



## Winter 2011 eNEWSLETTER

### From the Dean

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our alumni and friends of our College and their families a very Happy Holiday and Best Wishes for the New Year. The past year has seen many changes at FAU, including the installation of a new president, Dr. M.J. Saunders, the ground-breaking for a new football stadium on the Boca Raton campus, and approval of a new medical school. In Science we have seen our enrollments continue to increase as the College became the second largest college at FAU, generating almost a quarter of the total full time enrollment (FTE) produced at FAU and graduating the largest number of PhDs of any college in the University. Our faculty remain among the most successful at FAU in receiving grants and contracts for their research and continue to publish at a high rate in top-notch journals. College highlights of the year include the Nobel Lecture by Professor Sir Harry Kroto in February and the inaugural FAU/Max Planck Neuroscience Symposium in September. While it will not be without its challenges, we look forward to a productive and rewarding new year. As always, I invite you to contact me for any additional information you would like about the College, or to send me an email to let us know what you are up to at [perryg@fau.edu](mailto:perryg@fau.edu)

### People

- The following faculty members were granted Tenure: **Dr. Robert Stackman**, Psychology; **Dr. John Nambu**, Biology; **Dr. Colin Hughes**, Biology.
- The following faculty members were granted promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure: **Dr. Stephen Kajiura**, Biology; **Dr. Andrew Lau**, Physics; **Dr. Honwei Long**, Mathematics; **Dr. Wolfgang Tichy**, Physics; **Dr. Andrew Terentis**, Chemistry.
- **Charles Finkl**, Ph.D, currently Research Professor in the Department of Geosciences recently made a very generous donation to establish the “Charles W. Finkl Opportunities Endowment Fund” which is designed to provide the department with the ability to take advantage of unexpected opportunities and to meet new challenges throughout the year.
- **JA Scott Kelso**, Ph.D, FAU Eminent Scholar in Science recently gave the Keynote Lecture in Galway at the 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science. Following the lecture, Kelso met with President James Browne of the National University of Ireland.

### Alumnus

- **Sandy Justice Lepley**, BA’70, Department of Psychology, 1970, M.Ed.’72, MBA in Health Administration and Research at the University of Miami ’82 and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from

UCF '06. After a career in administration at Edison College, she has returned to her first love , counseling and is the school counselor with administrative duties at Richard Milburn Academy, a public charter high school for 'at risk' students in Fort Myers, Florida.

- **Nealie C. Newberger**, Ph.D. '06, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is currently the Quality Manager for a local cGMP analytical chemistry laboratory. Crystal 3 Laboratories, Inc., located in Boca Raton specializes in pharmaceutical testing and R&D to support generic drug development . Dr. Newberger has been with the company for more than two years and supports the growth of the laboratory through her involvement with *Pharma Thursdays: South Florida*, a life sciences and biotechnology group she helped start .

## Research

- The Florida Board of Governors announced that the college has received two awards from the state university system's *New Florida Initiative*. The purpose of these grants is to provide for collaboration with other institutions among faculty in teaching, research and service in order to solve certain state policy and industry challenges. The grants were:
  1. For a neuroscience research hub on the Jupiter campus with Max Planck Florida Institute (\$300,000); proposal submitted by **Rod Murphey**, Ph.D and **Janet Blanks**, Ph.D.
  2. For a collaborative climate change task force with UF and FSU (\$175,000); proposal submitted by **Len Berry**, Ph.D. and **Marguerite Koch**, Ph.D
- Florida Atlantic University and the Max Planck Florida Institute hosted their inaugural Neuroscience Symposium September 28th and 29<sup>th</sup>. The two-day event featured speakers and scientific presentations given by FAU, Max Planck and other research institutes and universities from around the country. Attending students and faculty had the opportunity to learn about the latest scientific advances to address some of the most complex issues at the forefront of today's neuroscience research.
- The College sponsored the thirteenth annual Information Security Conference (ISC) covering research in theory and applications of Information Security (October 25-28, 2010). Over forty-five participants from around the globe joined the conference. Initiated as a workshop in Japan in 1997, it has become an international conference attracting top scientists from around the world. For details see <http://math.fau.edu/~isc2010/index.html><<http://math.fau.edu/%7Eisc2010/index.html>>
- Grants and awards received this fiscal year by **Dr. Ed Proffitt**, Professor of Biology at HBOI from USF; **Dr. Lyndon West**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; **Shailaja Kesaraju**, Research Associate, CMBB, Jupiter from American Cancer Society; **Dr. Edward Large**, Associate Professor of Psychology from NSF; **Dr. Robert Vertes**, Professor of Psychology from NSF; **Dr. Dale Gawlik**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences from US Army Engineer Research, SFWMD-MAP, USDOI-F&W; **Dr. Ranier Steinwandt**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences from NSF; **Dr. Stephen Kajiura**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences from PGS Americas; **Dr. Michael Salmon**, Research Professor in Biological Sciences from PGS Americas; **Dr. Nwadiuto Esiobu**, Associate Professor in Biological Sciences from Lingage Fellow; **Dr. Sarah Milton**, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences from Morris Animal; **Dr. Nathan Dorn**, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences from SFWMD; **Dr. Kailiang Jia**, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences from Ellison Medical Foundation; **Loisa Kerwin**, Center for

Environmental Studies from SFWMD; **Dr. Frank Mari**, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry from NIH; **Dr. Andrew Terentis**, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry from FAU Internal Travel; **Dr. Salvatore Lepore**, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry from Torrey Pines; **Dr. Zhixiao Xie**, Assistant Professor of Geosciences, from USGS; **Dr. Scott Markwith**, Assistant Professor of Geosciences from SFWMD; **Dr. William Kalies**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences from NSF; **Dr. William Mech**, Professor of Mathematical Sciences from PBC School District; **Dr. Robert Stackman**, Associate Professor of Psychology from NIH; **Dr. Bret Laursen**, Professor of Psychology from ETR Associates Inc PGS; **Dr. Elan Barenholtz**, Assistant Professor of Psychology from NSF; **Dr. Andrzej Nowak**, Associate Professor of Psychology from U of MD; and Dr. David Lewkowicz, Professor of Psychology from NIH

## Publications

- **Dr. Steven Bressler**, Professor in Complex Systems and Brain Sciences and Psychology, co-authored with Vinod Menon of Stanford University, the feature review article in the June 2010 issue of Trends in Cognitive Sciences <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20493761>, a Cell Press journal. The paper "*Large-scale brain networks in cognition: emerging methods and principles*" was exclusively highlighted on the journal cover. It has now been recommended as a 'must read' article by the Faculty of 1000 Biology, the prestigious online service that highlights and evaluates the most interesting papers published in the biological sciences based on the recommendations of over 2000 of the world's top researchers.

## Education

- FAU/Max Planck Florida Institute Integrative Biology and Neuroscience graduate program was launched. This joint program will welcome its first class in the Fall of 2011 and is expected to attract top-notch graduate students locally, nationally and internationally.
- The Department of Physics started a new Professional Master of Science in Medical Physics (MSMP) program. MSMP is a professional, interdisciplinary, innovative program that develops advanced scientific knowledge and specialized skills suitable to the practice of modern medical physics.
- A Professional Science Masters Biotechnology degree program, jointly sponsored by the Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and the College of Business, has been recently initiated. This will benefit the students with a science background who might consider combining their scientific interest with an advanced business degree. With the rapid growth of the biotechnology industry in this region that has already taken place, there will be a need for individuals with this broad training.
- The Department of Mathematical Sciences added a new event to its annual Math Days. 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.
- Davie West Building Dedication was recently held. This new 75,000 square foot building was designed to meet U.S. Green Buildings Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification.. It is shared between FAU's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science and UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. The building houses faculty offices for both of FAU's colleges, five classrooms, including a 100 person tiered classroom, and state-of-the-art labs for Everglades restoration and environmental science for both FAU and UF.

## Science Advisory Board

- The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science Advisory Board is an independent organization providing support and assistance to the College whose mission is to advise the College regarding its progress and interactions with individuals, corporations, and agencies external to FAU and to develop, plan and facilitate specific targeted activities that advance College goals through outreach to them.
- **Claire Thuning-Roberson** Ph.D was recently elected board chair. **Christopher Gagic**, Esq. is vice chair and chair of the Development Committee. **James Tisdale**, immediate past chair is the chairman of the Legislative Committee.
- “Turtle: The Incredible Journey” an epic adventure film by award winning director, Nick Stringer was shown on Tuesday, November 9 at the Crest Theatre in Old School Square, Delray Beach. **Jeanette Wyneken**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biological Sciences served as scientific advisor for the film. Over \$33,000 was raised with the proceeds from this fund raiser going to support sea turtle research at FAU. This event was planned and coordinated by **Avy Weberman**, Director of Development, and the Science Advisory Board. If you would like to explore making a donation to college programs please contact Avy at [aweberma@fau.edu](mailto:aweberma@fau.edu)

## Save the Dates

- **January 7** begins the Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series—for the list of presenting lectures check out the College website at [http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster\\_spring\\_2011.pdf](http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2011.pdf)
- **February 18** is the fourth annual South Florida Science Olympiad day at FAU
- **March 25** is the date for the annual College Research Day
- **April 2** is Encounters with FAU Math 2011

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and future issues. Please send any feedback to **Lynn Sargent** [lsargent@fau.edu](mailto:lsargent@fau.edu).