



FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Happy new year! In the Dean's Office we are looking forward to a smooth and successful spring semester. This edition of *Science Connect* is the first in a series of monthly e-newsletters that will highlight upcoming events, grants awarded, faculty and student accomplishments, funding opportunities and other pertinent information. To include information in future editions, please forward the information to Paige Garrido at pgarrido@fau.edu. College highlights and news will also be posted on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/FAUscience>. Have a great semester!

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE UPCOMING EVENTS (JAN. 15 - FEB. 15)

To see a complete list of semester events, visit: <http://www.science.fau.edu/events.html>. To include a department or club event on this list, please send the information to Paige Garrido at pgarrido@fau.edu.

January 18

Math Department Hosts Mu Alpha Theta Regional Competition

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Davie Campus

The mathematics department will host 1,200 of South Florida's most talented high school math students and teachers as they compete in the Mu Alpha Theta Regional Competition. For more information, contact Marcus Schmidmeier at markusschmidmeier@gmail.com.

January 21

FAU Neuroscience Seminar

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Engineering East Bldg., Room EE106

Videoconference to Jupiter Campus Room MC-19, Room #201 and Davie Campus, Room LA-148

Dr. Mukesh Dhamala, Georgia State, Atlanta, GA, "Oscillatory network activity in brain functions and dysfunctions." For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at franke@ccs.fau.edu.

January 24

Geosciences Colloquium Series

12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., SE 417

Michelle Chrupa, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, "Morphology of *Astarte borealis* (Mollusca: Bivalvia) of Camden Bay, northern Alaska: Statistical analysis of shell outline."

January 24

Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series: "Obesity and the Melanocortin Pathway: Treatment by Drugs or Exercise?"

3:30 p.m., College of Medicine Building, Room 126 (Building BC71) on the Boca Raton Campus

Speaker Carrie Haskell-Luevano, Ph.D., Professor, Philip S. Portoghese Endowed Chair in Chemical Neuroscience and Institute for Translational Neuroscience Scholar, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Minnesota. For more information, visit: http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2014.pdf.

January 29

FAU Neuroscience Seminar

4:00-5:00 PM, Computer Center Bldg. 22, Room #CM125. Video conferencing Jupiter MC-19, Room 201; Davie, LA134

Dr. Laura Colgin, University of Texas, "Functional significance of distinct variants of gamma oscillations in the entorhinal-Hippocampal network." For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at franke@ccs.fau.edu.

January 31

Geosciences Colloquium Series

12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., SE 417

Keren Bolter, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, "Actual Versus Perceived Risk to Sea Level Rise: A Case Study in Broward County, FL."

February 4

FAU Neuroscience Seminar

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Engineering East Bldg., Room EE106

Videoconference to Jupiter Campus Room MC-19, Room #201 and Davie Campus, Room LA-148

Dr. Laura Bohn, Scripps Research Institute. For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at franke@ccs.fau.edu.

February 7

Geosciences Colloquium Series

12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., SE 417

Rachelle Grein, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, "Convective Rain Cell Morphology and Patterns in South Florida."

February 7

Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series: "Health Effects of Light Pollution"

3:30 p.m., College of Medicine Building, Room 126 (Building BC71) on the Boca Raton Campus

Speaker Mario E. Motta, MD, cardiologist in practice, North Shore Medical Center, Salem, Massachusetts; Associate Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine; Council of Science and Public Health, AMA; and Board member of the International Dark Sky Association. For more information, visit: http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2014.pdf.

February 11

FAU Neuroscience Seminar

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Engineering East Bldg., Room EE106

Videoconference to Jupiter Campus Room MC-19, Room #201 and Davie Campus, Room LA-148

Dr. Sara Burke, McKnight Brain Institute, College of Medicine, University of FL @ Jupiter, "Senescence and perirhinal cortical function: a multi-level approach to understanding cognitive aging." For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at franke@ccs.fau.edu.

February 15

Science Olympiad-Middle and High School Competition

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Boca Raton Campus

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science announces the 6th Annual FAU Southeast Regional Science Olympiad. The Science Olympiad is a science competition for middle and high school students devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. More than 1,000 students, families, teachers and volunteers will visit FAU's Boca Raton campus to compete at knowledge and technology-based hands-on events. For more information, visit: www.floridasienceolympiad.org/registration.html. To volunteer the day of the event, register here: <http://www.science.fau.edu/forms/olympiadvolunteer.html>. This event is generously sponsored by Mathnasium, the Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association of South Florida and personalloans.com. For more information, contact Ingrid Johansen at johanson@fau.edu.

To see a complete list of semester events, visit: <http://www.science.fau.edu/events.html>.

GRANTS AWARDED*

Xavier Comas, Department of Geosciences, was awarded a grant continuation of \$115,000 from the U.S. Geological Survey for his proposal titled, "RED-Carbon Dynamics of the Greater Everglades." This grant supports his research on the effect of greenhouse gases on peat soils.

Rainer Steinwandt, Department of Mathematical Sciences, was awarded a new grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for a proposal titled, "Secure Implementation of Post-quantum Cryptography." The results of this project will provide methods and tools for secure communication to protect against terrorism and cyber terrorism.

Dale Gawlik, Department of Biological Sciences, was awarded a new grant in the amount of \$462,855 from the Florida Department of Transportation for a proposal titled, "Corridor Features Associated with Wood Stork Use in South Florida." This project will study the features of road corridors that attract or discourage the Endangered Wood Stork from using them as feeding areas. This information will be used to design roads that minimize impacts to wetland wildlife and to refine the calculation of how much habitat must be preserved or restored to offset the building of roads through wetlands.

***Grants listed in this section were announced by the Office of Sponsored Programs between December 1, 2013 and January 15, 2014.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Drs. Emmanuelle Tognoli and J. A. Scott Kelso recently had an article titled "The Metastable Brain" accepted by the prestigious journal *Neuron*. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0896627313011835>.

The students from FAU's **Middle School Math Days Competition** in November placed first amongst all 63 Florida teams in the American Mathematics Competition. For more information about this event, contact Emily Cimillo at 561-297-3342 or ecimillo@fau.edu.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Researcher and Scholar of the Year Awards

The University Research Committee invites applications and nominations for the 2014 Researcher of the Year and Scholar of the Year Awards. For the Researcher of the Year Award, one \$2,500 award will be made for each faculty rank (assistant/associate/full) to honor excellence in sponsored and project-oriented research, with particular emphasis on externally funded research. For the Scholar of the Year Award, one \$2,500 award will be made for each faculty rank (assistant/associate/full) to honor excellence in scholarly activities. For more information, visit: [pdf](#). Direct questions and comments to Camille Coley at ccoley@fau.edu.

- **January 27, 2014 - Applications due in respective dean/director's office**
- *February 14, 2014 - Names of college nominees due in Division of Research Office*
- *March 21, 2014 - Awardees presented to the President and the VP for Research*
- *Mid-April, 2014 - Awards presented at the Honors Convocation*

Researcher of the Year Award: [doc](#) or [pdf](#)

Scholar of the Year Award: [doc](#) or [pdf](#)

Information about these awards can be found at: http://www.fau.edu/research/internal_awards.php.

Distinction through Discovery Undergraduate Curriculum Grants Program Call for Pre-Proposals

Due February 10, 5:00 p.m.

The Distinction through Discovery Undergraduate Curriculum Grant Program provides seed funding for the incorporation of research and inquiry practices into undergraduate upper-division curricula. The Distinction through Discovery Curriculum Committee encourages departments and programs to take a holistic, programmatic approach to incorporating research and inquiry at the course, program, college, or university level. Review criteria to be considered for full proposal invitations include:

- Articulate how the curricular changes fit into the mission of the department(s) or program(s).
- Explain how the curricular changes will result in high-quality research and inquiry experiences for the program(s) and undergraduate students.
- Clearly demonstrate support for undergraduate scholarship.
- Lead to the achievement of the [Distinction through Discovery student learning outcomes](#)

The committee encourages programs across the entire university to apply. For your convenience, the online application can be found [here](#). Faculty submitting pre-proposals who are invited to submit a full proposal will be asked to participate in a Distinction through Discovery workshop in April to assist with development of the full proposal. Questions related to the curriculum grant program should be directed to Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik at dchamely@fau.edu or 561-297-1019.

Call for Undergraduate Research Grants

Due February 17, 5:00 p.m.

The Undergraduate Research Grants Program supports undergraduate students engaged in research, scholarship or creative activity under the supervision of a Faculty Mentor. For more information, visit: http://fau.edu/our/undergraduate_grants.php. NOTE: There will be no call for summer grants. Eligible students are encouraged to apply during the spring call.

National Incubator Initiative for Clean Energy (NIICE) Funding Opportunity

Concept Papers Due February 21

The Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is seeking applicants to establish the National Incubator Initiative for Clean Energy (NIICE). NIICE seeks to advance three goals:

- Improve the performance of existing and new clean energy business incubators across the country by setting a high performance standard, fostering best practices, and improving coordination of the incubator community;
- Strengthen support for early-stage companies developing high-risk technologies and scaling from prototype to domestically-based production; and
- Catalyze investment in early-stage clean energy businesses by improving information regarding capital access for incubators, including disseminating analysis and materials on philanthropic funds, corporate venture, and other innovative financing mechanisms.

To accomplish these goals, NIICE is funding awards in two topic areas: (1) a national organization to serve as a coordinating body for clean energy incubators and a central source of information for clean energy stakeholders; and (2) set a benchmark to develop top-performing, clean energy-focused incubators by funding three to five incubators across the United States. For more information, visit: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/#FoalDa593b39f-3077-4082-a7e0-c17615bef710>.

More funding opportunities are listed here: [Sponsored Programs Funding Opportunities](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LIVINGSTON GRAHAM AND SATU HYVARINEN

Undergraduate students **Livingston Graham** and **Satu Hyvarinen** (pictured above) recently designed a [website](#) for the Chemistry Department's newest addition: a Raman spectrometer. FAU is one of a handful of universities in the country that have a Raman spectrometer specifically designated to vertically integrate Raman spectroscopy experiments and experiences into the undergraduate chemistry curriculum. The spectrometer was purchased with funds from a \$200K grant from NSF and it will be used to introduce and reinforce increasingly more complex chemistry concepts as part of a restructured chemistry curriculum. The Raman spectrometer will be a practical tool to teach concepts such as molecular structure, quantitative analysis and elucidation of reaction mechanism.

Livingston and Satu have been working to develop the new website and are working with Drs. **Rezler**, **Terentis** and **Haky** to develop and implement Raman-based experiments designed to teach undergraduate students fundamental chemical concepts. Livingston is currently completing his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry. In addition to his passion for chemistry, he is also interested in web design and computer programming. Livingston plans to pursue a Master's degree in Chemistry at FAU. Satu is currently completing her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry. She is interested in the biomedical sciences and biotechnology and plans to pursue a Master's degree in a chemistry-related field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Sciences South Florida Webinar

January 21, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The webinar will feature a presentation and discussion on "Overview of Intellectual Property Law: Considerations for Life Sciences Companies and Universities" by Gene A. Lang, property attorney at Saliwanchik, Lloyd & Eisenschenk. Guests can RSVP [online](#) or by emailing Iris Perez at iperez@fiu.edu by January 20. Webinar guests can log-on at <https://connect.fiu.edu/jan2014webinar/> and sign-in with their name in the "As guest" field.

Scripps Florida Scientific Advocacy Seminar

January 23, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Scripps Florida, Classroom B159

Patrick Murphy (U.S. Congressman serving Florida's 18th district) will be visiting Scripps Florida to discuss his views on scientific research and federal research funding. Hosted by: Dr. Brock Grill, Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience. For more information, contact Kathleen Ryan at Scripps at 561-228-2050.

FIU Biomedical and Immunology Symposium

February 13-14, FIU

FIU is hosting its 16th annual Biomedical and Comparative Immunology Symposium on February 13- 14, 2014. The symposium will address recent advances in our understanding of diverse biological systems and phenomena. It will focus on cellular and molecular mechanisms of fundamental processes such as, organismal development, reproduction, cellular differentiation, and survival. The deadline for abstracts is January 16, 2014. Questions? Email Courtney Aiken at coaike@fiu.edu. For more information, visit: <https://calendar.fiu.edu/events/view/158378>.

Women's Foundation of Palm Beach County (WFPBC) STEM Survey

The Women's Foundation of Palm Beach County (WFPBC) is conducting a survey to determine what STEM initiatives are underway in Palm Beach County to encourage the participation of women and girls in the critical fields of science, technology, engineering and math. The information will be used to design and inform new WFPBC projects that encourage and support female participation in STEM fields. Eventually, the information will be incorporated into a list of community programs on the WFPBC website; assist in the formation of a countywide coalition dedicated to empowering women and girls to participate in STEM fields; and be used to raise critical funds to support additional STEM programming throughout the county. The Foundation would greatly appreciate your help and requests that you take five minutes to complete the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WFPBCSTEM>.

Writing Across Curriculum Program

The Writing Across Curriculum Program is pleased to announce its Spring 2014 WAC Training Seminar Series in support of university-wide writing as well as innovation and instructional improvement in general education. These seminars are intended for faculty members who have not yet participated in a WAC seminar and are teaching, or plan to teach, WAC courses this academic year and those who are planning or teaching courses in FAU's Scholar's Program. Eligible participants are graduate assistants, adjuncts, instructors, or tenure-track faculty who teach or plan to teach a WAC designated course within six months of participating in the seminar.

The WAC program will be offering two, two-day, two-and-a-half hour training seminars this spring for WAC certification. Both of the available WAC training seminars will take place on the Boca campus the following dates (videoconferencing is available):

BOTH Wednesday, Jan. 22nd AND Wednesday, Jan. 29th from 2:00 – 4:30 pm in GS 214B

or

BOTH Tuesday, Feb. 18th AND Tuesday, Feb. 25th from 9:30 – 12:00 pm in GS 214B

RSVP by completing the application form located here ([electronic](#) or [printed format](#)) and send to Julianne Curran (jcurran3@fau.edu) by Wednesday, January 15th for the January sessions and by Tuesday, February 11th for the February sessions. The application form can be filled out online or by hand, then scanned and emailed to Julianne Curran or sent via interoffice mail to GS 215D.

LINK Awards for the College of Science

The following Broward students and faculty sponsors received funding through a one-time 2+2 incentive award from the Florida Department of Education to strengthen 2+2 academic programs between FAU and Broward College.

Victor Benavides (Student: Biological Science) \$ 2,000

Brian Benscoter (Faculty Sponsor) \$ 1,000
Sonia Vanegas (Student: Psychology) \$ 2,000
Monica Rosselli (Faculty Sponsor) \$ 1,000
Sarah Kudman (Student: Biological Science) \$ 2,000
Nwadiuto Esiobu (Faculty Sponsor) \$ 1,000

Do You Need to Update your Faculty Photo?

A photographer will be available on Tuesday, February 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Building 4, room 103. There is no charge for faculty and staff, however, please have only one portrait taken per academic year. Portraits are taken on a walk-in basis and should only take 3-5 minutes. For additional questions, contact Diego Meeroff at dmeerof1@fau.edu or 561-297-3025.

Summer Camps

If you are planning on hosting a summer camp this year, please forward the information including the name of the camp, dates, times, location, a one-sentence description and a paragraph summary to Scott Silversten at ssilversten@fau.edu as soon as possible.

If you have any news you would like to include in future editions of *Science Connect*, please email Paige Garrido at pgarrido@fau.edu.