By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

I am always impressed by the range of accomplishments by our students, graduates, and faculty and this issue shows the expansiveness of our reach and impact. Our students are graduating and going on to receive considerable awards. In this issue, we highlight a graduate who received the first year teacher award from Okeechobee County. Our students and faculty recently hosted students and faculty from a partnering university in the Netherlands. Our visitors were pleased to participate in a variety of classrooms and visit teachers and students in our local schools. Our current students are continuing to develop cutting edge projects. On page 7, the impressive capstone projects for our environmental education students are highlighted; they are worth reading. The faculty are also expanding their impact. Dr. Angela Rhone earned the award as the COE teacher of the year and Dr. Susannah Brown was named the national Kappa Delta Pi Vice President. To all who have been a part of the department, I say, “Congratulations! Keep up the good work.” You are part of a talented, elite group. We are proud of you! Please share with us your accomplishments so we can highlight you, as well.

Environmental Education Graduate Students Present to FAU Faculty, Netherlands Guests

Twelve graduate students in the M.Ed. Environmental Education program presented their capstone projects on Tuesday, April 15 and 22, 2014. Some of them presented to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) faculty members and high school teachers visiting from the Netherlands on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The event took place in the third floor conference room of the Education Building on the Boca Raton Campus. (see page 7).
Want to Make an Honors Connection?

Be on the lookout for advertising of a new cohort for the Honors in the Major program. Undergraduate students who are Elementary Education majors will be able to apply for the Effective Integration of Educational Impact and Outcomes (EIEIO) through Honors Elementary Education, a new undergraduate research honors program, offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education.

The EIEIO Elementary Education Honors Program will provide the opportunity to:
- Engage in undergraduate research and inquiry,
- Explore formal discipline-based research practices and
- Experience mentorship within coursework and in field.

Initial criterion requires passing scores on all four sections of the General Knowledge sections of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE). Additional eligibility requirements include having and maintaining an overall 3.0 grade point average (GPA), and being willing and able to travel to potential school-based placements outside of your home radius.

Applications for the program will be available in October once the program is approved. The program is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring 2015 semester, offering honor’s classes: EDF 3210 and EDF 3430. For more information contact Dr. Lori Dassa, Assistant Professor for Effective Teaching Practices at ldassa@fau.edu.

COE to Celebrate 50th Anniversary in October

Alumni and current students of Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education (COE) are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the COE. The exciting events will take place throughout the week of Oct. 11-16, 2014 on Boca Raton Campus, including the Education Building (pictured at right), ED-47. Keep checking the COE website, www.coe.fau.edu, for more details. Be sure to mark your calendar!

Dr. Brown Named VP of KDP

Dr. Susannah Brown, Associate Professor, Teaching and Learning, will join the Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)’s 2014-2016 Executive Council, announced Dr. Elizabeth Wilkins, KDP President-elect and Professor of Northern Illinois University in the April 11, 2014 KDP blog post. Dr. Brown will serve as Vice President.

"Using their gifted leadership abilities, creative thinking, and listening skills, they will identify new ways Kweldians can make a difference in the lives of those around us," Wilkins stated in the blog post, regarding the newly-elected Executive Council members. KDP is the International Honor Society in Education.

Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education (COE)’s service-oriented chapter is Rho Omega. COE undergraduate students must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better and graduate students must have a GPA of 3.5 or better in order to join the organization.

For information about becoming a member of the COE’s Rho Omega Chapter, contact KDP Counselor, Dr. Lori Dassa, Assistant Professor for Effective Teaching Practices, Teaching and Learning, at ldassa@fau.edu.

Dr. Ridener Speaks at KDP Rho Omega Initiation

Dr. Barbara Ridener (center), Chair, Teaching and Learning, spoke at the spring initiation of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) members into the College of Education’s Rho Omega Chapter on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Live Oak Pavilion on the Boca Raton Campus. Dr. Lori Dassa (left), Assistant Professor for Effective Teaching Practices and KDP Counselor, and Jayne Hafer, President of Rho Omega, attended the event.
Dr. Rhone Named 2014 COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year

Dr. Angela Rhone, Professor, Teaching and Learning, was named 2014 College of Education (COE) Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of the COE, announced on March 25, 2014.

Dr. Rhone received this honor based on her scholarship, research, and publications; classroom teaching; experience; academic counseling; concern and involvement in student activities; and University and community service. The COE Student Achievement Council selects one finalist from among the nominees submitted by students for The Distinguished Teacher of the Year (DTOY) Award.

Dr. Rhone enjoys helping students achieve their goals. She recently mentored a group of students for a project that was displayed at the Fourth Annual Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Broward Student Research Symposium (see article on page 5). She has also served as Director of the Seminar for International Teaching Assistants (SITA) during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. The SITA program helps prepare international graduate students to teach undergraduate students at FAU.

In 2011, Dr. Rhone received high honors when she received the 2011 Faculty Member of the Year Award, which is a FAU Broward Achievement Award. Dr. Rhone teaches undergraduate courses in educational psychology and continues to further her own research on multicultural education. Dr. Rhone is presently working on her research: Factors that Affect Academic Achievement of First Generation Haitian and First Generation Jamaican Students in the K-12 System in the United States.

LaFoy Won Okeechobee County First Year Teacher of the Year

On Saturday, February 15, 2014, Betsey LaFoy was named Okeechobee County First Year Teacher of the Year for Okeechobee County School District. A Florida Atlantic University (FAU) alumna, LaFoy earned the B.A.E. Elementary Education in May 2013.

She is a third grade teacher at South Elementary. She credits her professors at FAU with teaching her lots of different activities she can do with students who are at various levels of ability and have different learning styles. They “prepared me for a diverse classroom,” she said.

Professionally, LaFoy stated, she prefers to implement evidenced-based theories that have been proven in the classroom. She particularly uses the constructivism approach. In her third-grade classroom, students learn cooperatively as a team.

“Personally, teaching is from the heart,” LaFoy noted. “Having accountability to each one of my students is really important. Every single interaction you have with a student can have a lifelong impact. A great teacher would be careful” with the words she chooses.

Two DTL Students Recognized at COE Honors Reception

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) chose two students who were honored during the College of Education (COE)’s Honors and Awards Ceremony given by Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean, COE, on Thursday, May 1, 2014 in the Education Building at 3:30 p.m. on the Boca Raton Campus.

Samantha L. Saffer earned the Outstanding Undergraduate Award for DTL. She graduated magna cum laude earlier that day from Florida Atlantic University with the B.A.E. Elementary Education. In presenting the award, Dr. Ridener recounted the determination Saffer displayed in graduating and becoming a teacher despite the medical challenges she faced due to a car accident while taking Effective Teaching Practices 2 (etp2). “She went through several surgeries to rebuild her eye and wound up finishing etp2 during winter break so she could still student teach,” noted Dr. Ridener. “She successfully student taught while still balancing doctor appointments and recovery.”

Lindsey M. Laury was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award for DTL. She also graduated on May 1, 2014. She earned the M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction plus with Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Broward School Board approval to do the study, Dr. Rhone has been working with several first generation Haitian and first generation Jamaican students at Plantation High School in Broward County. She is also working with Dr. Victoria Brown, Assistant Provost and Associate Professor, Academic Affairs, and Dr. Eileen Ariza, Professor, Teaching and Learning, on several articles that relate to multicultural education and technology.

(Continued on page 5)
DTL Reaches Out to Future Teachers in Local High Schools

An elementary education major, Falcon received the Fall 2013 Broward Undergraduate Research Award, providing her the opportunity to serve on this Florida Atlantic University (FAU) research group. This award was bestowed in recognition and in support of the research-related work Falcon is presently assisting Dr. Marinaccio with this semester. This award was made possible by a one-time allocation from the Florida Department of Education intended to strengthen academic programs on 2+2 campuses FAU shares with Broward College in Davie and Ft. Lauderdale.

The presentation entitled, "Expanding the Discourse of Identity in the English Language Arts Curriculum to Include Black Males," took place on Feb. 20, 2014 under the auspices of the South Florida Educational Research Alliance with the Broward County Public School District’s Black Male Success Initiative. Dr. Steven Rios, Visiting Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, was unable to attend. However, he has been a valuable member of...
Dr. Katherine C. Powell, Core Teaching Instructor, retired from the Department of Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education at the end of the spring 2014 semester. She taught EDF 3210 Applied Learning Theory, preparing future teachers in understanding the psychology of learning, teaching strategies, classroom management, self-development and self-assessment. She also taught several graduate-level courses.

Dr. Powell joined the University in 2003 and became a full-time faculty member in 2004. While at FAU, she was committed to the pursuit of scholarly research, writing books/articles and investigating how people develop confidence or a strong sense of self. Her research interests included development of constructivist teaching strategies in effective learning environments, non-verbal communications and self-regulation skills to overcome obstacles, and development of self. Dr. Powell is the author of the book, Educational Psychology of the Self and Learning, published in 2012, an earlier edition published in 2006 and several national and international articles.

Her greatest reward is seeing "students grasp complex concepts and become creative with their knowledge and understanding," Dr. Powell noted. In addition to teaching, her greatest achievement, she reflected, is her research. "I am sharing my knowledge and experience in the books I have written and will write for the progress of future generations,” she said.

Dr. Powell earned the Ed.D. Human Development and Educational Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the M.A. Psychology from Boston College. She received a B.A. from Syracuse University with a major in bacteriology/chemistry and a minor in French.

Prior to joining FAU, Dr. Powell was a guidance counselor and high school teacher at several schools in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, as well as a college course developer and teacher at the University of the Virgin Islands. Previously, Dr. Powell worked for various corporations, providing staff development. From 1994-2000, she served as Workshop Developer/Consultant for John Hancock and Sun Life of Canada in Boston, Mass.; from 1990-1993 as Systems Group Director for Sheraton and ITT Corporation in Braintree, Mass.; from 1987-1989 as Audit Officer/Assistant Vice President for J.P. Morgan, in New York, N.Y.; and from 1980-1986 as Project Manager/Systems Consultant for Jon Kluger Associates in New York, N.Y.

She established her own consulting firm, Inter-Active Management, during the 1990s.

LaFoy Won Okeechobee County Award

(Continued from page 3)

Her greatest achievement is setting high expectations for all of her students regardless of ability and having her students meet them, recalled LaFoy. This "goes back to finding out their learning styles.”

“I found too that all students greatly benefit from structure and procedures,” LaFoy discovered. “This played a huge role in their learning. Having procedures in a structured classroom is 80 percent of it.”

LaFoy shared her teaching philosophy. She wants her students to have those life skills necessary to survive in the real world. “Whoever they become, they will have the skills to succeed,” she said.

Dr. Rhone Mentors Students for Broward Research Symposium

Dr. Angela Rhone, Professor, Teaching and Learning, led an undergraduate student group project as mentor. The name of the project is Mamie and Kenneth Clark’s Impact on Pre K-12 Educational System in the United States (U12). The newest showcase from 2013 was on display on the Davie Campus during the Fourth Annual Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Broward Student Research Symposium until March 28, 2014.

The members of the student group project were Samantha Mira, Monela Rowe, Kristin Fisher, Regine Tertulien, Michelle Ventura and Ashley George. They are all undergraduate students in the Department of Teaching and Learning, majoring in elementary education, except George who is majoring in social studies education. FAU’s QEP focuses on expanding undergraduate research and inquiry opportunities for students and faculty at FAU.

Pictured at right is student presenter Ventura (left), explaining her group’s project to Dr. Donna Chamely-Wiik (right), Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Director and Assistant Scholar/Scientist, who served as a judge for the exhibit on March 14, 2014.
DTL Students Earn 143 Bachelor’s, 29 Master’s Degrees

On Thursday, May 1, 2014 the Department of Teaching & Learning (DTL) students donned their caps and gowns to receive their diplomas during Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education commencement ceremony.

The pomp and circumstance took place in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton campus at 1:00 p.m. A total of 143 DTL undergraduate students earned bachelor’s degrees: 120 in Elementary Education, two in Biology Education, seven in English Education, three in Mathematics Education, three in Music Education and eight in Social Studies Education.

A total of 29 DTL graduate students earned Master’s in Education degrees in the following majors:

**M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification:**
- **Art**  
  Sean S. McGraw

- **Biology**  
  Lindsey M. Laury

- **Social Science**  
  Christopher B. Eubanks, Ana L. Vidal, Yvette P. Zetrene

**M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Spanish**
- Maria D. Peterson

- **Elementary Education**
  Lisa J. Christensen, Gary H. McCarthy, Ortal Moshe, Ngoc-Thuy T. Nguyen, Dirk Van Tilborg

- **Environmental Education**
  Brenda L. Boddiger, Eileen M. Cassidy, Qingquig Chui, Sebastian S. Church, Kristen L. Corbett, Carla S. Duhaney, Cheryl A. Huey, Eric Lind, Ashley M. Moore, Erin V. Mullen, Liting Niu, Maritza Torres

- **Social Foundations: Educational Psychology**
  William B. Goulet

- **Social Foundations: Instructional Technology**
  Fatima Z. Pereira, Duygu Cetin-Berber

- **Reading Education**
  Trisha M. Jennings, Kelley R. Saulnier, Kristin M. Hobart

- **Social Foundations: Instructional Technology**
  William B. Goulet

- **Reading Education**
  Trisha M. Jennings, Kelley R. Saulnier, Kristin M. Hobart

- **Social Foundations: Instructional Technology**
  Fatima Z. Pereira, Duygu Cetin-Berber

- **Reading Education**
  Trisha M. Jennings, Kelley R. Saulnier, Kristin M. Hobart

Above (from left) are undergraduate students Evelyn Frias, Erica Kaplan and Jennifer Castelli. At left they display their decorated caps. Each of them earned the bachelor’s in Elementary Education.
Check out the capstone projects created by graduate students in the M.Ed. Environmental Education program. They are on display on the third floor of the Education Building, ED-47, on the Boca Raton Campus in the hall leading to room 313. All twelve of them graduated on Thursday, May 1, 2014. Here are the titles, authors, and clips of the posters.

**Graduate Students’ Capstone Presentations Now on Display**

The Capstone Project examined assessment measures of quality early childhood education programs with specific emphasis on the need to revisit the way in which programs are evaluated. Further, the project explored rationale and benefits associated with why environmental education should be incorporated into assessment tools. An informal case study was then conducted to determine to what extent a highly regarded early childhood education center is able to incorporate environmental education into its program.

**Investigating the Assessment of Early Childhood Programs with an Emphasis of Environmental Education**

by Brenda Boddiger

The Capstone Project provided the opportunity to develop an introductory undergraduate course in environmental education for students attending Sias International University in the Henan Province in China. Motivated by the degree program at Florida Atlantic University, this course was conceived as a way of introducing undergraduates in China to the broad issues associated with addressing critically important environmental issues within China. Specifically, the course will focus on issues surrounding the water quality and how to guide students in researching the topic, exploring critical factors, developing their own hypotheses, and asking questions based on their readings and assignments. The course fills a major void in the education of young people in China, as presently there are no programs or courses of this nature within the University. Additionally, the University president through the Sias Foundation has made a commitment to introduce such courses within the Institution.

**Introductory Course in Environmental Education: Water and People in China**

by Qingqing Chui

The Capstone Project resulted in the design and development of a program that integrates learning of global environmental issues with design and implementation of local sustainability solutions. The objective of IDEAS For Education is to empower people of all walks of life to become community change agents by engaging them with global issues and local solutions through a transformative educational model.

**Guidelines For Planning And Building A Hydroponic Garden On Broward County Elementary School Campuses**

by Kristen Corbett

The purpose of the project was to create a manual for the Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Hydroponic Gardens on Broward County Elementary School Campuses. Secondly, from an educational perspective, the purpose is to introduce and increase student appreciation of the nature of hydroponic gardening. The students will learn the many benefits to their general health and well-being, to understanding the world around them, and why returning to nature can be such a wonderful experience.

**Integrating Art and Environmental Education at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: A Model for Curriculum Redesign**

by Carla Duhaney

The Capstone Project resulted in the design and development of a program that integrates art and environmental education through a curriculum for the Awesome Adventures of Annie V program at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. Plans for “living laboratory” kits were developed complete with environmental lesson plans, lists of supplies and laminated sheets of related artwork, science concepts, and biological species.

**Developing an Outdoor Classroom at a Palm Beach County Middle School**

by Cheryl Hyatt Huey

The Jupiter Middle School Outdoor Classroom is being developed on the 2.25 acre natural area and certified wetland located on the school campus. The mission of the outdoor classroom is to provide authentic hands-on learning and field studies for students. The lessons focus on providing multifaceted understanding in the areas of ecology, conservation, weather, cycles in nature, and respect for nature. These opportunities will help students acquire real-life science inquiry and problem solving skills.

**We Need More Green Schools: Considering the Impact and Implications of Creating a Culture of Sustainability**

by Eric Lind

This Capstone Project, accompanying poster, and advertising product are designed to increase awareness, understanding and interest in advancing the development of Green Schools Programs. To facilitate the formation of a culture of sustainability at schools, the marketing component would clearly outline the benefits and costs of implementing sustainable practices and is intended for distribution to teachers and school-based administrators. The project, as designed, is the culmination of the exploration of ideas, information and current practices as delineated through various academic journals, websites, and marketing materials. Further, background information resulting from attending conventions and touring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and sustainable.

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Preparing informed, capable, and ethical practitioners who are reflective decision-makers.

Capstone Projects
(Continued from page 7)

Instructors, K-12 Teachers And Nontraditional Educators
by Ashley Moore
Ashley Moore will be presenting on permaculture, what it is, what it isn’t and how it has transformed her life and worldview. This interactive presentation will take you through her journey while highlighting what it took to get there, hardships and enlightenment. By the end of Moore’s presentation the biggest climate skeptic will surely be convinced that permaculture is the only way to save the world.

Art and Nature Programs at Seabrand Preserve State Park
by Erinn Mullen
Seabrand Preserve State Park is a 920 acre preserve within walking or biking distance of many neighborhoods and includes globally imperiled sand pine scrub. Because there have been no interpretive programs for children to learn about this threatened ecosystem, the focus of this Capstone Project was the establishment of five interpretive programs that incorporate art, nature and protection of Florida’s natural resources. These programs can be used by numerous visitors throughout the current and future years.

Establishment of GreenLiving, Inc.--An Environmental Nonprofit Organization in Palm Beach County
by Liting Nui
The focus of the Capstone Project was the establishment of a nonprofit organization called “GreenLiving” in Palm Beach County (GLPB). The business entity, GreenLiving, is committed to promote green living, provide information and resources to communities on how to live well and sustain a quality lifestyle. As such, GLPB will develop programs for use by community groups, public and private schools and local religious groups who are interested in promoting a quality lifestyle for all individuals including the basic and most essential practices, resources and programs.

Linking Physical Science Concepts with Environmental Science
by Maritza Torres
The Capstone Project developed and evaluated an integrated, environmentally-oriented elementary unit on light energy as it impacts living organisms. The integrated model included both physical science and environmental science concepts and engaged students in numerous instructional activities such as hands-on activities, concept map construction, informational text reading, and journal writing. This approach aligns with current research about how best to actively engage learners and produce meaningful learning outcomes. Two groups of fifth grade students were involved in the study and results showed better achievement gains for students participating in the integrated unit.