By Barbara Ridener, Ph.D.

Once again, we step forward into a new academic year. It seems there is never a lack of excitement and opportunity. This issue of The DeTail highlights a variety of initiatives that demonstrate the ways the Department of Teaching and Learning is reaching out, and making a difference. The FIAT programs, Good FIT, SMaRT, and AIT continue to change student’s perceptions of teaching and provide them with valuable learning opportunities. Our Elementary Honor’s program, EIEIO, is connecting with schools in Broward County and we are very excited about the opportunities for undergraduate research and connected practice that our students will receive through the partnership. It is the team that makes the difference. Throughout the department, on Davie, Boca, and Jupiter, the faculty, adjuncts, and staff are dedicated to helping our students successfully fulfill their goals. They always inspire me as they do the little things that make a difference every day.

It’s going to be an awesome year!

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

Letter from the Chair

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I am excited about our new faculty. Drs. Nichols, Musgrove, and Powers will be wonderful additions to our faculty whose expertise will impact both students and faculty.

It is the team that makes the difference. Throughout the department, on Davie, Boca, and Jupiter, the faculty, adjuncts, and staff are dedicated to helping our students successfully fulfill their goals. They always inspire me as they do the little things that make a difference every day.

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Dr. Nichols Joins DTL as Assistant Professor

Dr. Bryan H. Nichols joined the Department of Teaching and Learning in Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education as Assistant Professor of Science Education in August 2014. He teaches various science education and environmental education courses.

Previously, Dr. Nichols was Project Manager/Instructor ASAP STEM Grant for the University of South Florida Lakeland since 2012. He was an instructor at Polk State College in spring 2014 and at various campuses of the University of South Florida since 2007. In addition, he has been a Curriculum Editor and Designer for inquiry-based STEM modules for a variety of projects and grants since 2008.

Under Dr. Nichols’ management of the $950,000 Accelerated STEM Academic Pipeline grant, in service middle school teachers improved and integrated their science, math and literacy content knowledge and pedagogical skills. Dr. Nichols has authored articles for academic publications, as well as presented at national and international conferences. He is a reviewer of Journal of Sustainability Education and enjoys designing interactive and engaging courses.

Dr. Nichols earned a Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of South Florida—Tampa in 2012; a M.S. in Marine Science and Science Journalism from the University of South Florida—St. Petersburg in 2005; and a B.S. in Honors Marine Biology from the University of Guelph, Canada in 1988.
College of Education undergraduate students with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better and graduate students with a GPA of 3.5 or better are invited to join Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)’s Rho Omega Chapter.

The first meeting for the 2014-2015 academic year will take place on Friday, Sept. 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Building, Room 119, on the Boca Raton Campus.

KDP is the international honor society in education. For more information, contact Kayla Kelley, President, KDP Rho Omega Chapter, at kkelly2012@fau.edu

“The College of Education commemorates the 50th anniversary of welcoming students in 1964 when Florida Atlantic University became the state’s fifth public university.”

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COE Lands AACTE’s Networked Improvement Community

Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education (COE) was one of 10 American Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators (AACTE) member institutions to be selected for its inaugural Networked Improvement Community (NIC), a forum designed to support innovation and accelerate the pace of change in university-based educator preparation. Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, COE Dean, submitted a concise and convincing application describing the contributions the COE plans to make to the overall work of the NIC and to the profession. The NIC’s goal is to increase the diversity of the nation’s teacher candidate pool by focusing on recruitment of more Black and Hispanic men into teacher preparation programs. Over the next three years, AACTE will post updates of the NIC’s work on its website, The Innovation Exchange, and the AACTE blog, Ed Prep Matters | AACTE Blog.

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Dr. Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of FAU’s College of Education (COE), emceed the introductions and gave the closing remarks. During the reception, she issued the 2014 Dean’s Challenge College of Education: to purchase tickets to the Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014 FAU football game. A friendly competition among the college deans is taking place for the most Department of Teaching and Learning faculty and staff networked with the 100 faculty and staff from all seven departments in the College of Education (COE) who attended the COE Welcome Back Reception on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014 at the Delray Acura Club in the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Stadium and met those new to the COE.

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COE Holds Welcome Back Reception at FAU Stadium

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Dr. Ann Musgrove and Dr. Jillian Powers joined the Department of Teaching and Learning faculty as Instructors in August 2014. They teach various courses in instructional technology.

Dr. Musgrove has a Ed.D. and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership/Educational Technology and M.Ed. Educational Foundations/Instructional Technology from Florida Atlantic University (FAU). She also has a B.S. Biology from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Fla., and A.A. from Northern Virginia Community College. Previously, she was an Instructional Designer at FAU since 2010, and an Adjunct Instructor for Broward College since 2003 and for FAU since 1999.

Dr. Powers holds a Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction with specialization in Instructional Technology and M.Ed. Elementary Education from FAU; a Master of Philosophy and M.Ed. Politics and Education from Columbia University, New York, N.Y.; and B.A. Spanish from Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass. Previously, she was an Instructional Designer for Palm Beach State College since 2013; Adjunct Instructor for FAU from 2012-2013; and held Computer Teacher positions at various schools in Florida and New Jersey.

DTL Adds Dr. Musgrove, Dr. Powers to Faculty

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DTL Welcomes New Graduate Assistants

Three graduate students, who are pursuing master’s degrees offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL), joined the Department as Graduate Assistants on August 18, 2014.

Kimicia B. Byrd, M.Ed. Elementary Education with ESOL plus Certification, and Jennifer A. Murphy, M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology, serve the Department and DTL faculty at the Boca Raton Campus. Leila A. Geesey, M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction plus Certification: Art program, serves the Department, as well as DTL and COE faculty on the Jupiter Campus.

Byrd graduated cum laude with a B.A. in psychology in August 2013 from the University of North Florida (UNF), Jacksonville, Fla., where she was a charter member of the W.E.B. DuBois National Honor Society. While an undergraduate student, Byrd worked in the UNF Controller’s Office from August 2011 to July 2012 and in the UNF College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office from April 2010 to August 2010.

Murphy graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in psychology and minor in leadership studies from Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Fla., in May 2013. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Psi Chi Honors Society and Zeta Tau Alpha.

Having completed the Florida Substitute Teaching Certificate program at Broward College in October 2013, Murphy has served as a substitute teacher at Riverglades Elementary and Margate Middle School in Broward County Public Schools since October 2013, and as a resident counselor for Cape Cod Sea Camps for three consecutive summers since June 2012. While an undergraduate student, Murphy worked in the FSU College of Law as Faculty Support Assistant from October 2011 to July 2013.

Geesey graduated cum laude with a B.S. in psychology and minor in education in May 2012 from Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, Fla., where she also took graduate courses in school counseling.

Previously, Geesey was an activity leader for the Town of Palm Beach since June 2014 and an attendant for the Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course Pro Shop since May 2010. She served in various capacities as a childcare worker at the Woodfield Country Club from January 2013 to May 2014 and as an aftercare worker at Palm Beach Day Academy from January 2012 to December 2012.

Two DTL Graduate Students Earn Master’s Degrees

On Tuesday, Aug. 5th, 2014 College of Education students received their diplomas during Florida Atlantic University commencement ceremony in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton campus at 9:00 a.m. Two graduate students in the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) earned the following master’s degree:

**M. Ed. Reading Education**

Tara E. Downey

Lindsey H. Samarel

The Department of Teaching & Learning Faculty Gear Up for Fall

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) held a Welcome Back reception for faculty and staff on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014 in Room 356 of the College of Education building, ED-47, on the Boca Raton Campus.

Dr. Barbara Ridener (above, right), Chair, DTL, greeted attendees returning for the 2014-2015 school year and introduced new faculty: Dr. Bryan Nichols and Dr. Ann Musgrave. Dr. Jillian Powers, who was not present, also joined the faculty. (See stories on pages one and three.) Afterwards they attended the COE Welcome Back. (See story on page three.) Pictured at left are Dr. Susannah Brown and Dr. Andrew Brewer (right).
Leonardo Seeks M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology

Joseph Leonardo, a veteran, had originally applied for the M.A. General Experimental Psychology, when he received a letter from the Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Barbara Ridener, telling him about the M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology. “I didn’t know it [master’s in educational psychology] existed,” Leonardo said. “So I did some research and decided to go forward with it.”

Having begun the master’s degree program in fall 2013, Leonardo plans on completing the M.Ed. Social Foundations: Educational Psychology in fall 2014. Leonardo was pleased to discover how much psychology applies to teaching. He especially liked the multicultural courses that addressed teaching to diversity. He also enjoyed the research aspect, having become familiar with research from his undergraduate studies in psychology.

Leonardo’s goal is to teach at the college level and conduct research, but is now contemplating taking the courses and state exams required for certification to teach at the high school level first. A future in education was not something he considered when he graduated high school, however. After speaking to recruiters from different branches of the military, Leonardo chose the United States Marines.

He explained that the Marines grabbed his attention because they told him "If you want [something], you have to earn it. We’re not giving you anything.” That mentality appealed to Leonardo, who served from November 2003 until March 2007, did two tours of duty in Iraq and rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Despite these accomplishments, it wasn’t until he started to earn good grades at Palm Beach State College (PBSC) that he realized he was capable of succeeding academically. Leonardo worked for eight months after his military service and sought a two year technical degree in television production when he began his studies at PBSC in 2008. After two years, he concluded he could pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Leonardo transferred to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and earned his bachelor’s degree in fall 2012. He chose the psychology undergraduate program at FAU because it was more experimentally oriented and mathematically based than the other program he was considering.

Now Leonardo looks forward to becoming an educator.

Reflecting on his role as a Sergeant, he was impacted by watching the Marines he trained comprehend and master what he had taught them; that is a skill he can transfer to the classroom. In addition, he has learned firsthand that if you want something, you have to earn it. Furthermore, Leonardo credits past professors with encouraging and influencing him to pursue the study of psychology and to serve the community.

Terry Pursues M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification

Joining the Army National Guard was something Alexander Terry always intended. Nevertheless, after Terry graduated from Florida State University in 2010 with a bachelor’s in economics, he got a job as a manager at Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Having a job made it difficult to take the time off to do eight weeks of basic training, he explained.

So when he decided to come back to school full-time, it created the opportunity for him to get into a split Army National Guard and Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) program. He left his job in December 2012 and began his studies in physics at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and the Florida Army National Guard ROTC program in spring 2013.

"When I came back from basic training, I got a tutoring job," said Terry, who is now pursuing the M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction plus Certification: Social Science on the National Guard Education Duty for Dollars (EDD) Scholarship. "It flipped what I wanted to do."

Terry applied to the master’s program for summer 2014 and took such courses as Educational Statistics, STA 6113, and Educational Research, EDF 6481. He had fun doing research and liked the education aspect. “I really enjoyed the classes because it [teaching] is something I want to do,” Terry declared.

How will the officer training in the Florida Army National Guard ROTC program help him in the classroom? It is “all leadership,” noted Terry. “You have to gauge a little differently from students to soldiers.” However, the ROTC addresses the education in leadership quality you can’t get anywhere else. To become an officer, you gain leadership experience as you go through ROTC, he explained. As for the "National Guard, it’s just being able to serve.”

Terry chose to specialize in social science since he majored in economics as an undergraduate student. He plans to take additional classes in math so he will be able to add math to his social science certification once he graduates and becomes eligible for certification. He has taken a number of math classes as an undergraduate and has worked as a math tutor. “I like numbers,” he said.

According to Terry, the FAU Office of Military and Veteran Affairs (see story on page eight) and the ROTC work closely together. He has spoken with them about their programs and events. All in all, Terry is thrilled to be in the Florida Army National Guard ROTC program.
10 COE Students Selected as AIT Student Teachers for Fall

Nine undergraduate students and one graduate student in the College of Education (COE) have been selected as Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT) student teachers through the Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) for the fall 2014 semester, according to Jan Andrew-Rudin, Director, FIAT.

Six elementary education majors in the Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) have been assigned to St. Lucie Public Schools: two of them at Samuel S. Gaines Academy K-8—Jessica Campos, grade 3 and Mariah Bianchi, grade K; one at Frances K. Sweet Elementary—Britni Stockwell, grade K; and three at Palm Pointe Research School @ Tradition—Brittany Patton, grade 5, Morgan Fochs, grade K, and Kayla Berger, grade 4.

Three elementary education majors in DTL have been assigned to elementary schools in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): Valerie Sarah Hough, Banyan Creek Elementary, grade K; Jenna Pacinelli, Starlight Cove Elementary, grade 2; and Kayla Snyder, Highland Elementary, grade 3. In addition, Alison Busse, a graduate student in the M.Ed. Exceptional Student Education program offered by the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), has also been assigned to SDPBC, student teaching ESE at Forest Hill Elementary.

AIT student teachers are hired by local school districts as full-time teachers during their final semester of COE bachelor or graduate degree programs that lead to eligibility for certification. They have complete responsibility for their classrooms. For more information about the application process, stringent criteria and other considered factors, visit http://www.coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/fiat/ait.aspx.

Meeting eligibility does not guarantee inclusion in the program.

Farley Credits Good FIT with Offering a “Different Perspective, Different Lens” for Teaching Biology

Garrett Farley, a senior pursuing the bachelor’s in Science Education (Biology 6-12) through the Department of Teaching and Learning at Florida Atlantic University (FAU)’s College of Education, credits the First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) program with providing him a “different perspective, different lens” for teaching biology.

As a participant in the Good FIT program offered through the Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT), Farley observed the flip classroom teaching style of his model classroom teacher, Science Instructor Robin Barkes, at FAU High School during the spring 2014 semester. Instead of listening to the teacher lecture during class and going home to do homework, the freshmen students accessed the recorded “live capture” lecture via Blackboard from home, Farley explained. This way students came to class prepared to apply what they learned to in-class assignments and hands-on activities after the teacher briefly reviewed the lesson, he said.

In addition, Farley was able to share his passion for science with the students and facilitate labs. Interning one day a week for the entire school day, helped him to experience the brevity of each period and the diversity in the classroom. Debriefing took place at the end of the day, providing Farley with an opportunity to receive feedback and learn about available resources outside the classroom.

Elsesser Declares Good FIT Participation Key to Preparing for Career in Elementary Education

Erica Elsesser, an elementary education major and music minor, has wanted to be a teacher since she was in middle school and realized the impact her elementary school teachers had on her learning. During the spring 2014 semester at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Elsesser spent one day per week in the classroom at Alexander D. Henderson University School as a First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) participant.

Good FIT, offered through the Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT), which is part of FAU’s Department of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education, helped Elsesser know she was in the right field. “Good FIT makes me excited,” she said. In fact, it was her “favorite part of the week.”

The instructional internship provided Elsesser the opportunity to present a lesson in mathematics or social studies to the students of her model teacher, Second Grade Instructor Jenna Dorman, at A.D. Henderson. She also read to the class during story time.

The experience made Elsesser more comfortable being in front of a class and allowed her to work on her classroom management skills. One benefit of the program Elsesser appreciates is having a model teacher to answer her questions and prepare her for a career in Elementary Education.
Good FIT, SMaRT Alive at A.D. Henderson, FAU High School

On June 12, 2014, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) undergraduate Elementary Education majors in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning were pictured in action taking part in the combined First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) and Substituting with Mentors and Realistic Teaching (SMaRT) programs at A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS) on the Boca Raton Campus. Students participated in the Good FIT/SMaRT programs during the spring 2014 semester.

Both the Good FIT and SMaRT programs provide FAU students with an opportunity to earn a stipend while learning about the teaching profession. By combining the programs, FAU students are provided with mentors to better prepare them to handle the demands of substitute teaching.

The Good FIT part of the program provides participants the opportunity to observe highly qualified teachers model classroom management and instruction strategies for elementary and middle school students at ADHUS. This prepares the students to substitute teach grades K-8 in the SMaRT part of the program when teachers are out.

At the end of each day on a substitute assignment, students meet with their mentors to discuss their successes and areas in which they need help. For more information about the programs, visit http://www.coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/fiat/default.aspx.

Brittany Steele (center), A. D. Henderson University School (ADHUS) Florida Institute for the Advancement of Teaching (FIAT) Coordinator, discusses the combined First Introduction to Teaching (Good FIT) and Substituting with Mentors and Realistic Teaching (SMaRT) programs with Jenna Dorman (second from right), Good FIT/SMaRT mentor and second grade ADHUS teacher and Florida Atlantic University undergraduate students Natasha Patten (left), Julio Bolivar (second from left), and Erica Elsesser (right) during the spring 2014 semester. Patten and Elsesser are Elementary Education majors in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning; Bolivar graduated in May 2014 with a bachelor’s in Political Science with minors in French and Spanish through the D.F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. Patten and Bolivar were SMaRT participants and Elsesser a Good FIT participant.

Rebecca Copenhagen (standing, left), SMaRT participant and undergraduate Elementary Education major, and Kelsey Dougherty (standing, right), Good FIT/SMaRT Mentor and fourth grade A.D. Henderson University School (ADHUS) teacher, listen as elementary students read a passage.

Jenna Dorman (standing, left), Good FIT/SMaRT Mentor and second grade ADHUS teacher, and Tiffany Tifton-Burns (standing, right), SMaRT participant and undergraduate Elementary Education major observe students’ classwork.

Diana Gamilin (standing, right), Good FIT/SMaRT mentor and ADHUS middle school teacher, and Danielle Scavone (standing, left), Good FIT participant and undergraduate English Education major assist middle school students. Below, Garret Farley (standing), Good FIT participant and undergraduate Science Education (Biology) major demonstrates how to build a molecular model as FAU High School students watch.
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FAU Committed to Helping Military and Veteran Students Succeed

The Department of Teaching and Learning (DTL) in the College of Education thanks all military and veteran students for their service to our country and is committed to helping them achieve their academic goals. If you are considering one of our bachelor’s or master’s degree programs, Florida Atlantic University (FAU) has a Military and Veteran Affairs Office dedicated to assisting Military and Veteran students transition from military service to college by providing the tools and resources to be a successful student.

In fact, the University’s commitment is so strong that FAU was named Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges 2014 rankings for the third year in a row. This year’s review placed a special emphasis on academic rigor. Other important benefits include in-state residency for tuition purposes for all veterans attending FAU no matter when they move to Florida, as well as priority course registration for veterans and their dependents who are using GI Bill benefits. In addition, FAU provides military and veteran students with services geared to their specific needs through FAU departments such as advising services, financial aid, career development center, counseling, disabilities, health services, housing, resources and wellness. FAU also has a new Veteran Resource Center located on the first floor of the Boca Raton Student Union, opened weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the FAU website for veterans at http://www.fau.edu/vets/ or http://www.fau.edu/finaid/veterans/. Questions may be directed to Dylan Reyes-Cairo, Assistant Dean and Director for Military and Veteran Affairs, at 561-297-3574 or dreyescairo@fau.edu. For assistance on the Davie Campus, call 954-236-1229 and on the Jupiter Campus, call 561-799-8697. For information on Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) visit http://www2.fiu.edu/~armyrotc/FAU_rotc_staff.htm and on Air Force ROTC contact d.ingram@miami.edu. Other contact information can be found at http://www.fau.edu/student/veterans/Checklist%2014.pdf.

DTL offers eleven bachelor’s and seven master’s degree programs. For more information about these programs, please visit our website, http://www.coe.fau.edu/

Questions & Answers: Troops to Teachers Program

Is financial assistance available?
Registered participants who are eligible for financial assistance may receive a stipend of up to $5,000 to pay for certification requirements for which individuals must teach for three years at an “eligible” public school; a bonus of up to $5,000 to teach for three years in an “eligible” public school; or a bonus of up to $10,000 to teach for three years in a “high-need” public school. The maximum amount available through any combination of financial assistance is $10,000. However, the stipend may not be used to pay the costs associated with earning an initial bachelor’s degree and the stipend may not be available to those who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

How do I register for the program?
Individuals interested in the Troops to Teachers Program may register online at the national website: http://www.proudtoserveagain.com.

Where can I get more information?
Visit the Troops to Teacher Program’s website at http://www.coe.fau.edu/CentersAndPrograms/troopstoteachers/default.asp. Then click on the short video explaining the program and on topics listed on the left-hand side, which include: program requirements, changing careers, employment process, teacher certification and region services. If you have any questions, please email DeptTeachLearn@fau.edu.

http://www.coe.fau.edu/academicdepartments/tl/default.aspx

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

NOTICE: Copies of this publication can be obtained in an alternate format by contacting the College of Education/Department of Teaching and Learning at deptteachlearn@fau.edu or 561-297-6595. This publication is available in standard print, Braille, or electronically for people with disabilities. Please allow at least 10 days to process this request.

For information about programs contact: Boca undergraduate 561-297-3570 graduate 561-297-3791 Davie 954-236-1028 Jupiter 561-799-8135

The College of Education’s Troops to Teachers Program provides veterans an opportunity to serve again as a teacher:

What is the Troops to Teachers Program?
The Troops to Teachers Program is a nationwide program authorized by Congress to recruit and provide support services to veterans who wish to enter the teaching profession. Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education is the grant administrator named by the United States Department of Defense for the Florida/Caribbean Region Troops to Teachers Program. Dr. Joel D. Herbst, Assistant Dean, PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs, is the Principal Investigator for the Troops to Teachers grant.

Who is eligible for the Troops to Teachers Program?
All current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, whose last period of military service must be characterized as honorable, are eligible to participate in the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program.