By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

I can’t believe that 2012 has come to an end and we are embarking on yet another year. It was an incredibly busy fall semester! Faculty have completed our first round of realigning curriculum to the new Florida Educator Accomplishment Practices and will soon focus on the impact that will be felt by the change to Common Core State Standards and new Teacher Certification exams. In addition, they have been busy attending workshops, writing papers, submitting at conferences, and writing grants.

Our department, again, had a large graduating class. Many of our students graduated with honors and have already secured teaching positions in local districts. They are very excited to get started in their new careers. Within this issue the achievements of two of our graduates are highlighted. It just shows how our students’ hard work and dedication pays off!

Have you thought about your next steps? Whether you are a recent graduate or an alumnus who has been away for a while, we just might have a graduate program that can help you reenergize your teaching or get you started in a new direction. Please check out what we have to offer.

It’s a new year and there are many exciting opportunities. Let us know if we can help you make the most of them in 2013. I wish you the best of luck!

Barbara Ridener, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Teaching & Learning

Seven undergraduate students in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning at Florida Atlantic University were awarded the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship. They are pictured with College of Education Dean, Dr. Valerie J. Bristor (standing, far right) and Department of Teaching and Learning Chair, Dr. Barbara Ridener (standing, far left). For the complete story, see page 3.
Thank You to Jupiter COE Staff

by Dr. Jennifer Bird

Katie Sredniawa loves helping others and making a difference in the world. An elementary education major, Katie looks forward to the day when she will have a classroom of her own. I tell my undergraduate students why I wanted to teach and encourage them to share their own stories. When discussing her teaching dreams, Katie brought an innovative visual aid to class. She loves to bake and showed the class a large cake in the shape of books surrounded by cupcakes.

Katie explained the symbolism of her project and compared planning a good lesson to planning a good recipe. The books represented her love of learning and her important role as a teacher, while the cupcakes represented her students. Katie gave each of her classmates a cupcake, but would not let anyone eat the cake in class. She asked me to take the cake upstairs for everyone in the Jupiter College of Education office as a thank you for all we do to make a difference in the lives of our students.

I admire Katie because she does not seek recognition; she probably feels surprised that I am writing a story about her cake because her reward is the act of doing nice things for people. But sometimes during a stressful day, a small act of kindness can make a big difference in someone’s life. Thanks to Katie and her peers who want to make the world a better place, I will forever remain optimistic about the future of education.

Dr. Bird’s Students’ Projects Impress QEP Office

Multi-genre literature research projects created by the students of Department of Teaching and Learning Instructor, Dr. Jennifer Bird, are now on display in the campus libraries during the spring 2013 semester. These projects are among the excellent examples of undergraduate research featured in the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Research Exhibit.

The fall 2012 semester students in Dr. Bird’s two RED 4750, Reading Development II: Grades 3-8, classes on the Boca and Jupiter Campuses conducted research about the characters and events in a young adult novel. They created visual artistic representations and creative writing pieces to demonstrate their comprehension of the novel and showcase their research findings.

While working as a group on the innovative projects, the students lived under the philosophy “coming together enriches the experience.” Reflecting on her students’ accomplishments, Dr. Bird said, “I love seeing how our class community uses teamwork to make their dreams come true.”

QEP not only accepted their work but honored Dr. Bird’s students by choosing them to represent the College of Education on posters promoting undergraduate research and inquiry for QEP. The posters are expected to be displayed on all Florida Atlantic University (FAU) campuses. See page eight.

“Our QEP initiatives are built on best practices, and will provide more students the opportunity to engage in research and inquiry at all levels both within and outside of the curriculum,” noted Dr. Donna Chamely-Wilik, Director, Quality Enhancement Plan.

The QEP called “Distinction through Discovery” is a University-wide initiative. FAU launched QEP as part of its affirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS). This process will be finalized in 2013.

Dearman Presents at Read.Write.Act Conference


During the presentation, Dearman and Keller-Kyriakides demonstrated how high school students can use analytical skills when viewing images, videos and other visual media to actively engage with the argument presented. For example, when watching a commercial, ask, “What is the director’s purpose? Do you agree with what is being said?” explained Dearman. Common logical fallacies they pointed out are ad hominem (personal attack), ad ignorantiam (argument from ignorance), argument from authority and the slippery slope.

(Continued on page 7)
Seven Undergraduate Students Awarded Patterson Scholarship

On Friday, Nov. 9, 2012, Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, met with the seven undergraduate students who were selected for the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship. All of the award recipients are Elementary Education majors in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning at Florida Atlantic University.

Melodie Pinsonnault plans to pursue the M.Ed. in Reading Education after graduating from the University. Her goal is to become a reading specialist. This scholarship, according to Pinsonnault, will help her “focus primarily on my classes” and “be able to volunteer in the classrooms more often.”

Rebekah Houseal’s goal is to earn a master’s degree after completing her undergraduate studies. She wants to become a principal and help other teachers achieve success in the classroom. Houseal explains that the scholarship “will allow her to be a more influential and effective teacher.”

Brandi Radaker’s dream is to teach first or second grade. She desires to help her students develop a love for learning. She looks forward to the “valuable experience in classrooms” that the scholarship will provide. “The opportunity to work with expert teachers…is priceless,” she states.

Michelle Breiding desires to motivate her students to “reach for the stars.” She believes this scholarship will give her the opportunity to gain the skills to “prepare students for life” and “help students find their passion for reading.”

Melanie Brown intends to obtain a master’s degree in order to become a specialist in Speech Pathology after earning her bachelor’s degree. She hopes the scholarship will provide her the ability to inspire students “to get out a book and enjoy their reading.”

Patricia Fee aspires “to become an elementary school teacher and a mentor to young children.” This scholarship will allow her to work with students in the subject of reading and comprehension.” Being able to read is important, she noted. In turn, Fee anticipates her students will be confident.

Hope Wilkerson aims to become a reading specialist and teach third grade. Wilkerson believes that analysis and motivation will help students succeed. The scholarship will help her become a “motivated, enthusiastic teacher.”

James Patterson made this donation to provide scholarships to support pre-service teachers as they focus on becoming leaders in reading and writing education. This program will provide additional training for the recipients, beyond their coursework, and will allow them to work with teachers, who are already literacy leaders in their schools. The integration of research and practice with hands-on experience will give the scholarship recipients invaluable knowledge and background to support them as developing teachers.

Reading and Writing Workshop Held in Boca Raton, Florida

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) reading faculty and administrators in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) collaborated during the Reading and Writing Workshop at the Bridge Hotel in Boca Raton, Florida, on Dec. 8, 2012.

For several years, SDPBC has taught reading and writing at many of their schools using a workshop model developed by the Teacher’s College Reading and Writing Project (TCEWP) at Columbia University. Use of this method of instruction has had a positive impact on student achievement, according to Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The Reading and Writing Workshop was made possible by a grant funded by the Mary and Robert Pew Public Education Fund. The purpose of the grant was to support select FAU faculty to attend TCRWP workshops at Columbia University, as well as support training such as this workshop.

The Florida workshop provided all FAU reading instructors the opportunity to learn what was gleaned at the TCRWP workshops at Columbia University. “With Palm Beach County Schools being such an important employer of FAU graduates, we wanted to make sure that our students are trained with the best and most current strategies employed by the district,” Dr. Ridener explained.

Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Ridener are Principal Investigators of the grant. In attendance at the workshop were: Dr. Bristor; Dr. Ridener; Anita Abraham, Adjunct Instructor; Dr. Jennifer Bird, Core Teaching Instructor; Dr. Catherine Bishop-Temple, Adjunct Instructor; Leslie Calhoun, Core Teaching Instructor; Sharon Crawley,
On Friday, Dec. 7, 2012 at 1:00 p.m., the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) undergraduate students donned their caps and gowns to receive their diplomas during the commencement ceremony on the Boca Raton campus. A total of 204 undergraduates earned bachelor’s degrees in the following programs: 180 in Elementary Education, seven in English Education, three in Mathematics Education, three in Music Education, seven in Social Science Education and four in Science Education: Biology.

Rebecca Francois is ready to receive her diploma for the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

Spring 2013 Elementary Education undergraduate majors prepare for the commencement ceremony in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium. From left are Connie Lee, Jennifer Warner, Dr. Jennifer Bird, Sereen Hamdan and Jennifer Vazquez. The students received the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

All smiles before the graduation ceremony are (from left) Renford Williams, Jessica Sohl and Jason Versage. They were awarded the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

From left Teri Dawiczkowski, Bailey Ebbitt, Dr. Laurie Dassa, Elizabeth Romero and Deanna Dugan. The students await to receive the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

From left are Taryn Rustchak, Dr. Jennifer Bird, Meagan Ruppenstein, Casey Hicks, Nina Brick and Ilena Perez. They are ready to receive the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

From left Vanessa Ceballos, Dinamarie Vero and Stephanie Attanasio earned the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.
Consider pursuing a master’s degree. The Department of Teaching and Learning offers seven graduate degree programs for certified educators, educators and professionals, and career changers.

**Certified Educators**

If you are already certified (temporary or professional), you may desire to further your studies and earn an advanced degree.

**The M.Ed. Elementary Education** provides the opportunity to update your skills, collaborate with other educators, as well as become informed of changes in the school system and in the field of education.

**The M.Ed. Reading Education** enables you to add the reading certification to your teacher certification, upon passing the state examination. The reading endorsement is required by the Florida Department of Education to teach reading in grades K-12 or to be a reading coach.

**Educators & Professionals**

If you are an educator or professional, you may wish to acquire knowledge and skills in the following fields:

- **The M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology** helps you apply psychology in educational settings and conduct research in education. This program also serves as a step toward higher degrees in the field of psychology.
- **The M.Ed. Environmental Education** enhances your knowledge and skills in environmental education as a teacher. It can also prepare you for a career as an environmental professional, such as center, camp, conservation and sustainable planning educator or administrator in urban and rural, government and business, and public and private settings.

(Continued on page 7)

### DTL Awards 21 Master’s in Education Degrees

The Department of Teaching and Learning graduate students participated in the fall 2013 commencement ceremony on Friday Dec. 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium. A total of 21 graduates earned Master’s in Education degrees in the following majors:

- **M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Math**  
  Zandra L. Kalina

- **M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Social Science**  
  Tania C. Graves

- **M.Ed. Elementary Education**  
  Tiffany L. Cox  
  Stephanie A. Golembe  
  Tiffany R. Gonzalez  
  Patricia L. Krakunas  
  Kaitlyn O’Connor  
  Klaudia Olischar  
  Brittany A. Salivar  
  Caroline A. Staub

- **M.Ed. Environmental Education**  
  Samantha E. Miller  
  Kelly J. Miller

- **M. Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology**  
  Karen L. Hannold  
  Tracy N. Lindsay

- **M. Ed. Social Foundations: Instructional Technology**  
  Luis T. Ramos

- **M. Ed. Reading Education**  
  Dominic J. Grasso  
  Cassandra D. Kuskinen

**So What Are Your Plans After Graduation?**

The M.Ed. Social Foundations: Instructional Technology prepares both classroom teachers to integrate technology into instruction, and instructional designers and corporate trainers for positions that require development of web or multimedia instructional content. This program is the only fully online graduate degree offered by the College of Education, providing flexibility for today’s working students.

(Continued on page 7)

Dr. Deborah Carlstrom led the procession of DTL students during the graduation ceremony. Amanda E. Spence  
Stephanie R. Dale  
DySonya C. Mitchell

**Kevin Leichtman earned the M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: English and Karen Hannold, the M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology.**
Spotlight on M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction Plus Cert Alumna

Wenk Teaches Physics at West Boca High

There is a persistent problem of “a lack of adequately trained students going into STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math] careers,” according to Elizabeth Wenk. Thus, she was pleased to be able to work as a curriculum writer on a Florida Atlantic University (FAU) oceanography curriculum project funded by a grant from the United States Department of Energy that aims to expose students to core ideas at the same time getting them excited about science.

Wenk worked for this project while she was a graduate assistant at FAU, through the College of Education and the Center for Ocean Engineering and Technology at the Harbor Branch Campus, in Dania Beach, from summer 2010 until spring 2011. In 2011, Wenk graduated from FAU with a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction plus Certification: Physics.

The focus of the curriculum was exploring the science behind the use of underwater turbines in the Gulf Stream as an alternative energy source. “The Gulf Stream moves the turbines much like the wind moves wind turbines, producing electricity,” explained Wenk. The curriculum also explores the various environmental impacts of the underwater turbines, such as the effects upon sea turtles.

Concentrating on the physics and math aspects of generators and turbines, Wenk collaborated with other professors, engineers, and graduate students in order to make the curriculum fit across content and be accessible for all levels of students.

The curriculum is designed to get students excited about science, according to Wenk, who earned a B.A. from Colorado College with a major in physics, minor in math and special focus area in studio art. In writing the curriculum, Wenk incorporated “inquiry-based learning techniques” and the “Five E’s—engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate—Learning Model.”

Ten teachers in Palm Beach County implemented this curriculum as part of a pilot program, according to Wenk. They reported, “what worked and didn’t work; what took too long or not long enough.” Using the data the teachers provided, “we revised the curriculum,” said Wenk, in spring 2011.

After graduation, Wenk was rehired by FAU to be a curriculum writer and workshop coordinator. Wenk showed teachers how to implement this curriculum in their classrooms. Reflecting on this experience of writing inquiry-based lessons that get students excited about science, Wenk revealed how instrumental they were to her own teaching, “I use them in my physics class today.”

Passion for Teaching

Wenk now teaches regular and honors physics, as well as honors astronomy at West Boca Raton Community High School. She uses a hands-on, inquiry approach in much the same way as her former high school physics teacher who inspired her to go into teaching. “I liked doing [the activities] and was good at it,” she said.

She also incorporates technology and engineering activities into her lessons. Her students build models and conduct investigations and lab experiments in every class.

Additionally, Wenk believes in community outreach, inviting guest lecturers to speak about what they did at the high school level to prepare for careers in science. For example, most recently, Wenk had a mechanical aerospace engineer talk to her students.

After school, Wenk supervises the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering (SECMEE) at West Boca High. It is “a competitive science/engineering club” available at the elementary through college level, explained Wenk. Students build mousetrap cars, rockets and bridges using creativity, as well as math and physics.

At the district level, she is also a member of the Balsa Wood Bridge Building Contest held every year at the South Florida Science Fair. This year she was the supervisor and judge. Next school year she will be the district chairperson.

“FAU completely prepared me for the assignments I have to do as a teacher,” said Wenk. “All the reflections they had us do [are] applicable to my everyday life as a teacher.”

Wenk continues to keep in touch with her instructors at FAU. “I still have questions,” she said. “My professors are so experienced and willing to help. That’s a valuable resource I don’t want to lose.”

Reading/Writing Conference

(Continued from page 3)

Professor; Kelly Kayle, Adjunct Instructor; Melissa Lucrezia, Adjunct Instructor; Dr. Philomena Marinaccio, Associate Professor; Marcia Richards, Adjunct Instructor; Kimberly (Stansell) Towe, Adjunct Instructor, and Dr. Janet Towell, Professor, from FAU.

Also in attendance were Louise Grant, Executive Director of the Mary and Robert Pew Public Education Fund, as well as MaryAnn Colbert, Manager, Reading/Writing Workshop, K-12 Curriculum; Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Safety, Culture and Learning Environment; Nikki Jones, K-5 Writing Program Planner, K-12 Curriculum; Deborah Battles, Director, Department of Federal and State Programs; Natasha Araos, Curriculum Instructional Specialist, K-12 Curriculum; Lisa Fitzpatrick, Curriculum Instructional Specialist, K-12 Curriculum, and Robin White, Instructional Reading Specialist, K-12 Curriculum, from SDPBC.
Renee Coviello earned a bachelor’s degree in Art History in May 2006 and the M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction plus Certification: Art in May 2010 from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Reflecting on her master’s degree, she said she was proud of her accomplishment. “I will always have proof I have training to teach art. It also made me more specialized and professional.”

Her graduate experience provided her with the opportunity to network with her classmates, share project ideas and strategies, as well as Web sites that offer ideas, supplies and workshops, Coviello noted. She also learned how to create extended lesson plans and develop her own curriculum.

Coviello credits her student teaching experience with helping her to become a better teacher. “The student teaching was the best and hardest thing I ever did,” she recalled. Her clinical educator offered strategies, tips and advice on how to manage students in the classroom, how to stay organized, and how to get students engaged and excited.

She is now Assistant Director of Aftercare at the Benjamin School. Previously, she taught art at a preschool called LDR Academy. Many of the art projects Coviello initiates with her preschool students relate to the curriculum. For example, they incorporate the letter of the week into their artwork. Among the types of materials used are mixed media, watercolor, air dry clay and collage.

Coviello has also been teaching art to kindergarteners at a summer camp, called Lighthouse Art Center for seven years. Every year there is a different theme and each week the topic changes. “We painted like the masters this past summer,” she said. The students studied the artwork from the Renaissance period, as well as impressionism, and cubism.

Another year the theme for the summer camp was called Blue Earth, where students had ocean-themed subjects each week. Students experimented with natural materials and explored art relating to the Everglades, beaches, sea monsters and mermaids. Her students also created art from recycling objects when recycling was the theme for that year. “I like them to explore different art media and techniques,” she said.

Since she was young, Coviello liked art. “My grandfather was an oil painter,” she explained. “He was amazing. He did a lot of art shows.”

Her grandfather taught Coviello techniques. He encouraged her by having drawing competitions for her and her sister. “He gave us each a dollar, she remembered, as an award for their art work.

Her aunt painted t-shirts and sold them at art fairs. So Coviello was influenced by her artistic family while growing up.

Today, Coviello enjoys photography, figure drawing and painting. “I like the impressionist style,” she commented. “My grandfather did as well.”

Why is art an important subject? “I believe that art is a universal language,” declared Coviello. “I feel that art can be applied to any subject in school. Art is such a hands-on and creative outlet for kids. I hope it doesn’t disappear.”

Renee Coviello

Read.Write.Act Conference
(Continued from page 2)

Dearman is also one of several student contributors to Keller Kyriakides’s book, “Transparent Teaching of Adolescents: Defining the Ideal Class for Students and Teaching.” The book addresses “an effective methodology for teaching” and is basically “a dialogue between teachers and students about what works and doesn’t,” said Dearman.

Improving literacy rates and critical thinking skills are key goals of SCALE. For more information about the organization visit http://readwriteact.org/.

Graduation Plans
(Continued from page 5)

Career Changers

If you hold a bachelor’s degree in majors other than education and have decided to change to a new career in teaching, consider these two programs that contain a student teaching component and lead to eligibility for Florida Professional Certification.

The M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification will prepare you to become an elementary school teacher in grades K-6.

The M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction plus Certification K-12 or Secondary Education will prepare you to teach a particular area of specialization: Art, French or Spanish in grades K-12 or English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Social Science in grades 6-12.

Read.Write.Act Conference
(Continued from page 2)

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Once you’ve decided on your program, apply online at www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline. Be sure to have your official transcript, if you did not graduate from FAU, and Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores sent directly to the Graduate College.

For more information on DTL graduate programs visit http://www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/tl/grad.aspx.
Preparing informed, capable, and ethical practitioners who are reflective decision-makers.

Questions & Answers: Continuing Education

Professional certifications need to be renewed every five years. Here are the answers to frequently asked questions by those returning to Florida Atlantic University to meet the Florida Department of Education (DOE)’s requirements.

**I need to take continuing education courses in order to renew my teacher certification. Do I need to complete an application?**

Yes, you need to apply as a non-degree seeking student. Then you can register for classes beginning on the date noted on FAU’s academic calendar, [http://www.fau.edu/registrar/acadcal.php](http://www.fau.edu/registrar/acadcal.php).

The non-degree seeking student application can be found at [http://www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline/domestic/nondegreeseeking/index.php](http://www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline/domestic/nondegreeseeking/index.php).

**What courses do I need to take to renew my teacher certification?**

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) lists the topics of courses needed for certification. For details, visit their website at [http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/renew.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/renew.asp).

**I would like to take courses in order to obtain my reading endorsement. Which classes do I need to take?**

The Department of Teaching and Learning offers courses that meet the competencies required by the Florida DOE. You may take these classes as a non-degree seeking student. However, you must meet the pre-requisites for any courses you take. Email deptteachlearn@fau.edu to request this list of courses.

Alternatively, you may apply for the M.Ed. in Reading Education. This master’s degree program requires evidence of temporary or professional certification and leads to the reading certification upon passing the state examination.

**Do I need to purchase LiveText?**

Most classes require LiveText. Please check your syllabus. If required, you must have an active LiveText account or a hold may be placed on your academic records. LiveText is required of transient students, non-degree seeking students, as well as degree-seeking students taking education courses for teacher certification.

This student assessment resource has been adopted by the COE for the purpose of accreditation compliance. For more information about this requirement, visit [http://www.coe.fau.edu/livetext](http://www.coe.fau.edu/livetext).