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, COE Dean; Dr. Donald Torok, Associate Dean; and Dr. Gay Voss.

The Talon Leadership Awards ceremony was established in 1997 and is co-sponsored by the FAU Alumni Association and the FAU Student Government Homecoming Committee. Visit the FAU Alumni website: <https://fauf.fau.edu/netcommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1106>.

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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.

The Department of
Teaching and
Learning faculty
continues to make
a difference
educating pre-
service teachers.
Two of them were
recognized for their
contributions.

DTL Faculty Recognized for Accomplishments

Two faculty members in the Department of Teaching and Learning were recognized for their contributions:

Dr. David Devraj Kumar, Professor of Science Education, was awarded the 2014 Deborah Tippins Mentor Award by the Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education at their annual conference held on Sept. 27, 2014 in Savannah, GA. This award is given to a science educator who embodies exemplary mentoring relationship and it is

named after Professor Deborah Tippins of the University of Georgia.

Leslie Calhoun, Core Teaching Instructor, earned the national Quality Matters (QM) certificate on Oct. 15, 2014 for the distance learning course—RED 4552 Reading Diagnostics and Remediation—she developed. The certification mark is given by the QM Peer Review Team for courses that successfully meet QM standards for quality online education.

Center for Excellence

(Continued from page 1)

effectiveness with students; and developing data-driven performance feedback systems to provide continuous program improvement. This will equip novice teachers with individualized instructional competency profiles, showing strengths and growth areas that will lead to sustained, supported self-improvement and prepare them for advanced study.

DTL Professor Assists with Plan for Thirkell Society Conference



The Angela Thirkell Society
of North America

The Angela Thirkell Society of North America held its national/international conference at the Renaissance Cruiseport Hotel in Fort Lauderdale on October 9-12, 2014. The conference was planned and organized by Dr. Penelope Fritzer, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, College of Education, and by Dr. John Childrey, Emeritus Professor, Department of English, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, both of Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

Angela Thirkell was a popular, yet literary, English writer from the 1930s until her death in 1961. The

conference focused on "Building Her Barsetshire: The Books of the 1930s." An array of speakers discussed aspects of Thirkell's writing and of the history and culture of the pre-war period. They included Dr. Mary Faraci, Professor of English, Department of English, College of Arts and Letters, FAU, and Aurora Siegl, who earned the M.A. Language and Linguistics: Linguistics and B.A. Communications from FAU's College of Arts and Letters.

Dr. Fritzer serves as President/Secretary of the Angela Thirkell Society of North America. She is

the author of *Aesthetics and Nostalgia in the Barsetshire Novels of Angela Thirkell* and *Character and Concept in the Barsetshire Novels of Angela Thirkell*, published in 2009 and 2005, respectively by the Angela Thirkell Society of North America, as well as *Ethnicity and Gender in the Barsetshire Novels of Angela Thirkell*, published in 1999 by Greenwood Press. Presently, Dr. Fritzer is working on a fourth Thirkell book, *Deconstructing Class in the Barsetshire Novels of Angela Thirkell*. For more information about the Thirkell Society, visit <http://www.angelathirkell.org/>.

Patterson Scholarship Awarded to 16 DTL Students

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) in conjunction with Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education announced the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship Recipients for the 2014-2015 academic year. A total of 16 students — one graduate student and 15 undergraduate students — have been selected to participate in the program.

These students will benefit from the tutelage of master Reading educators from the School District of Palm Beach County and professors from FAU's Department of Teaching and Learning. They will also have an opportunity to meet James Patterson, author and donor of the scholarship, and present their research and ideas for improving



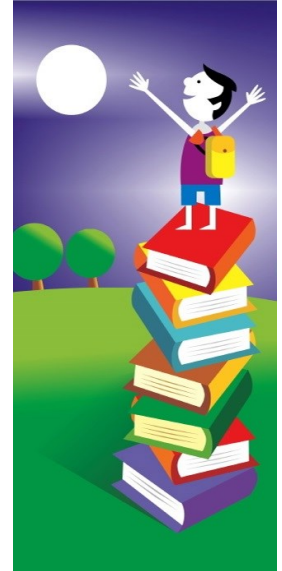
literacy in Palm Beach County schools.

Three of the scholarships were awarded for a third academic year to Melodie Pinsonnault, a graduate student in M.Ed. Reading Education, and Hope Wilkerson and Brandi Radaker, both senior undergraduate students majoring in Elementary Education. Seven of the scholarships were awarded for a second academic

school year. The second-year Patterson scholars are: Iphigenie Clairvil, Erica Elsesser, Emily Lackey, Kristen Long, Kelly Motley, Sasha Toledo and Victoria Velazquez. All of them are undergraduate students majoring in Elementary Education.

The other six scholarships were awarded for the first time to junior undergraduate students. The first-year Patterson scholars are: Chandani Alexandre, Taylor Birkhahn, Guillermo Jasso, Kiley Matarazzo, Madison Takacs, and Donnarieve Thomas. They are all Elementary Education majors.

The scholarships are awarded to outstanding undergraduate DTL students who desire to improve children's literacy.



Dr. Deborah Harris, (far right) Associate Professor, Teaching and Learning, met with the Patterson Scholars for a second time on Friday, January 23, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. in third floor Conference Room 356 in the Education Building on the Boca Raton Campus. Seated, from left are Melodie Pinsonnault, Erica Elsesser, Emily Lackey and Taylor Birkhahn. Standing, from left are Sasha Toledo, Kiley Matarazzo, Iphigenie Clairvil, Guillermo Jasso, Donnarieve Thomas, Madison Takacs, Chandani Alexandre, and Kelly Motley.



Six Students Chosen as AIT Student Teachers

Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT) student teachers have been chosen by principals in the School District of Palm Beach County and St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS) to teach during the spring 2015 semester.

All six of them are final semester students in undergraduate degree programs offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University's College of Education (COE). A special form of student teaching, AIT is the Florida Institute for the Advancement of

Teaching (FIAT)'s capstone program. Each candidate must meet strict criteria, including grade point average and recommendations.

Four students have been assigned to SDPBC: Nicholas Farrell, grade 6 science, Lake Worth Middle School; Kimberly Kochersperger, grade six language arts, Tradewinds Middle School; Jovelle Gordon, kindergarten, Belle Glade Elementary; and Alexandra Gumas, grade 1, Hope Centennial Elementary. Farrell is a Science Education (Biology) major; Kochersperger, an English Education

major; and Gordon and Gumas are Elementary Education majors.

Two Elementary Education majors have been assigned to SLPS: Manace Gonzalez III, grade 1, Samuel S. Gaines Academy, and Michael Della Fave, grade 2, Weatherbee Elementary.

For more information, visit <http://www.coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/fiat/ait.aspx>. Meeting eligibility does not guarantee inclusion in the program.

"The Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) offers COE students opportunities for real classroom experiences through programs such as Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT)."

Dr. Romance, Dr. Vitale Are Researching How Science Learning Can Increase Student Reading Comprehension

Dr. Nancy Romance, Professor, Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education, and her colleague, Dr. Michael Vitale, Professor, East Carolina University (ECU) have used meaningful science learning as a means to help students improve reading comprehension through non-fiction science textbooks. Their research was made possible by a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).



The grant, Discovery Research (DR) K-12, builds upon the research findings of Dr. John

This three-year research project provides schools with evidence-based rationale for expanding science instruction and laying the foundation for STEM education.

Bransford, author of "How People Learn." According to Dr. Romance, Project Investigator (PI) for the grant, Bransford's research suggests that meaningful learning occurs when learners can: (1) easily access their relevant prior knowledge (2) organize knowledge being learned around core ideas, and (3) apply prior knowledge for future studies.

Having successfully researched this approach of using in-depth science learning to improving students' reading comprehension of complex science text and writing in grades 3-5, Dr. Romance and Dr. Vitale carried out a preliminary study of learning

in grades 1-2. Primary Science IDEAS has factored in a number of educational issues that are addressed by the interdisciplinary nature of the model, namely, the integrating of science with reading and writing. Given the diversity of student backgrounds, the fact that, for many students, English is not their first language and for their parents, English is not spoken at all, the fact that many homes lack books, this instructional model can help fill in the learning gaps, noted Dr. Romance.

To that end, Primary Science IDEAS teaches teachers in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) how to use science learning as the basis for students reading, writing and even critical thinking. "We now understand better that meaningful learning (that is, thinking deeply about science concepts) is not devoid of context," Dr. Romance pointed out. "It's a function of what you know. Knowledge begets knowledge."

Teacher Training

During the past year of this three-year research project, 124 teachers have received 10 days (60 hours) of professional development to build their background content knowledge and to implement the Primary Science IDEAS model.

Instructionally, in classrooms the model combines 30 minutes



of active science instruction with 15 additional minutes of a variety of activities, including reading multiple sources and writing/journaling that emphasizes evidence-based claims and argumentation analysis.

Student Achievement

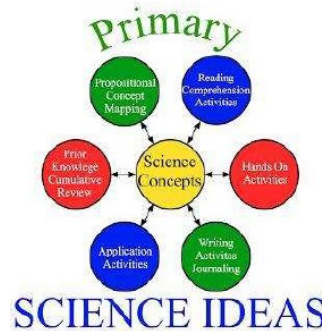
Approximately 2,500 students in grades 1 and 2 are presently participating across nine project elementary schools in SDPBC, while 12 elementary

schools in the same district serve as control schools for the project. The year 1 preliminary results show students who received in-depth science instruction using the



adaptation of the Science IDEAS model obtained significantly higher achievement in Reading and Science subtests on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), scoring +.42 and +.28 grade equivalent, respectively.

Dr. Romance's and Dr. Vitale's research shows that when teachers are given the ability to build children's science content knowledge, in an interdisciplinary manner, the students also reap benefits in reading comprehension and writing. Students must be provided with relevant background knowledge within a meaningful context.



According to Dr. Romance, meaningful learning in science and literacy development go beyond just the teaching of reading strategies. In their project, the researchers have analyzed the District's language arts standards framework for teachers to enhance science and reading comprehension simultaneously. These activities include:

1. Previewing the text
2. Accessing prior knowledge and drawing on past experience
3. Linking sentences together by adding connecting words
4. Reading entire paragraph/page to deepen understanding of bold face words in text
5. Identifying the nouns pronouns are referring to in the text
6. Building fluency with science text
7. Making content the focus of

content-area reading

8. Linking hands-on activities with reading and performance-based assessments such as writing and journaling
9. Using multiple texts on the same topic
10. Using grammar to focus on key words such as action verbs
11. Presenting information and creating visual aids such as concept maps

The Science IDEAS model for integrating literacy within science provides teachers, who participated in the grant program, with four Science Resource Binders covering Physical Science (matter, energy, force and motion), Earth/Space Science (meteorology, astronomy, geology) and Life Science (plants, animals, environmental science) along with the core Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS). In addition, the project distributed 2,400 student journals at the start of this academic year.

Previous Research

Beginning in 1992, Dr. Romance and Dr. Vitale spent five years researching with smaller groups of teachers and grades 3-5 students, how implementing their science/reading/writing/journaling model improved student learning in all three disciplines. Their research found that students performed up to half a year's growth higher compared to similar students. And, for At Risk students their achievement showed a two-year grade level equivalent growth compared to a demographically similar control group.



In 2002, Dr. Romance and Dr. Vitale were awarded a \$6 million NSF grant to implement their model until 2007 with students in grades three through five. Not only did students who participated in the program outperform control students but when they got to middle school, the students in the program continued to surpass similar students in middle school without any further intervention on

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Faculty Lead Reading Circle, Author Event in Davie, Jupiter



Dr. Philomena Marinaccio (seated, middle) holds the book, *Girls, Social Class & Literacy*, along with participants in one of the reading circles that were held on the Davie Campus this past fall. From left are Jamie Winklebech, Office Assistant, College of Education (COE); Daria Prause, graduate student in MBA Business Administration; Marsha Lynch, Assistant Director, Education Student Services, COE; Jasmine Antoine (standing), undergraduate Elementary Education major; Michelle Ventura (sitting), work/study student and undergraduate Elementary Education major; and Sharon Booshi (standing), Office Manager of the Broward Program Board, run by the Student Leadership and Education (LEAD) program. "The Reading Circle is a high impact practice for student success," said Dr. Marinaccio.



Janeen Mason (left), a well-known children's author, visited Dr. Deborah Harris' LAE 4353 class, Language Arts and Literature: Birth-Grade 8, on the Jupiter Campus, on April 10, 2014. Mason discussed the importance of children's literature, the writing and illustrating involved in creating children's books, and her inspiration. At right, she acted out her book, *Ocean Commotion: Caught in the Currents*, and described how teachers could use this book in the classroom. "Mason is a gifted artist and inspiring and energetic presenter," said Dr. Harris. Mason was awarded a United States Maritime Literature Award in 2007 for her book.



Science & Literacy

(Continued from page 4)

the part of grant administrators, stated Dr. Romance.

Adaption of Science IDEAS Model

The current grant, awarded in 2013, adapted the Science IDEAS model for use in grades 1-2. "Everything is anchored by science concepts to be learned," said Dr. Romance. For example, concept maps are used to organize knowledge and make connections to prior knowledge so that students are able to respond to new knowledge and problem solve effectively.

The Primary Science IDEAS model has provided students with the "joy of learning," observed Dr. Romance.

Activities such as journaling science observations help students make links between and among concepts, as well as using explanations to



connect knowledge. Students draw pictures, label diagrams, and write about what they observed and what evidence they have. "Children know when they are learning," Dr.



Romance asserted. The learning process "becomes a magnet."

The leadership teachers, who serve as in-school mentors and problem solvers, lead the summer institute. New teachers are paired with leadership teachers who had been trained by the previous workshops conducted by consultants to this project. Other project personnel include Dr. Annemarie Palinscar, Professor, University of Michigan; Dr. Jerome Haky, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Science; Dr. Charlene Czerniak, Professor, University of Toledo; Dr. James Shymansky, Professor, University of Missouri at St. Louis; Dr. Nancy Stein, Professor, University of Chicago; Dr. Nell Duke, Professor, University of Michigan; and Dr. Jessaca Spybrook, Associate Professor, Western Michigan University.

During a recent workshop, a team of grade 1 teachers worked together to create a concept map for a unit on evaporation. "We



gave them sample maps and taught them how to create it themselves," said Dr. Romance. "They built the map upon foundational core knowledge." The map provided the teachers with a "conceptual framework anchored in knowledge to be learned."

Teacher Perception

Ninety-eight percent of the teachers who have participated in Primary Science IDEAS workshops rated the presenters as excellent (80%) or very good (18%) and 100% reported gaining understanding of the content, according to a district-administered online professional development survey.



Project staff visited all 124 project classrooms in all project schools and Dr. Romance has engaged in collaborative meetings a minimum of three times with each project principal, who is responsible for organizing, facilitating and monitoring teacher implementation of the Primary Science IDEAS model school-wide.

The final goal of this project, according to Dr. Romance, "is to establish two model schools." By making "systemic changes in curriculum policy... to increase instructional time for science instruction" within an integrated model, the model schools would "advance the learning of science by regular and at-risk (and ethnically diverse) students." The evidence from the DR K-12 grant shows that accelerating "age-appropriate understanding of science concepts...better prepares early learners to pursue subsequent learning of science in the grades that follow" and "increases reading comprehension proficiency."

DTL Students Earn 161 Bachelor's; 14 Master's in Fall 2014

On Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) students donned their caps and gowns during Florida Atlantic University's College of Education (COE) commencement ceremony.

The pomp and circumstance took place in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton campus at 5:00 p.m. A total of 161 DTL undergraduate students earned bachelor's degrees: 144 in Elementary Education; one in Science Education: Chemistry; one in Science Education: Biology; seven in English Education; and eight in Social Science Education.

A total of 14 DTL graduate students earned Master's in Education degrees in the following majors:

M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: English
Kara N. Caplivski

M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Math
Semra Bahadir
Silvana P. Sousa



Silvana Souza earned the M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Math.

M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Social Science
Cameron C. Graisberry

M.Ed. Elementary Education
Sarah J. Christensen-Sharpe
Agostina C. Mittone



Dr. Janet Towell (right), Professor, Teaching and Learning, congratulates Sarah Christensen-Sharpe on earning the M.Ed. Elementary Education.

M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification
Haley M. Rubin
Amanda D. Saltzman
Arielle A. Bodzin

M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology
Toshi S. Szpyra

M.Ed. Reading Education
Elanna D. Garick
Elizabeth O'Rourke
Erin M. Portlock
Danielle M. Spasiano



Dr. Joseph Furner (center), Professor, Teaching and Learning, congratulates Courtney Coleman (left), and Michelle Sadlo on their bachelor's in Elementary Education.



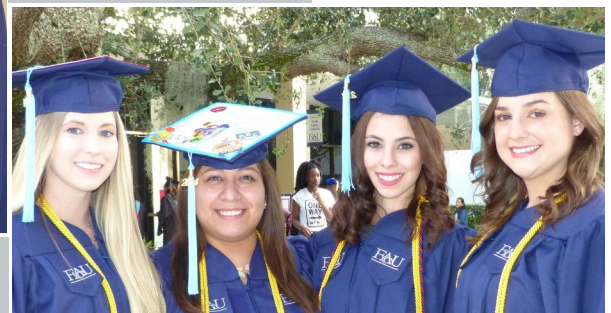
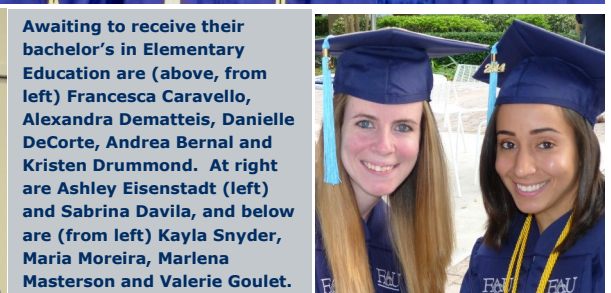
Awaiting to receive their bachelor's in Elementary Education are (above, from left) Francesca Caravello, Alexandra Dematteis, Danielle DeCorte, Andrea Bernal and Kristen Drummond. At right are Ashley Eisenstadt (left) and Sabrina Davila, and below are (from left) Kayla Snyder, Maria Moreira, Marlena Masterson and Valerie Goulet.



All smiles are (from left) Jennifer Lerner, Rachael Walke and Jessica Pruitt, who are delighted about completing their bachelor's in Elementary Education.



Gabriella Almeida looks forward to receiving the B.A. Elementary Education.



Asciutto-Houck Holds Literacy Coach Post in Martin County

The M.Ed. Reading Education offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education prepared Andrea Asciutto-Houck for the Literacy Coach position she holds at Sea Wind Elementary School in Martin County since 2013.

The professors at FAU "taught great methods for reading and writing," noted Asciutto-Houck. They "challenged our thinking and beliefs" and showed us research-based best practices through assigned readings and classroom discussion. Having the research that proves these strategies work gave Asciutto-Houck the "confidence to stand up in front of a group of teachers" and model how to implement them.

Her role as a Literacy Coach encompasses many ways of providing support and guidance to the schools' 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade teachers. Asciutto-Houck models read alouds, mini-lessons on all areas of reading, independent reading with conferring (one-on-one conference with a

student whereby the teacher streamlines instruction specifically tailored to a skill the student needs to improve based on the teacher's review of the data) and guided reading (small group differentiated instruction based on the reading process designed to meet each child's level of reading). Moreover, she provides teacher resources and shows teachers how to conduct assessments such as administering and analyzing running records.

For the district, Asciutto-Houck, trains teachers how to teach writing with the new standards for 3rd through 5th grade. "Teachers are required to know the standards very well and use best practices to implement," she said. Asciutto-Houck also trained Martin County Teachers on the Marzano Art and Science of Teaching Framework, as well as the Language Arts Florida Standards. This past summer, she showed teachers how to implement a reading workshop in their classroom during Martin County's Balanced Literacy Summer Institute.

Previously, Asciutto-Houck worked eight years for Port Salerno Elementary School in Martin County since earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education at West Chester University of Pennsylvania in December 2004. She taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, served as a special education teacher and, in 2012, became a literacy coach.

Port Salerno named Asciutto-Houck its 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year in 2010, the same year she graduated from FAU with a master's in Reading Education. After earning her master's degree, she travelled the State of Florida, conducting workshops on the new standards, worked on the Formative Assessment Team for the State of Florida and assisted with curriculum writing for Palm Beach County. In sum, Asciutto-Houck ensures teachers have the strategies and materials needed to raise the level of instruction and to maximize student learning.



Andrea Asciutto-Houck

"The M.Ed. Reading Education is designed for already certified teachers who want to add reading certification to their teacher certification upon passing the state exam."

Kenski Serves as SAI Teacher in SDPBC

Cassandra Kenski helps second- and third-grade students improve their reading fluency and comprehension, bringing them up to grade level as a Special Supplemental Instruction (SAI) Teacher at Grassy Waters Elementary in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). The purpose, Kenski explained, is to "ultimately improve students' reading fluency and comprehension and get them on grade level."

To that end, Kenski uses poetry as a tool to teach struggling readers how to comprehend material, read fluently, use inflection and identify rhythm. Kenski stated that her students are receptive to poetry because it is not as intimidating as a story, which is longer in length. Students can easily start and finish reading a poem in a quick amount of time compared to a book. Poems also lend themselves to be read with expression.

The idea of using poetry to teach reading comprehension and fluency effectively was an idea Kenski

developed while pursuing her master's in Reading Education at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). The master's program provided the opportunity to "refine my skills as an educator" through instruction by professors and "collaboration with peers, many of whom were teaching for years," she noted.

Kenski worked as a substitute teacher in SDPBC while an undergraduate student at FAU and has been teaching at Grassy Waters since graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in May 2009. Kenski, who took additional courses at FAU and passed the state exam to add Exceptional Student Education certification to her K-6 teaching certification, began as a Response to Intervention (RTI) teacher. In this capacity she pulled students out of their regular classroom throughout the day into small groups to improve students' math and reading skills for two years.

Then she taught third grade for one year. After completing her master's degree in Reading Education at FAU in May 2013, she became an SAI teacher. Kenski instructs 25 students on average daily within a small group setting in this pull-out program. In essence, Kenski builds "foundational skills in order to give students the tools they need to be successful in the classroom."

She also chairs the Grant Writing Committee and Green Team. As a result of her efforts, Kenski oversees the Teaching Garden Grant awarded by the American Heart Association to Grassy Waters that allows students to plant and keep 10 raised garden beds and placed second as SDPBC 2014 Green Teacher of the Year. In addition to teaching at the elementary school, she teaches classes at ITT Technical College and Palm Beach State College.



Cassandra Kenski

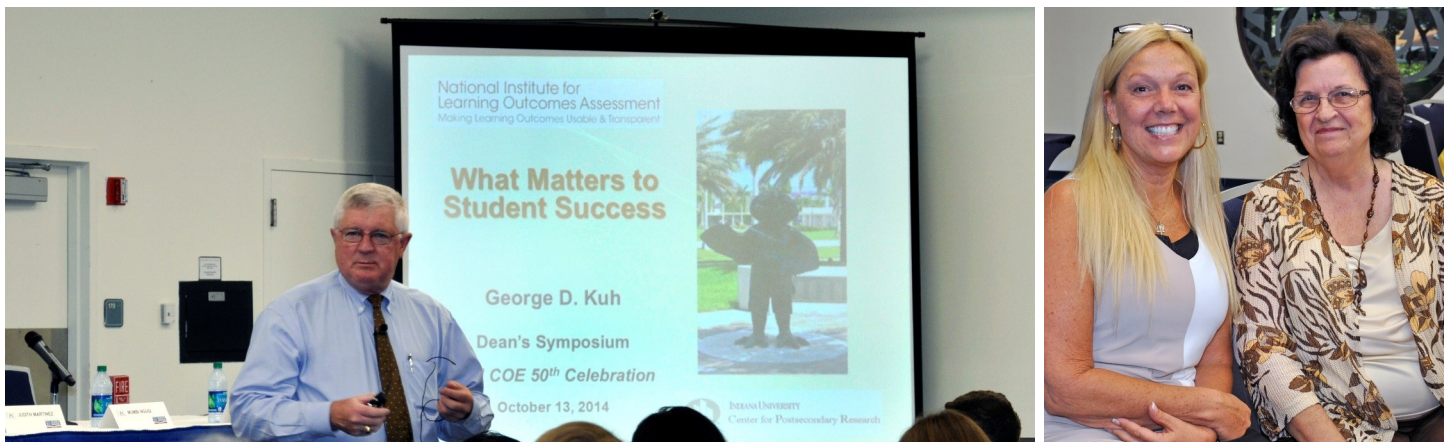
COE Honors DTL Alumni During 50th Anniversary Event



Dr. Barbara Ridener (center in above, left photo), Chair, Teaching and Learning, attended the College of Education (COE) event at the Delray Acura Club, FAU Stadium on Oct. 16, 2014, honoring COE alumni along with Dr. Donald Torok, Associate Dean, and Dr. Sue Graves, Associate Professor, Exercise Science and Health Promotion. Dr. Valerie J. Bristol (right in above, center photo), Dean, COE, congratulated DTL alumni (clockwise, from top center) Jamie Floyd (Brownstein), Stacy Rodriguez, Evelyn Schwartz, Dr. Christine Higgins, Dr. Catherine Bishop-Temple, and Chuck Shaw, Pine Jog Board member and Board Chair of the Palm Beach County School Board. The event was part of the COE's 50th Anniversary celebration.



COE Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Dean Symposium



Dr. George D. Kuh, Adjunct Research Professor of Education Policy at the University of Illinois and Chancellor's Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Indiana University (IU) discussed "What Matters to Student Success" at the College of Education Dean's Symposium at the Live Oak Pavilion on the Boca Raton campus on Oct. 13, 2014. Dr. Kuh said that students "need to see concrete applications" of what they are learning, "communicate effectively and work with a variety of people." A student panel and university panel followed his presentation. Dr. Philomena Marinaccio (left in right photo), Associate Professor, DTL; and Dr. Gay Voss, Florida Atlantic University Alumna, attended the Dean's Symposium.

DTL Participates in COE Expo Celebrating 50th Anniversary



FAU Boca Raton: The Department of Teaching and Learning celebrated the College of Education (COE)'s 50th Anniversary during the COE Expo held on the Boca Raton campus Oct. 14, 2014. From left are Dr. Angela Rhone, Professor; Dr. Lori Dassa, Assistant Professor/Coordinator for Effective Teaching Practices; Jan Andrew-Rudin, University School Assistant Professor and FIAT Director; Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair; Tina Wagner, Work/Study Student; Dr. Dassa; Jennifer Murphy, Graduate Assistant; and Dr. Andrew Brewer, Associate Director for Academic and Assessment Support.



FAU Jupiter: DTL faculty also participated in the festivities on the John D. MacArthur Campus at Jupiter on Oct. 16, 2014. Dr. Brewer (right in above, left photo) greets Dr. James Forgan, Associate Professor, Exceptional Student Education, (center) and his daughter, Emily Forgan. Dr. Valerie J. Bristor (center in above, center photo), Dean, COE, visits with Dr. Christine Higgins, DTL Alumna; and Dr. Joseph Furner, Professor, DTL. Leslie Calhoun, Core Teaching Instructor, and Dr. Bryan Nichols, Assistant Professor, both DTL faculty, were on hand to meet students and alumni.



FAU Davie: On Oct. 15, 2014, DTL faculty, including from left Dr. Penelope Fritzer, Professor, and Dr. Susanne Lapp, Associate Professor, joined the COE Expo on the Davie campus. Dr. Rhone (right in center photo) welcomed students during the event. Dr. Bristor (left in right photo), Dean, COE, and Dr. Lapp also participated in the displays and presentations celebrating College of Education faculty, staff, students and alumni.

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

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M.Ed. Reading Education

Florida Atlantic University



The master's degree in Reading Education enables students to add the reading certification to their teacher certification upon passing the state examination. The reading endorsement is required by the Florida Department of Education to teach reading in grades K-12 and certification is required to be a reading coach.

This program is designed for practicing educators who are already certified (temporary or professional). It may also enable students to become a college reading instructor for undergraduates. DOE & NCATE approved.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING
College of Education
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- Improve Your Teaching Skills/ Knowledge of Reading
- Exchange ideas and collaborate with Faculty and Colleagues
- Hands on Experience/Reading Practicum
- Guide/Lead Colleagues and Paraprofessionals



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

Questions & Answers: FAU Libraries Offers Resources

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Libraries offers students many resources to assist with their research and studies. Check out the ways it can help you

*For information
about programs
contact:*

Boca

undergraduate

561-297-3570

graduate

561-297-3791

Davie

954-236-1028

Jupiter

561-799-8135

achieve your academic goals:

Where are the FAU Libraries located?

Students may visit FAU Libraries on the following campuses:

- Boca Raton Campus—Wimberly Library
- Davie Campus—University/College Library
- Fort Lauderdale Campus—Broward County Library
- Harbor Branch Campus Library
- Jupiter Campus—John D. MacArthur Campus Library

What are the hours of operation?

They vary by location. Visit http://libguides.fau.edu/lib_hours for Wimberly Library; <http://ucf.broward.edu/> for University/College Library; <http://www.broward.org/Library/LocationsHours/Pages/> for Broward County Library; http://www.library.fau.edu/geninfo/harbor_branch_add.htm, for the Harbor Branch Campus Library; and

<http://libguides.fau.edu/content.php?pid=394045&sid=3239592> for John D. MacArthur Campus Library.

Do the FAU Libraries offer help online?

Yes. The Reference Desk provides help via text, chat, email and phone, in addition to in-person services at the Reference Desk and free one-on-one reference consultations. FAU Libraries belongs to the statewide Ask-A-Librarian network, extending the hours when help is available. Visit <http://www.library.fau.edu/depts/ref/askpol.htm> for more information.

What resources are available online?

Among the resources available are streaming videos, http://www.fau.edu/library/ecollect_search/; electronic databases and journals, <http://www.fau.edu/library/ecollect/ecollect.php>; and U-Borrow, <http://union.discover.flvc.org/ux.jsp?S=2461418230310242>, which is a system that lets you borrow books

from any public university in the State of Florida.

Are computers available for use in the FAU libraries?

Yes, for available software at the Wimberly Library, visit <http://www.library.fau.edu/depts/ref/software.htm>.

How can students reserve a study room?

Group study rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis. Inquire at the Circulation Desk at the Wimberly Library or John D. MacArthur Campus Library.

What are LibGuides?

Created and maintained by FAU Libraries, LibGuides provide resources and research information at <http://libguides.fau.edu/>. For example, the John D. MacArthur Campus Library created a list of Caldecott Medal Award Winning Books available on the Jupiter Campus. See <http://libguides.fau.edu/caldecott-Jupiter>.

