

The DeTail

College of Education Department of Teaching & Learning

Volume 6 Issue 2

Spring 2017

Letter from the Chair

Happy New Year!

We are SO excited about all that is happening around the department! Our new bachelor's in elementary education is finally getting started. Most notably, the content courses in mathematics, science, and social studies are available on each campus. We are eager to learn about the impact these courses make on our students and their ability to teach the content. In addition, our first literacy practicum courses are being taught concurrent with elementary education student teaching. The districts are excited to hire our teachers who will graduate with their degrees AND reading endorsement.

Faculty continue to be engaged in extensive research and service work. Their outreach to the community is very impressive. Unfortunately, we will miss two professors who retired. Drs. Fritzer and Towell always were ready to help students and colleagues. I am happy they will now be enjoying the rewards of their hard work but will definitely miss their engagement in departmental matters.

I hope the semester progresses well for all of you and look forward to hearing about all of your accomplishments in the semesters to come.

Best wishes,
Dr. Barbara Ridener



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

Dr. Janet Towell Retires

Dr. Towell has been with the Department of Teaching and Learning since 2004 as a Professor of Reading/Language Arts and Children's Literature. In addition to creating a partnership with Henderson University School for an on-site tutoring system, Dr.



Towell has been the director of the FAU Reading Center and Coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club since 2011. When asked about her retirement, Dr. Towell says "My decision to retire was difficult because I have loved my teaching career, and especially my twelve years at FAU. In the future I want to spend more time in North Carolina with my mother (94) and my three grandchildren: London (6 months), Winston (15 months), and Hampton (3 1/2). I also plan to travel with my husband, spend more time on the beach, learn to paint, and perhaps write a children's book."

Important Dates

- ♦ 1/9– Classes Begin
- ♦ 1/13– Drop/Add Ends
- ♦ 1/16 -Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ♦ 3/6-3/12 -Spring Break
- ♦ 4/3– Last Day to Submit Doctoral Dissertation
- ♦ 4/10– Last Day to Submit Master's Thesis
- ♦ 4/24 -Last Day of Class
- ♦ 5/5 -Semester Ends
- ♦ 5/8– Grades Due to Registrar

DTL Halloween

The Department of Teaching and Learning dress up for the Henderson students to Trick-or-Treat



Waiting for the Henderson 4th graders to come trick or treat!



Jill and Jodi dress up for Halloween



GA's dress as Marry Poppins and Bert

Retirement Party

Dr. Penelope Fritzer and Dr. Janet Towell celebrate their retirement with the Department of Teaching and Learning



Dr. Penelope Fritzer & Dr. Janet Towell at their retirement party



Dr.'s Dernikos, Towell and Brown



Dr. Torok and Dr. Fritzer

Books on Tape Charity

Upon learning that many children have no one at home to read to them, Faren and Sam Silverman created Children's Books On Tape (CBOT) in 2000 to provide low income students with prerecorded children's books. To date, over 50 listening libraries have been delivered to Title 1 schools in Palm Beach and Martin County. Their mission is to provide a Children's Books On Tape Listening Library to each kindergarten, first, second and third grade classrooms in all 64 Title 1 Schools in Palm Beach and Martin County. The program improves students' reading, develops speaking vocabulary, improves sense of story structure, improves spelling ability and provides ESOL students with the equivalent of a private language tutor. Recordings are created by all pre-service teachers who take LAE 4353 in the College of Education as well as local volunteers. CBOT is always in need of new or used children's books to record and may be contacted at CBOT2001@aol.com. All students taking LAE 4353 at FAU are required to participate in the Books on Tape program. Students read a book onto a CD and then the books and CD's are collected to be distributed to Title 1 schools in groups of 50 to 100 forming a taped library. Co-Founder Sam has graduated from Yale University with a degree in Mandarin Chinese and Economics and from Stanford Graduate Business School with a degree in Business. Co-Founder Faren graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in Women's and Gender studies and will graduate from Tulane Law School in June 2017.



Nine New Patterson Scholarship Recipients Chosen

Lauren Dirube
Megan Jones
Allison Kirsch
Crystal Royce
Christina Vernet
Andrea Robles
Savannah Krevitz
Arnecia Watson
Rebecca Krindongo

Professor Highlight

Dr. David Devraj Kumar

Dr. Kumar is a professor of Science Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of the STEM Education Laboratory in the College of Education at FAU. His research focuses on Science Problem Based Learning with Computers, Nanotechnology, Science Literacy, Evaluation, Needs Assessment and Policy. He has directed federal, state and private funded research and development projects. He has been bestowed several awards including the Researcher of the Year from FAU, Distinguished Teacher of the Year of College of Education, Faculty Member of the Year of the FAU Broward Achievement Awards, Sir Ron Nyholm Education Prize from the Royal Society of Chemistry and the STEM-Champion Award for college level faculty from the International STEM Education Association. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In public service, Dr. Kumar is a three term gubernatorial appointee on the Director Board of The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers. Dr. David Kumar most recent success comes as he has recently been appointed as a SENCER Leadership Fellow by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE). Dr. Kumar is one of five educators elected to the most recent class of Fellows by the members of the National Fellowship Board. The Fellows have been chosen from a group of nominees drawn from the more than 6,000 faculty members and academic leaders. SENCER Leadership Fellows are distinguished educators whose leadership and commitment to the improvement of science, technology, engineering or mathematics education is exemplary.

What is your favorite class to teach? I enjoy teaching science education. In this class I have the unique opportunity to teach hands on science content and science methods to students who are on their way to become teachers.

Who inspired you to teach? My parents inspired me to teach. My father was a college professor of oriental languages, and my mother began her career as a physics teacher and retired as Kerala state science supervisor. They never stood in my way of doing scientific experiments with locally available materials, participating, and winning science fair competitions. They believed in instilling a quest for learning in children early on, which I also believe, as the Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

What advice do you have for your students? Commit yourself to cultivate a personal interest in learning. Don't think of learning as a burden. When you are committed to learning you will want to learn, and you will be able to cognitively engage in learning. Also, try to see the connections between the subject matter you are learning and the real world around you. This makes learning meaningful and a personally rewarding experience. Finally, be a good learner so that you can be a good teacher.

Anything else you would like us to know about you? My siblings and I have established a scholarship in India in honor of our late parents to promote science achievement among girls. I would like to see the gender-gap in science disappear, and more girls graduate in science and enter the science workforce.



Looking Forward to Football Season as FAU Welcomes New Head Coach

Florida Atlantic University welcomed new head football coach Lane Kiffin on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Since announcing head coach, Kiffin has already landed four star recruit DeAndre Johnson.

Photo Taken By: Matthew Palmer



Dr. Susannah Brown Wins the Florida Art Education Association 2016 Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Susannah Brown was awarded the Florida Art Education Association 2016 Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony on October 8th at the Naples Grande Resort. Dr. Brown was nominated by three former FAU Master's degree students who are active in FAEA. The FAEA Distinguished Service Award is for the most professional individuals in the field of art. Dr. Brown is in charge of Art Education programs within the College of Education as well as supervising all Art Education student teachers. Dr. Brown works to improve art education and integrate art into other subjects.



Eleven DTL Students Earn Their Master's Degrees

Sheryl A. Christie
M.Ed. Social Foundation:
Educational Psychology

Angela M. Lucht
M.Ed. Elementary
Education

Kristin S. Samartino
M.Ed. Reading Education

Samantha J. Cossin
M.Ed. Curriculum and
Instruction

Lindsey M. Maas
M.Ed. Elementary
Education

Tasnim Soumi
M.Ed. Curriculum and
Instruction

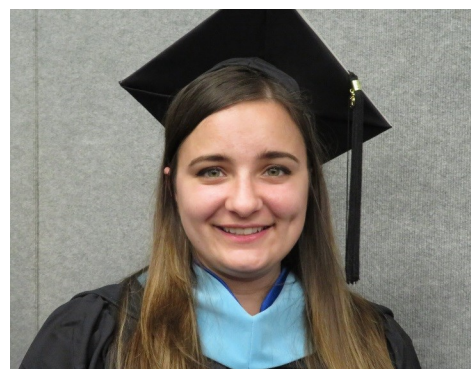
Nina C. Fersten
M.Ed. Elementary
Education

Linsey S. Neiberg
M.Ed. Reading Education

Suzanne M. Whitney
M.Ed. Social Foundation:
Instructional Technology

Wonsha L. Joseph
M.Ed. Social Foundation:
Educational Psychology

Krystle A. Sabdul
M.Ed. Social Foundation:
Instructional Technology



DTL Celebrates the Holidays



The Department of Teaching and Learning joins the rest of the College of Education to celebrate the holidays together

