



## FALL 2009 eNEWSLETTER

### From the Dean

“Welcome to our first issue of the **science connect** newsletter. Through this on-line newsletter, we will keep you current on the news and events in our College. We sincerely wish to keep connected with our alumni and would very much like to hear from you. Your college, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, remains the primary source of science research and education for more than three million people living in South Florida. Please visit the College’s web site at <http://www.science.fau.edu/> As Dean, and as a member of the faculty, I invite you to contact me for any additional information you would like about the College. I hope to hear from you soon.” Gary W. Perry [perryg@fau.edu](mailto:perryg@fau.edu)

### Challenge Grant

- To encourage others to help underwrite the College’s many community service programs, a \$10,000 Challenge Grant has been pledged by Science Advisory Board member Mr. Herbert Raiffe to match new sponsorship commitments. Mr. Raiffe is the retired Chairman of the Board and CEO of Gund Incorporated. If you would like to participate in this challenge please contact Avy Weberman [aweberma@fau.edu](mailto:aweberma@fau.edu) or (561) 297-0007.

### Research Funding

- Faculty in the college have received four stimulus grants for a total of \$480,000 from the federal government. Among those receiving stimulus grants are Dr. Robert Stackman (Psychology); Dr. Frank Mari (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Dr. Sarah Milton (Biological Sciences). Your tax dollars at work!!
- Dr. Leonard Berry, Distinguished Professor and Director for the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, has received a \$2.1 million contract from the So. Florida Management District to continue management of the Riverwoods Field Laboratory in Lorida, Florida. It’s worth a visit—take the kids <http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu>
- A total of more than \$8.5 million in grants and contracts was received by members of the Science faculty during the academic year 2008-2009 9 (see <http://www.fau.edu/research/communications/files/researchnewsletter.pdf>)

### Nobel Symposium

- In February 2009, the college co-sponsored with the Max Planck Institute, the annual Nobel Symposium. Professor Bert Sakmann, M.D., Ph.D, the 1991 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine presented the lecture. Past Nobelists who have presented this lecture include Dr. James Watson (DNA; New York) and Dr. Gunther Blobel (Cellular trafficking; New York). In addition, Dr. Benoit Mandelbrot, father of fractals, presented the lecture in 2008. The 2010 lecture will be presented by Professor Sir Harold “Harry” Kroto [http://www.science.fau.edu/chemistry/2009nobel\\_symposium.htm](http://www.science.fau.edu/chemistry/2009nobel_symposium.htm)

## Education

- Approval by the Florida Board of Governors was granted to the department of Geosciences to implement a new professionally oriented PhD program this Fall. Information on this novel program can be found at ([http://www.geosciences.fau.edu/programs/doctoral\\_program.htm](http://www.geosciences.fau.edu/programs/doctoral_program.htm)) The College now offers a seven doctoral programs, one in every department and one research center (Complex Systems and Brain Sciences). For more information see <http://www.science.fau.edu/gradsite/>
- A record number of graduate students completed their Ph.D degrees in 2008-2009. Thirty four (34) Ph.D.'s were conferred along with 91 Master's degrees and 587 baccalaureate degrees.
- Thirty-seven FAU students were accepted to medical, dental and veterinary schools during the 2008-2009 academic year. FAU students were accepted to all of the Florida medical, dental and veterinary schools, as well as Wayne State medical, USC dental, Tufts dental, Temple dental, SUNY medical, NYU medical, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (medical) and VCU medical, as well as others. Information on the College's pre-professional program can be found at [http://www.science.fau.edu/student\\_services/preprof.html](http://www.science.fau.edu/student_services/preprof.html)
- A \$700,000 grant was awarded to Rod Murphey and Evelyn Frazier (Biological Sciences) from the National Science Foundation to provide opportunities for undergraduates to participate in cutting edge research with the faculty (<http://www.science.fau.edu/biology/URM/index.html>)
- Dr. Donna Chamley-Viik (Chemistry and Biochemistry), working jointly with the School District of Palm Beach County has begun the third year of a five year \$2.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation in the implementation of "Project ChemBond (Building Opportunities for Networking and Discussion: The Next Generation" in local high schools. <http://www.science.fau.edu/chemistry/GK12/index.html>
- During the 2008-2009 academic year, 41 of our students received more than \$50,000 in scholarship awards made possible by donors. You too can invest in our students at <http://www.science.fau.edu/invest/>

## Community Engagement

- **Frontiers in Science** is a popular public lecture series that will begin its 10<sup>th</sup> year on **January 15, 2010** with a presentation by Dr. Marla Sokolowski, Professor of Biology, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto. For more information, please see [www.science.fau.edu](http://www.science.fau.edu) or email Patsy Jones [patsyj@fau.edu](mailto:patsyj@fau.edu).
- Faculty from the College will present the lecture series "**Exploring Science Today**" to the Jupiter Life Long Learning Society during their Winter program Semester <http://wise.fau.edu/divdept/lifelong/LLSJupiter/ljsjupiter.php>
- **Science Olympiad** is one of the premiere science competitions for middle and high school students in this country. This fun and exciting hands-on team competition is devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education. Dr Ingrid Johanson is the founder and coordinator of the South Florida Science Olympiad, which last year attracted more than 250 students and teachers. More information about this year's event which will be held on **February 20, 2010** at [www.science.fau.edu/scienceolympiad](http://www.science.fau.edu/scienceolympiad).
- **FAU Math Day Extravaganza** to be held on **April 10, 2010** is a daylong series of events, seminars and activities that brings together more than 250 high school students and teachers with FAU Mathematics Faculty and students. The challenging competitions, stimulating fun math contests and inter-active exchanges with outstanding leaders from academia and industry provide high school students with

meaningful experiences that emphasize applications of mathematics, problem solving, and teamwork. For more information, please contact Emily Cimillo (561-297-3342) or [ecimillo@fau.edu](mailto:ecimillo@fau.edu)

- A networking event for alumni, graduate students, faculty and staff is held on the last Thursday of the month. Additional information can be found on [www.science.fau.edu](http://www.science.fau.edu) and click on Science Connect, or contact Dr. Leslie Terry at [terry@fau.edu](mailto:terry@fau.edu)
- The college is on Facebook!! For current news and information on College events-check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/home.FAU-Charles-E-Schmidt-College-of-Science/>

**We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and future issues. Please send any feedback to Patsy Jones at [patsyj@fau.edu](mailto:patsyj@fau.edu)**