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## **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA KLASSEN**

Jessica Klassen, a Ph.D. candidate who works under Dale Gawlik in the Avian Ecology Laboratory, is not deterred by Florida's "winter" temperatures. On one of the coldest mornings in January (a toasty 42 degrees) she and members of the team bundled up to go do their work deep in Florida's Everglades.

Jessica's research focuses on wading bird prey selection and what hydrologic conditions influence the type of prey consumed by wading birds. It is generally assumed that wading bird numbers and nest success will increase with the amount of fish in the landscape. However, there is very little work documenting what prey species make up the majority of wading bird diets. Her research provides a missing link in Everglades restoration planning by distinguishing between available aquatic prey, and those more likely to support a breeding colony. Additionally, her work looks at how prey selection may change in different hydrologic conditions, allowing insight as to what type of prey items may be more important to wading birds in wet versus dry years.

To answer these questions, Jessica visits various nesting sites to collect boluses (stomach regurgitations) from nestling wading birds including the Wood Stork, Tricolored Heron and Snowy Egret. On the chilly day in January, Jessica and the team took two airboats to lay trail - literally busting a path through the 15-ft tall grass that surrounds the nesting colony islands. The grass grows back after the nesting season, but it was vital to lay the trail far in advance of nesting season in order to not disturb the birds when they begin to nest. By creating a trail close to the island, Jessica can get in and out of the colony quickly and reduce disturbance to the birds when she starts visiting sites later this spring.

Her preliminary results indicate that wading birds select for the larger fish available in the landscape. This suggests that wading birds are more interested in fish that provide more calories per capture effort. However, there was a drastic rain event in the middle of the breeding season in 2012 which raised water levels. Following this event, she saw a dramatic shift in the wading bird's ability to find these large, caloric prey items. Whereas some adult birds were still able to provide large prey items, most nestlings consumed a few, small prey species

or none at all. However, the success of these few adults was limited as water levels remained high, and within a week all adults abandoned the colony.

Jessica is also developing models that determine what hydrologic and landscape characteristics produce pools of preferred prey species and prey with high body condition/calories. The goal is to use these models to guide water management practices that will aid in producing high quality prey items, while also predicting what prey type will be most available based on naturally dynamic hydrologic changes.

## **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FAU Professor Emeritus Walter R. Courtenay Has Passed Away**

Walter R. Courtenay, Jr., Ph.D., professor emeritus of zoology and FAU's 1973 Distinguished Teacher of the Year, died in Gainesville, Florida, on Jan. 30 at the age of 80. He taught at FAU from 1967 to 1999, chairing the Department of Biological Sciences twice during his tenure. FAU flags on all campuses will be lowered in his memory on the first Monday in March. A full obituary can be accessed at <http://www.science.fau.edu/>. If you have memories you would like to share with Dr. Courtenay's family, please send to Paige Garrido by Wednesday, Feb. 19.

### **Successful Grantsmanship Professional Development Seminar Series**

**March 13, noon to 1:30 p.m., PS 226 – Speaker Salvatore Lepore**

**April 9, noon to 1:30 p.m., PS 226 – Speaker Dale Gawlik**

**April 17, noon to 1:30 p.m., PS 226 – Speaker Xavier Comas**

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science's Master Researcher program is pleased to announce the creation of professional development seminars aimed at enhancing the research culture and increasing external funding. These professional development seminars are designed for faculty and graduate students to explore the fine points of obtaining grant funding. Three of the College's top funded researchers - Salvatore Lepore, Dale Gawlik and Xavier Comas – will discuss balancing scholarship, research and obtaining funding as well as experiences with various funding agencies and issues that are highly tailored to the FAU environment. [Register](#) in advance. For more information, contact [Zhixiao Xie](#) or [Paige Garrido](#).

### **Owl's Nest Campaign**

Don't forget to make your annual giving contribution. Send a strong message to those outside the university – announcing to alumni, friends, corporations, donors and community partners that together we support FAU from within and feel it is worthy of *their* support.

**Joining the Owl's Nest is easy! Simply choose one of the links below:**

- Make an [online gift](#) by credit card
- Sign up online for [payroll deduction](#) (Go to the *TRUE BLUE* tab)
- Fill out and return this [gift form](#) to Paige Garrido, SE 248

### **College of Science Speakers Series**

The [College of Science Speaker Series](#) is a webpage listing of speakers and topics that are available as a free community outreach initiative. If you are currently included, or would like to be included, please update your topic description and send to Paige Garrido. Also, please indicate the areas to which you are willing to travel (i.e. Palm Beach County, Broward County, etc.) To view the current list, visit: <http://www.science.fau.edu/speakersseries/>.

## **OUTREACH**

The College of Science would like to thank the following individuals for helping to spread good news about our research and our College throughout our local community and beyond:

**Esiobu Nwadiuto** discussed her research in applied microbiology at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. The President and CEO of the Alliance said Dr. Nwadiuto "exemplifies what they mean by world-class faculty!"

**Boris Tezak** and **Natasha Warraich**, graduate students in **Jeanette Wyneken** and **Michael Salmon's** marine lab at Gumbo Limbo, spoke to a group of international students in the Intensive Language Institute (IEI). The coordinator of the event said, "Both of these graduate students presented the work of the FAU Research Facility and their own research areas in such a way that our students were completely engaged. It was wonderful for IEI students to listen to peers who also have international links and who are so passionate about their field."

**Eric Vandernoot** presented at the monthly meeting of the Ocean Ridge Town Hall Lecture Series about exoplanets. The organizer said, "Eric is so passionate and knowledgeable about this field. The audience loved him!"

CES' and Climate Change Initiative Assistant Director, **Nicole Hammer**, led the work with the Union of Concerned Scientists, World Resources Institute, CLEO Institute and the Good Government Initiative to pilot the first Decision Makers Forum in Miami that focused on Sea Level Rise issues in southern Florida. The forum was extremely well received with over 30 local decision makers in attendance that received our Sea Level Rise Toolkit and presentations with critical talking points that address issues in our region.

**Erika Hoff** participated in the news briefing at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting. She discussed her research in a presentation titled, "Talking to Kids: the Sooner the Better."

## **GRANTS AWARDED\***

**Brett Laursen**, Department of Psychology, was awarded a new grant for \$95,892 from ETR Associates (as subcontractor to NSF) to study, "Math Pathways: A Longitudinal, Dyadic Study of Parent-Child Influence in Latino Families."

**\*Grants listed in this section were announced by the Office of Sponsored Programs between January 15, 2014 and February 14, 2014.**

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***PCORI Issues Funding Announcements Offering Up To \$206 Million in Research Support Due March 7***

PCORI announces the latest round of [research funding opportunities](http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center/), offering up to \$206 million to support comparative effectiveness research (CER) designed to answer the health and healthcare questions of greatest concern to patients and other healthcare stakeholders. Currently accepting proposals for patient-centered outcomes studies through eight PCORI Funding Announcements (PFAs). For more information, visit: <http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/funding-center/>.

### ***PHS 2014-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH, CDC, FDA and ACF for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications (Parent SBIR [R43/R44]): Division of Aging Biology Due April 5***

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) invites eligible United States small business concerns (SBCs) to submit Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant applications. The Division of Aging Biology sponsors research on the molecular, cellular, genetic, and physiological causes and consequences of aging processes. The ultimate goal is to develop interventions to reduce and/or delay age-related degenerative processes in humans. For more information, visit: [http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_opps/6557](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/6557).

***NSF 14-534: Sustainability Research Networks Competition (SRN): 2014 Focus: Urban Sustainability***  
**Due April 29**

The goal of the Sustainability Research Networks (SRN) competition is to bring together multidisciplinary teams of researchers, educators, managers, policymakers and other stakeholders to conduct collaborative research that addresses fundamental challenges in sustainability. The 2014 SRN competition will fund research networks with a focus on urban sustainability. Proposals should identify an ambitious and nationally important theme in urban sustainability, present a creative and innovative research agenda that builds upon existing work in this area, and describe how a network of researchers and other stakeholders will be supported that integrates a variety of disciplines, sectors and backgrounds in order to create new perspectives and yield significant new understanding and knowledge. For more information, visit: [www.nsf.gov/sees](http://www.nsf.gov/sees) or <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14534/nsf14534.pdf>.

***PHS 2014-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications (Parent STTR [R41/R42]): Division of Aging Biology***  
**Due August 5**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites eligible United States small business concerns (SBCs) to submit Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant applications. The Division of Aging Biology sponsors research on the molecular, cellular, genetic, and physiological causes and consequences of aging processes. The ultimate goal is to develop interventions to reduce and/or delay age-related degenerative processes in humans. For more information, visit: [http://pivot.cos.com/funding\\_opps/142345](http://pivot.cos.com/funding_opps/142345).

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

## **UNIVERSITY-WIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:ssilversten@fau.edu) as soon as possible.

### ***Teaching with Technology Showcase***

**April 5, 2014, College of Engineering East building on the Boca Raton campus (Proposal Submission Feb. 28)**

OIT and the Center for E-Learning are co-hosting another Teaching with Technology Showcase. The Teaching with Technology Showcase is designed to open dialogue among FAU faculty members about the effective use of technology to support pedagogical practices in the classroom and online learning environments. By submitting a proposal, you will have the opportunity to showcase how you are incorporating technology to enhance pedagogy in the classroom and discuss advantages and disadvantages. All proposals will be peer reviewed. Graduate students are welcome to attend and encouraged to submit electronic poster sessions which will be displayed. For more information, visit: [www.fau.edu/teach-with-technology](http://www.fau.edu/teach-with-technology).

### **Teaching about Risk and Resilience: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Earthquakes**

**May 14-16, FAU**

Presented by InTeGrate, this workshop will focus the pedagogy of risk and resilience and will include a local emphasis on sea level rise and flooding, contrasting these risks with California earthquakes and is open to 30 faculty (by application). No registration fee to attend. Participation for non-academics is by invitation. Workshop stipends are available to help defray travel expenses in cases of financial need. Accepted participants are expected to contribute teaching materials to a new web-based collection devoted to teaching about risk and resilience across the disciplines. For more information, visit:

[http://serc.carleton.edu/integrate/workshops/risk\\_resilience/overview.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/integrate/workshops/risk_resilience/overview.html).

## **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE UPCOMING EVENTS (FEB. 15 – MARCH 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](mailto:pgarrido@fau.edu).

### **Tomorrow! February 15**

#### **Science Olympiad-Middle and High School Competition**

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

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual FAU Southeast Regional 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 1,200 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:

<http://www.science.fau.edu/scienceolympiad/index.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](mailto:johanson@fau.edu).

### **February 18**

#### **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**

TBA. For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at [franke@ccs.fau.edu](mailto:franke@ccs.fau.edu).

### **February 18**

#### **Third Tuesdays Open Dome Event (Held the third Tuesday of every month)**

**7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., FAU Observatory, Building SE-43, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

For more information, contact Eric Vandernoot at [vandernoot@mail.sci.fau.edu](mailto:vandernoot@mail.sci.fau.edu) or visit:

<http://www.physics.fau.edu/observatory/observatory.html>.

### **February 19**

#### **Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Seminar Series**

**4:00 p.m., Engineering East Building EE-106, videoconference to Jupiter- SR 268**

Guest speaker: Dimitriy Minond, Torrey Pines. For more information, contact: Marjorie Cazeau at [mcazeau@fau.edu](mailto:mcazeau@fau.edu).

### **February 20**

#### **Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Seminar**

**3:00 p.m., PS, Room 226**

Guest Speaker Cassandra L. Quave, Ph.D., Emory University. For more information, contact Helena Szczesny at [hszczens@fau.edu](mailto:hszczens@fau.edu).

### **February 21**

#### **Geosciences Colloquium Series**

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

TBA

### **February 21**

#### **Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series: "Anti-infective Drugs from Nature"**

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

Speaker Cassandra L. Quave, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Emory University. For more information, visit: [http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster\\_spring\\_2014.pdf](http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2014.pdf).

### **February 25**

#### **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. Damon Page, Dept. of Neuroscience, The Scripps Research Institute, "Regulation of brain growth and autism-relevant behavior by Pten-mTOR signaling." For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at [franke@ccs.fau.edu](mailto:franke@ccs.fau.edu).

### **February 19**

#### **Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Seminar Series**

**4:00 p.m., Engineering East Building EE-106, videoconference to Jupiter- SR 268**

Guest speaker: Yin-Ching Iris Chen, MA General. For more information, contact: Marjorie Cazeau at [mcazeau@fau.edu](mailto:mcazeau@fau.edu).

### **February 28**

#### **Geosciences Colloquium Series**

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

Felicia Survis, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, TBA

### **February 28**

#### **Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series: "Probing Visual Perception Outside of Conscious Awareness"**

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

Speaker Randolph Blake, Ph.D., Centennial Professor Psychology, Vanderbilt University; WCU Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Seoul National University. For more information, visit: [http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster\\_spring\\_2014.pdf](http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2014.pdf).

### **February 28**

#### **Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Seminar**

**3:00 p.m., PS, Room 226**

Guest Speaker Dr. Ramamurthy, University of Miami. For more information, contact Helena Szczesny at [hszczens@fau.edu](mailto:hszczens@fau.edu).

**March 1**

**Middle School Math Circle**

**2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., PS 109 on the Boca campus.**

The Mathematics department hosts a Math Circle for middle school students who like mathematics and who wish to learn a bit more than is usually covered in the school curriculum. Students can hone their problem solving skills in a fun environment. The Math Circle at FAU, one of the only two registered Math Circles in Florida, is supported in part by a grant from MSRI/NSA. For more information, visit our website at [www.math.fau.edu/MathCircle\\_at\\_Fau](http://www.math.fau.edu/MathCircle_at_Fau) or call or email Dr. Tomas Schonbek at (561) 297-3355 or [schonbek@fau.edu](mailto:schonbek@fau.edu).

**March 3-7**

**Forty-Fifth Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing Student Union, Boca Raton Campus**

Celebrating its 45th year, the Conference brings together mathematicians and others interested in combinatorics, graph theory and computing, and their interactions. The Conference lectures and contributed papers, as well as the opportunities for informal conversations, have proved to be of great interest to other scientists and analysts employing these mathematical sciences in their professional work in business, industry, and government. For more information, visit: <http://math.fau.edu/cgtc/cgtc45/>. For more information email Fred Hoffman, [hoffman@fau.edu](mailto:hoffman@fau.edu), or Maria Provost, [mprovost@fau.edu](mailto:mprovost@fau.edu).

**March 7**

**Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series: "What is a Species? Insights into the Species Problem for Recent Research on African Monkeys"**

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

Speaker Kate Detwiler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University. For more information, visit: [http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster\\_spring\\_2014.pdf](http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2014.pdf).

**March 7**

**First Fridays Open Dome Event (held the first Friday of every month)**

**7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., FAU Observatory, Building SE-43, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

For more information, contact Eric Vandernoot at [vandernoot@mail.sci.fau.edu](mailto:vandernoot@mail.sci.fau.edu) or visit: <http://www.physics.fau.edu/observatory/observatory.html>.

**March 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. Helen Barbas, Dept. of Health Sciences, Boston University, "Prefrontal Pathways that Control Attention." For more information, contact Rhona Frankel at [franke@ccs.fau.edu](mailto:franke@ccs.fau.edu).

**March 12**

**Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Seminar Series**

**4:00 p.m., Engineering East Building EE-106, videoconference to Jupiter- SR 268**

Guest speaker: Fatah Kashanchi, George Mason. For more information, contact: Marjorie Cazeau at [mcazeau@fau.edu](mailto:mcazeau@fau.edu).

**March 13****Successful Grantsmanship Professional Development Seminar- Speaker Salvatore Lepore****Noon to 1:30 p.m., PS 226**

This professional development seminar is designed for faculty and graduate students to explore the fine points of obtaining grant funding. Presented by the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science's Master Researcher program to nurture and enhance the College research culture and increase external funding. [Register](#) in advance. For more information, email [Paige Garrido](#).

**March 15****Middle School Math Circle****2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., PS 109 on the Boca campus.**

The Mathematics department hosts a Math Circle for middle school students who like mathematics and who wish to learn a bit more than is usually covered in the school curriculum. Students can hone their problem solving skills in a fun environment. The Math Circle at FAU, one of the only two registered Math Circles in Florida, is supported in part by a grant from MSRI/NSA. For more information, visit our website at [www.math.fau.edu/MathCircle\\_at\\_Fau](http://www.math.fau.edu/MathCircle_at_Fau) or call or email Dr. Tomas Schonbek at (561) 297-3355 or [schonbek@fau.edu](mailto:schonbek@fau.edu).

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