Letter from the Chair

By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

Fall semester always dawns with many exciting activities and changes from the previous academic year and this fall is no exception. The department was sad to say goodbye to several faculty who retired from the department, but very excited to welcome the addition of new graduate assistants and the FIAT program into the department. We are pleased that departmental faculty, students, and programs have been recognized for their accomplishments. You will read more about all of these exciting happenings inside the newsletter. Enjoy! And, Happy Fall!

The Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) has joined the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL). This grant-funded program offers three opportunities for Florida Atlantic University (FAU) College of Education (COE) students to earn income while learning to become effective teachers.

First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) provides a stipend to students who intern with a model classroom teacher in a local public school classroom one day per week.

A generous grant from the Florida Department of Education in support of the iTeach Geometry Partnership Project and the iTeach U.S. History Project is one of nine new awards faculty members received University-wide, according to President Saunders. "Co-principal investigators are Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of the College of Education, and Dr. Warren McGovern and Dr. Christopher Strain, both of the Honor's College."

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First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) provides a stipend to students who intern with a model classroom teacher in a local public school classroom one day per week.

The AIT teachers for the 2012-2013 school year are all DTL education majors. Lauren Robinson and Lauren Burton are teaching fifth and sixth grades, respectively, at the A.D. Henderson University School.

(Continued on page 10)
KDP Rho Omega Chapter Earns Literacy Alive! Award

Dr. Susannah Brown, Associate Professor, Teaching and Learning, accepted the Literacy Alive! 2011-2012 Gold Achievement Award on behalf of Kappa Delta Pi’s Rho Omega Chapter. Dr. Brown served as a co-counselor along with Dr. Andrew Brewer, Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, during the 2011-2012 academic school year.

The Rho Omega Chapter, the College of Education’s honor society, received the award for its members’ outstanding work and contribution to literacy in the community. Patrick D. Griffith, Literacy Alive! Coordinator, and Kristen Jackson, Educational Foundation Director, thanked Dr. Brown and Dr. Brewer for their leadership in Kappa Delta Pi’s signature service initiative. Kappa Delta Pi is the International Honor Society in Education.

Join Kappa Delta Pi: COE’s Honor Society

Who: College of Education (COE) undergraduate students with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better; graduate students with a GPA of 3.5 or better

What: Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)’s Rho Omega Chapter

When: Friday, Sept. 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: ED-47, Room 119, Boca Raton Campus.

Why: KDP, the International Honor Society in education, is holding its first meeting. To learn more, visit KDP’s website at kdp.org or the KDP Rho Omega Chapter website at http://www.coe.fau.edu/students/kdp/.

How: Contact Dr. Lori Dassa, Instructor, Teaching and Learning, at ldassa@fau.edu or Dr. Traci Baxley, Assistant Professor, Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry, at baxley@fau.edu.

How DTL Dovetails with FAU’s Strategic Plan

Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s 2012-2017 Strategic Plan lays out the strategic planning goals and signature themes of the University. FAU’s Strategic Planning Committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, the administration and the community obtained the approval of the FAU Board of Trustees in Spring 2012.

There are four goals: enrich the educational experience; inspire research and scholarship and creative activity; increase FAU’s Community engagement; and leverage momentum toward achieving FAU’s strategic goals by being good stewards of its human, technological, physical and financial resources.

In line with FAU’s plan, “DTL faculty will review our programs and outreach efforts to align our activities with the strategic goals,” stated Dr. Barbara Ridener, Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning. “The new goals are an opportunity to showcase the outstanding work being conducted by departmental faculty and to align that work with the direction [of] the goals identified by the University.”

Mark Your Calendar

Department of Teaching and Learning

Departmental Meetings for the Fall 2012 Semester

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<td>November 7, 2012</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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All meetings will take place from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Room 313 (ED 47—Boca Raton Campus).
DTL Graduate Earns PBC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award

Karrah Duvall, a Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) alumna earned the 2012 Beginning Teacher of the Year Award from the School District of Palm Beach County for the Elementary Level.

She received the award on June 5, 2012, during an awards ceremony for the 2012 Beginning Teacher of the Year and Beginning Mentor Teacher of the Year. The District hosted the event at the Fulton-Holland Education Services Center.

Duvall was recognized for demonstrating excellence during her first year of teaching kindergarten at Boca Raton Elementary. A Florida Atlantic University (FAU) graduate of the BAE Elementary Education program, she was among five DTL alumnae who were named 2012 Beginning Teacher of the Year Finalists.

Emily MacMillan of Binks Forest Elementary, BAE Elementary Education, and Audrey Sacco of Freedom Shores Elementary, M.Ed. Elementary Education, were named Elementary School Finalists.

Shelby Roker of Independence Middle, B.A. Social Science Education, was named a Middle School Finalist and Caitlin Conklin of Santaluces Community High, B.S. Biology Education, was named a high school finalist.

Another high school finalist, Latricia Santana of Turning Points Academy, won the 2012 Beginning Teacher of the Year Award for the High School Level. She is pursuing a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, also in the College of Education.

“FAU really prepared me for my first year of teaching,” said Duvall, who credited Associate Director of Academic Programs Joe Waters of the Office for Academic and Student Services for encouraging her. “He believed in my ability to be a teacher,” she declared.

“When students first entered my school [they] were so excited to learn. I wanted to keep them excited to learn the entire year. My enthusiasm for learning was contagious.”

To that end, she created an atmosphere where the children wanted to learn and allowed her students to borrow books from her classroom library. It was “amazing to see their eyes light up when I gave them a book to take home,” said Duvall, who shared her love for literacy.

“All of my students were meeting grade-level reading for the school year,” she stated. “More than half of my class reached above grade-level expectations.”

“My biggest accomplishment is that I fostered a sense of curiosity and excitement for learning,” she noted. “As these children enter first grade, I hope they will always remember me as the teacher who made learning interesting and loved to learn as much as they did!”

Dean Brister Announces Pine Jog Director

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, Dr. Valerie J. Brister, Dean of the College of Education (COE), announced that Ray F. Coleman has joined the COE as Director, Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. He began his assignment on June 11, 2012.

Prior to joining Florida Atlantic University’s COE, Coleman served as the Executive Director of the Mohican Outdoor School and Environmental Learning Center in Ohio.

Coleman earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master’s from University of Pittsburgh.

As director, Coleman is responsible for all aspects of management and visionary direction of Pine Jog. His primary responsibilities include fiscal systems, human resources, academic programs, strategic planning and fundraising.

Dr. Brown Invited as Guest Coach to FAU Football

On Friday, Aug. 31, 2012, Dr. Susannah Brown, Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, played the role of guest coach at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) football game against Wagner College—the first game of the season.

Dr. Brown was nominated for this honor by students and was invited by Dr. Michelle Brown, Director Student-Athlete Center for Academic Excellence (SACAE), Associate Athletic Director for Academics, and Angela Wyss, Associate Director, SACAE, on behalf of the FAU Athletic Department, SACAE and the coaching staff at FAU.

Among the perks Dr. Brown and her husband enjoyed were VIP parking and a full tour. They also viewed the game and halftime show from the sidelines, and attended various pre-game events and halftime talks.
The Orientation was held in the Liberal Arts Building on the Davie Campus for Broward, Dade and Hendry County interns. Pictured far right is one of the University Supervisors, Diana Martin. She oversees assigned interns at Broadview Elementary, Deerfield Beach Elementary and Atlantic West Elementary in the Broward County School District.

At left, Director of Clinical Experiences Traci Catto of the Office for Academic and Student Services (OASS) explains what is expected of student teachers, as well as how to become good role models during the Fall 2012 Student Teacher Orientation held Aug. 9, 2012 in Davie. Among the student teachers in attendance were (from left) Danielle Greene, Tina Fried and Michelle Griffiths.

Clinical Experiences Coordinator Steven Applebaum (left) of OASS discusses lesson planning and teaching requirements. He informs student teachers that all of their work must be presented through LiveText. Afterwards, students break into groups.
Student Teaching Orientation was also held on the Jupiter Campus, Aug. 10, 2012. At left is the Administration building where Palm Beach, Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Martin County interns met. At right, interns work on a group activity.

At right and below, various groups of student teachers at the Jupiter Campus collaborate on assignments, writing down their ideas on poster board. Among the topics discussed during the group activity were professional goals and the assessment cycle.

A total of 216 interns participated in the orientations held on both campuses. Graduate Assistant Kristin Brittain for the College of Education in Jupiter took the photographs at the Jupiter Campus.

Student Teaching Orientations are held twice a year in the fall and spring.
DTL Welcomes New Graduate Assistants, SITA

Three graduate students who were admitted into their programs for fall 2012 have taken on new roles. Two have joined the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) as graduate assistants: Brenda Boddiger, M.Ed. Environmental Education, and Ngoc-Thuy Nguyen, M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification.

Stephanie Binetti, M.Ed. Reading Education, is helping prepare international graduate students to teach undergraduate students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) under the guidance of Dr. Angela Rhone, Professor, Teaching and Learning. The Seminar for International Teaching Assistants (SITA) program is funded by the Graduate College.

On Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) graduate students received their diplomas during the summer commencement ceremony. A total of 14 graduates earned Master’s in Education degrees in the following majors:

**M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Social Science**
- Patrick W. Hudnall

**M. Ed. Elementary Education**
- Roberta C. Braker
- Shari A. Farenga
- Carey L. Keys
- Anna Kossenko
- Danielle Leto

**M. Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology**
- Diane B. Alvarado
- Ashley L. Hartman

**M. Ed. Social Foundations: Instructional Technology**
- Olivia P. Williams

**M. Ed. Reading Education**
- Michelle M. Jeffrey
- Gail A. Keeler
- Lesli A. Rogosin
- Teresa L. Skiles
- Lucinda A. Swinehart

Lesli A. Rogosin (left) and Shari A. Farenga are all smiles before lining up for the Summer 2012 College of Education Commencement Ceremony. Rogosin earned the M.Ed. Reading Education degree and Farenga earned the M.Ed. Elementary Education degree. The ceremony was held in the Carole and Barry Kay Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton Campus.

Boddiger’s passion is Marine Biology. She has six and a half years’ experience working in this field and a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. “I am looking forward to getting to know people within my department,” she said. Nguyen has experience as a tutor in an aftercare program. She earned her B.S. degree in Civil Engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and worked for four years in civil engineering before deciding on a career change. She noted, “I am happy to be of assistance to people working in this admirable field.”

Binetti graduated FAU on May 4, 2012 with a B.A. in Exceptional Student Education with ESOL Endorsement. She is the secretary of the FAU Volleyball Club. As a teaching assistant, she pointed out that “it is a great opportunity to see how the University operates.”

14 DTL Students Earn Master’s Degrees
Ajram Instructs Third Grade at A.D. Henderson University School

Stacey K. Ajram, a third grade instructor at A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS), earned her M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in May 2010.

She decided to transition to teaching after earning a B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages from Boston University and selling advertising for two years at the Sun Sentinel, a daily newspaper owned by the Tribune Company. “I was on a business track,” she said. “I wasn’t happy climbing the corporate ladder.”

Now she is in her third year at ADHUS, where she did her student teaching. “The critical components of the master’s degree program are the numerous field experiences and preparation for my portfolio,” explained Ajram.

Ajram credits the program with teaching her to be organized and reflecting on experiences in the classroom daily. She took her portfolio, which contained material from her field experiences, on job interviews to “show my potential” and provide “proof to back up what I accomplished in the classroom,” she noted. Her portfolio also served as a resource during her first year of teaching.

As for the faculty, “they embodied the kind of teacher I wanted to be,” said Ajram. “They facilitated a learning environment in which you were able to share the successes and failures in the classroom and grow from them.”

FAU provided me with “the foundation of my teaching philosophy,” she said. “The field experiences and classroom discussions made me feel confident I was prepared to be a teacher.”

“I am really grateful for the experiences and memories that FAU allowed me to have,” Ajram reflected. “It is an honor to be an FAU alumna. I hope I can inspire the next generation of teachers as an advocate for education.”

Tasca Works at a Private School in Jacksonville

“My Mom is a teacher; I was inspired by her.” said Katherine Tasca, who decided to pursue the M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) after graduating with a B.S. in Business from Wake Forest University in North Carolina and returning home to Boca Raton, Florida.

Since earning her master’s degree in 2011, Tasca teaches fourth grade at Beaches Episcopal School, in Jacksonville, Florida. There she applies her teaching philosophy, “The three Rs: being respectful, resourceful and responsible.” She encourages her students to apply these three principles in their lives both at school and at home. For instance, being resourceful by looking in their notes to find an answer or being responsible by taking ownership for the choices they make.

At FAU, Tasca learned the importance of having clear objectives for her lessons and knowing what she will be assessing when she creates her lesson plans. “My goal is to help students to see education as an opportunity and not an obligation.” she said.

Rampaul Teaches First Grade in Broward County

Oumawatee (Janet) Rampaul graduated May 2012 from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with the M.Ed. Elementary Education. She has taught first grade at James S. Hunt Elementary in Broward County Public Schools since earning her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from FAU in December 2003.

She emigrated from the country of Trinidad and Tobago where her parents were not required to go to school, Rampaul revealed. “My parents were illiterate, poor and hardworking laborers who believed that educating their children would provide a better life for the next generation.” She added, their sacrifice, inspiration and motivation was the driving force behind her academic achievement today. Her teachers provided the encouragement and support “to accomplish her dream of becoming a teacher.”

Rampaul noted that she teaches at a Title 1 school and that the type of students who attend that school reminds her of herself when she was a young student. She is now the teacher that plants the seed of encouragement in her students to keep them inspired to pursue their academic, as well as personal goals.

Reflecting on why she returned to FAU to pursue her master’s degree, Rampaul said, “A lot has changed in the classroom in 10 years. We’re moving from the New Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSS) to the Common Core Standards. There is the infusion of 21st century technology, and the implementation of the Marzano Art and Science of Teaching Framework.” So she wanted to keep herself updated and informed with changes in the school system, as well as meeting, listening, and sharing with other educators who were in the master’s program.

Rampaul is also a volleyball official for the Broward County Volleyball Officials Association (BCVOA). She is one of the few referees with Rank One status for high school volleyball for Broward County. She also serves as treasurer and trainer for new officials within the organization.

Rampaul stated her teaching philosophy, “I believe that every child can learn with the support of a dedicated teacher and parents.”
Dr. Heckler Retires from Teaching Social Science

Dr. Ellen Heckler, Core Teaching Instructor in Social Studies, Teaching and Learning, retired June 30, 2012.

A middle and high school social studies teacher for 16 years, Dr. Heckler was asked to attend a week-long conference when the state of New Jersey mandated teaching the Holocaust. "It changed my life," she said.

Dr. Heckler became a Holocaust resource teacher in New Jersey and pursued a doctoral degree in Social Studies at Rutgers University. Her dissertation was "An Analysis of the Treatment of the Holocaust in Selected Secondary American and World History Textbooks."

Her expertise in the Holocaust led Dr. Heckler to write the Holocaust curriculum for the School District of Palm Beach County and Broward County Public Schools in the summer of 1995. Thus she began her affiliation with Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

From 1996 to 2001, Dr. Heckler designed and facilitated Holocaust education as Director, Holocaust Outreach Center, in FAU’s College of Education. She worked with Dr. Alan Berger and reported to him and Dr. Robert Shockey, who is now Chair and Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology.

She then continued at FAU as an adjunct instructor, returning full-time as Core Teaching Instructor in 2005. Dr. Heckler taught elementary and secondary social studies methods classes on the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

In addition to the Ed.D. Social Studies, Dr. Heckler holds a M.S. in Library and Information Science from Long Island University, and a M.A. in Social Studies and B.S. in History from New York University.

Her greatest accomplishment is "helping students to make social studies relevant to their lives," Dr. Heckler noted. She also made "social studies not an effort in memorization but in thinking."

Dr. Heckler worked to change the approach teachers use to teach social studies, which, according to her, studies show to be the least liked of all subjects in school.

She explained, "Social studies exists to create citizens. It is the only way to learn about our country, our world and our community. If you are a citizen, learning doesn’t stop when you graduate."

Her advice to pre-service teachers, "Be involved. Realize that children need to become citizens of the world and the only way to do this is by being informed. We need children to realize they need to think not just accept. They need to question."

Dr. Lindgren Retires from Teaching Science

Dr. Joan Lindgren, Associate Professor of Science Education, Teaching and Learning, retired July 1, 2012.

Dr. Lindgren had taught elementary and secondary science methods classes on the undergraduate and graduate level for 14 years on the Jupiter, Port St. Lucie, and Boca Campuses in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Prior to joining Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in 1998, Dr. Lindgren served as Assistant Professor, Frostburg State University in the University of Maryland system for four years.

Her other professional experiences include serving as a Graduate Assistant in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Florida for three years, and teaching middle school science for eight years and elementary school for seven years in Gainesville, Florida. Her international experiences include a year teaching in the Stockholm Public Schools as a Bilingual teacher and as a Peace Corp Volunteer in the Philippines, teaching Science and English as a Second Language.

Dr. Lindgren has written articles on science learning, co-authored articles regarding teaching about climate change to pre-service teachers, co-authored articles on science teaching self-efficacy, and authored the chapter on "Teaching science to English language learners" that appeared in an edited text by colleagues. She has made presentations at national and international professional conferences, and was secretary of the Middle Level Special Interest Group (SIG) for three years for the National Middle School Association and the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Lindgren served several years on the University Faculty Senate until retirement.

"I have found it rewarding as a science educator to see undergraduate elementary students with little interest and knowledge of science become enthusiastic to teach science in school," reflected Dr. Lindgren. "To see these students become aware of all that there is to science and how it can impact our lives has been another source of satisfaction. Observing secondary education students engage in pedagogical approaches and instructional techniques that enhance understanding for students has also been rewarding."

She has been impressed by graduate and undergraduate students’ interest and understanding of climate science. "Pre-service teachers have responded positively to the science and learning involved in this complex interdisciplinary topic and become concerned about the potential impact of global climate change," noted Dr. Lindgren. "This is new science for most of our students, so the understanding that is involved was coordinated with the new science education standards related to climate science and climate change, and methods for teaching such."

"I further hope students who persist in becoming teachers experience the joy of teaching, the satisfaction of working with young learners and find encouragement to continue in the profession in spite of the low regard for teaching at present," Dr. Lindgren stated. With a current shortage of teaching positions, she suggested teachers "might consider international teaching, the Peace Corps, teaching English in another country or even Teach for America."
The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL)’s faculty meeting was held on August 15, 2012. DTL Chair, Dr. Barbara Ridener (far left), and faculty gear up for the new school year. Afterwards, the College of Education (COE) Dean, Dr. Valerie J. Bristor (right), hosted COE’s “Welcome Back” event.

### DTL Faculty Listing by Subject Area

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<th>Mathematics</th>
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<td>Dr. Barbara R. Ridener</td>
<td>Dr. Nancy Romance</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Elementary Education</td>
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<td>English</td>
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### Campus Key:
- **Boca**
- **Davie**
- **Jupiter**

Core Teaching Instructor
Leslie Calhoun (left) and Dr. Jennifer Bird of the Jupiter Campus enjoy the event.
Reading Scholarships: COE Makes Available Thanks to Author James Patterson’s Gift

Who: Eight College of Education students who are pursuing careers in teaching with special emphasis on reading education

What: James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund

When: Best-selling Author James Patterson gave Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education a $60,000 gift in August 2012

Where: Boca Raton, Florida

Why: To form a learning community among scholarship recipient’s that will supplement their regular program of study, and serve as hands-on instructional interns with mentors in Palm Beach County classrooms as reading specialists. Additionally, recipients will prepare and submit a report on practical and feasible ways to improve education in their city or state, which will be shared with Patterson.

How: Details about the application process will be distributed through email to eligible undergraduate students the beginning of October.

To donate to the Department of Teaching and Learning, visit http://www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/tl/donate.aspx.

Questions & Answers: BAE in Elementary & Secondary Education

Thinking about declaring an undergraduate major in Elementary or Secondary Education? Here are some answers to frequently asked questions by prospective students:

For information about programs contact:

Boca
undergraduate 561-297-3570
graduate 561-297-3791
Davie 954-236-1028
Jupiter 561-799-8135

What Bachelor’s degrees are offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning?
Our department presently offers eleven degrees: B.A. or BAE in Elementary Education with ESOL Endorsement (K-6) and Secondary Education (6-12). Secondary Education students may choose from the following areas of study: English, Mathematics, Music, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), and Social Science. Secondary Certification Programs (K-12) are also offered in Art and Foreign Languages (French or Spanish).

What are the admission requirements?
Florida Atlantic University (FAU) students must meet admission requirements of the teacher preparation program of their choice in addition to being admitted into the University and/or the College of Education (COE) as a first-year student or transfer student. The admission requirements include a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or a bachelor’s degree. Students must also have earned 60 college credits and have passing scores on all sections of the General Knowledge Exam. In addition, students must be approved for admission by the COE Office for Academic and Student Services, and be programmed by an assigned advisor.

What is the difference between a B.A. and a BAE?
The difference between a B.A. and a BAE is foreign language. In the COE at FAU, students are not required to take foreign language at the college level. However, the university has a graduation requirement where students must complete two units/years of a foreign language in order to graduate. Therefore, if you have taken two consecutive units/years of a foreign language at the high school level (Spanish 1 and 2 or French 1 and 2) this will fulfill the requirement and the student will earn a Bachelors of Arts in Education or a BAE.

If you choose to take two units/years of foreign language at the college level, you will earn a Bachelors of Arts or a B.A. The same college-level language requirement holds for a B.S. as well.

Students can also earn college credit for foreign languages by taking the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam or Advance Placement courses and exams while in high school. These exams can be taken through the College Board. College credit earned through these exams will also meet the college-level language requirement.