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FAU Harbor Branch Doctoral Candidate Earns International Award

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (January 7, 2013) – Glenn Coldren, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science at Florida Atlantic University was awarded “visiting scholar” status at Utrecht University in The Netherlands, a distinction that is often reserved for candidates who have completed their postdoctoral studies.

“The ‘visiting scholar’ program is a big deal scientifically,” said Ed Proffitt, Ph.D., Coldren’s faculty adviser. “I know of no other graduate student who’s been awarded such a thing as this before they graduated with their Ph.D.”

Coldren, who is completing his research at FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute research site, attracted international attention for his studies concerning environmental stress gradients and interactions among mangrove and marsh species. Following a presentation this summer at INTECOL, an international ecology symposium, Coldren was offered the “visiting scholar” position. For two weeks in November, Coldren gave seminars, led discussions with Utrecht’s ecology research group, and visited field sites with faculty and graduate students from throughout The Netherlands, linking his research in the Indian River Lagoon and other Florida estuaries to similar studies occurring in Europe.

Through this interaction, Coldren and several European scientists noticed similarities between all of their research, and agreed to collaborate and work toward co-authoring papers in scientific journals. This may also lead to further collaborative research in which interactions among plant species in intertidal wetlands in the Indian River Lagoon and The Netherlands may be compared within the different climatic settings.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the

oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.hboi.fau.edu.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.