



Summer 2011 eNEWSLETTER

From the Dean

Another academic year has come to a close and once again the Charles E Schmidt College of Science has reached new milestones in our development and set some new records for our programs. Not only has the university seen a record number of applications, well over 20,000 (usually about 10,000), but so has our College. Our College is now not only the second largest producer of FTE in the University, but also has the second largest enrollment after the College of Business. Clearly, the year ahead will be challenging. For the year ahead, the University has appointed Dr. Brenda Claiborne as university provost. Dr. Claiborne is a neuroscientist by training and in addition to becoming provost Dr. Claiborne will join our college as Professor of Biological Sciences. In addition, Dr. Margaret Leinen, former vice provost for marine and environmental programs at the University of Rhode Island has been appointed associate provost of marine and environmental initiatives and Executive Director of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, and joins our College as Research Professor of Geosciences. We look forward to working with them both in the future. Finally, I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer. As always, I invite you to contact me, for any additional information you would like about our College, or send me an email to let us know what you are up to—Dr. Gary W. Perry at perryg@fau.edu

People

- Congratulations to **Dr. Andrzej Nowak** (Psychology) with tenure; **Dr. Salvatore Lepore** (Chemistry and Biochemistry); and **Dr. Dragan Radulovic** (Mathematical Sciences), who were all promoted to **Full Professor**.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Nathan Dorn** (Biological Sciences); **Dr. Maria Fadiman** (Geosciences); **Dr. Tanja Godenschwege** (Biological Sciences); **Dr Sarah Milton** (Biological Sciences); and **Dr Vincent Naudot** (Mathematical Sciences), who were all promoted to **Associate Professor with Tenure**
- **Dr. Tanja Godenschwege** (Biological Sciences) was named both **College and University Researcher of the Year** at the assistant professor level. **Dr. Sal Lepore** (Chemistry and Biochemistry) was named **College Researcher of the Year** at the associate professor level.
- **Dr. Robert Stackman**, (Psychology) was named **College Teacher of the Year**.
- We welcome **Dr. Sukanya Chakrabarti** as a new assistant professor in **Physics**.
- **Dr. Charles Roberts** (Geosciences) has been appointed **Associate Dean for Graduate Studies** in the College effective July 1, 2011.
- **Dr. Thomas Eisenbarth** (Mathematical Sciences) was selected to receive the **Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty enhancement award** for 2011 by the ORAU. He was one the thirty faculty chosen from amongst 118 applicants for the award nationally.

- **Dr. Diuto Esiobu** (Biological Sciences) was selected for a prestigious **Jefferson Science Fellowship** administered through the National Academies and U.S. Department of State.
- **Dr. Leonard Berry**, distinguished professor and director of the Center for Environmental Studies within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, received the “South Florida Business Leader of the Year” award from the Seafarers’ House at its 15th annual luncheon. The award honors individual community leaders who have made significant contributions to support and sustain our communities and oceans.
- **Dr. Ram Narayanan** was elected to **BioFlorida’s Board of Directors**. BioFlorida is the voice of Florida’s bioscience industry, and represents 200 member companies and research organizations in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device fields.
- **Dr. Morris Povar** received the **President’s Distinguished Service Medallion** at Commencement on May 6th, for service to the College and FAU. Dr. Povar, Professor and Head of Veterinary Service at Brown University (retired), has served on FAU’s IACUC for 25 years as advisor, mentor and public member.
- **Dr. Michael T. Turvey**, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut, received the **Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters** at Spring Commencement in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his field, the College and to FAU. This event also celebrated the **25th Anniversary of the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences at FAU**.

Alumnus

- **Michael Wollam, BS '66**, was the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science **Distinguished Alumnus for 2011**. Mike is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Pasco-Hernando Community College (PHCC). He enrolled at FAU in 1964 as one of the first cohort of students and was a member of the first class to complete the two-year bachelor's degree program in biology. Mike’s career includes work with the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Crystal River Marine Science Station. He was a biology professor at for nearly 30 years at PHCC and retired in 2005.

Research

- The **South Florida Water Management District** Governing Board awarded **Dr. Dale Gawlik**, associate professor in biological sciences, **\$1 million** for continuing support of a unique study that is helping scientists protect and restore wading bird colonies in the Everglades. This study is helping the District to meet an objective of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which calls for restoring nesting colonies of wading birds in the Everglades.
- **Dr. Xavier Comas** (Geosciences) received a collaborative three-year, **\$515,000 National Science Foundation** grant in conjunction with Rutgers University and University of Maine to quantify variation in storage and emission of greenhouse gases methane and carbon dioxide from northern peatlands using a combination of geophysical, hydrological and geodetic sensing techniques.
- **Dr. Erika Hoff** (Psychology) was awarded an **NIH** grant entitled “Early Dual Language Development in Children from Spanish-Speaking Families”- **\$3.7 million** over 5 years.
- **Dr. David Lewkowicz** (Psychology) was awarded an **NIH** grant entitled “grant "Inter-sensory Perceptual Narrowing in Human Infants," - **\$2.2 million** over 5 years.
- **Dr. Thomas Eisenbarth** (Mathematical Sciences) was awarded a five year **NSF** grant entitled “Practical Leakage Resilience: Provable Sid-Channel Resistance for Embedded Systems” for **\$500,000**.
- **Dr. Herb Weissbach**, Director of the Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, was awarded the first joint NIH grant (\$75,000) from FAU with Scripps Florida - Project Title: High Throughput Assay for Activators and Inhibitors of MSRA.

- On March 25, 2011, the College held its annual **Graduate Research Day**. Over 50 posters were presented by graduate and undergraduate students with faculty and highlighted the state-of-the-art research conducted in our college. Pictures of the event at http://www.science.fau.edu/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=gradresearchday11
- The **Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing** was held March 7-11, 2011 in the Student Union at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. This annual meeting is organized by **Dr. Fred Hoffman, Dr. Ron Mullin and Dr. James Oxeley** and celebrated its 42nd year bringing together mathematicians and others interested in combinatorics, graph theory and computing, and their interactions.
- Florida Atlantic University and the **Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI)** of Florida in Port St. Lucie have reached an agreement to collaborate on research, education and training. The collaborative research will focus on novel cancer therapies, gene therapy and virus research that includes the study of the HIV virus, and the role of the immune system in cancer. The collaboration also will involve sharing facilities and equipment, co-hosting joint seminars and preparing joint grant applications to state and federal agencies.

Education and Academics

- In the recent **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)** competition at FAU, the proposal “Integrating and expanding a culture of research and scholarship at FAU through the framework of an honors program” submitted by Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik and Dr. Jerome Haky, et al. (Chemistry and Biochemistry) was chosen for funding.
- The **Department of Geosciences** admitted its first 3 candidates to candidacy for the PhD in Geoscience—a new PhD program implemented in Fall, 2009.
- This past year we graduated 644 undergraduates with **Baccalaureate degrees**, 71 students graduated with **Master’s** degrees and 25 students with **PhD’s**.
- This year, the College hosted its **Annual College Scholarship Awards Ceremony** on April 21st to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of its Scholarship Donors and to recognize the scholastic achievements of the student scholarship recipients. To learn more about the significant difference and impact you can have on a student’s academic career through a scholarship gift, please contact **Avy Weberman**, Director of Development, at aweberma@fau.edu or 561.297.0007. For a photo display of this event, see http://www.science.fau.edu/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=scholarshipspring2011
- The 2011 **FDR (Future Doctors Reception)** was held on Wednesday evening May 11th in the university’s new Faculty Club. The reception honored our students who were accepted into medical, dental, veterinary or pharmacy school during this past year, along with their clinical mentors. The students were: L. Andreolas, S. Archbold, M. Best, S. Crusco, C. Dean, A. DeYoung, R. Freire, C. Giraldo, C. Hendricks, E. Hodge, E. Idrisov, S. Jacas, T. S. Jackson, R. Lambert, T. L. Linne, A. Mahrer, L. McCullough, K. A. McLaughlin, D. R. Mitchell, R. Moorhouse, C. Navarrete, J. Sanchez, K. Soto, B. Stepanenko, A. Stiles, and L. Zlotcavitch. Three of our students will be members of the Florida Atlantic University Schmidt College of Medicine inaugural class. See http://www.science.fau.edu/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=fdr2011
- For the 8th year, the **Pre-Health Professions Office** at Florida Atlantic University brought health-related graduate programs and students together in the 2011 “Pre-Health Professions Day.” Admissions representatives from health related graduate schools and programs from around the country were on the SC patio March 22, 2011 while many of the FAU pre-health clubs conducted workshops on the Sanson Science/Physical Sciences quad. For the first time, every medical school in the state of Florida attended, as

well as many dental, veterinary, physician assistant, chiropractic, public health, and other health-related graduate programs. The turnout this year was the best ever, with well of 400 students in attendance!

- The **Student Services Office** moved at the start of the spring semester into newly renovated space on the 3rd floor of the Science/Engineering Building (Suite 308). The suite, decorated in FAU colors, accommodates all of our professional academic advisors, as well as the Pre-health Professions Office. The “Owls Nest” student lounge has a large screen TV used to show science and nature videos, as well as computer terminals for student use. The suite also houses a collection of over 400 owls. Watch for the open house/grand opening this fall!

Community Engagement and Outreach

- The College hosted the 4th annual **Science Olympiad for High School and Middle School Students** on February 19th, 2011. Over 500 students participated in science competition. The winners of the High School Team Competition was Boca Raton High School who went on to win the State Championship, and the winner of the Middle School Team competition, Archimedean Middle School, also went on to win the State Championship.
- The Department of Mathematical Sciences added a new event to its annual **Math Day** that occurred on April 2nd, 2011. Over 90 middle school students from around the area participated in the American Mathematics Contest 8 (AMC8) spending the day learning about math and science. FAU is the only Florida University to offer the AMC-8. The keynote speaker was Dr. Tracette Jackson, a distinguished researcher in the field of mathematical oncology at the University of Michigan.
- This year marked the **10th anniversary of EDC's Life Science Conference**, which took place on May 11th, 2011 and was hosted by our College at Florida Atlantic University where it began in 2002. The theme of the conference was "Growing South Florida's Life Science Cluster", with a specific focus on Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine and future plans for the I-95 Life Sciences Corridor Initiative linking academia and industry. Graduate students and faculty from Biology and Chemistry participated in the poster session and talks. The conference featured keynote speakers and panel discussions covering South Florida's pipeline of emerging life sciences technologies. For photographs of the event see http://www.science.fau.edu/gallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=EDCBioTech2011
- Our Life Long Learning series “**Exploring Science**” was presented on the MacArthur campus of FAU in Jupiter during the month of January and included lectures by Dr. Lyndon West (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. Ed Petuch (Geosciences), Dr. Jeanette Wyneken (Biology) and Mr. Jay Paredes (Dean’s Office).
- In Spring the College hosted another great year in the public lecture series **Frontiers in Science**. For a list of the series of talks offered in the Spring 2011 go to http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2011.pdf

Science Advisory Board

- We welcome **Ms. Marsha Rimokh** as a new member of the **Science Advisory Board**. Ms. Rimokh is Owner and Managing Director of Mathnasium of Boca Raton, a math learning center offering enrichment mathematics education and tutoring to grades 2 -12. She is also President of Aquarius International, Inc., a corporate relationship marketing company. She is a member of the Spanish River High School Entrepreneurship Academy Advisory Board; member, Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce; Chairman, Mastermind America; and past chairman of board of directors, Make-a-Wish Foundation of South Florida. A native of South Florida, Marsha received her B.S. in Economics at the University of Miami.
- For other members of the **Science Advisory Board** go to <http://www.science.fau.edu/board.html>

Fundraising

- Thanks to generosity of many individuals, foundations and corporations and to the foresight of the late Andre R and Marjorie C Buglione, who 13 years ago included the College in their estate plans for \$250,000, this was a banner fundraising year for the College, with more than **\$545,000 in cash gifts** recorded this fiscal year to date (through May 31, 2011). This represents a 270% increase over last year, and the highest fundraising total recorded for the College in more than 12 years.
- To learn more about the significant impact that your generosity can have on the College and the tremendous legacy that your planned gift can leave for future scientists, please contact **Avy Weberman**, Director of Development, at aweberma@fau.edu or 561.297.0007.
- To make a current gift on line please go to <http://www.science.fau.edu/invest/>

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and future issues. Please send any feedback to Lynn Sargent at lsargent@fau.edu.