



EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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A BIMONTHLY #NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023

COE Faculty, Staff, Students and FAU High Student Recognized at Honors Convocation

FAU Interim President Stacy Ann Volnick and Interim Provost Michele Hawkins recognized three faculty members, one staff member and two students in the College of Education and one FAU High School senior during the 54th annual Honors Convocation, held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 4 p.m. in the University Theatre on the Boca Raton campus. Among the award recipients are:

Sierra R. Van Dreason, an Elementary Education major, who was one of eight undergraduate recipients of the University Scholars Award. [...Read more](#)

Daylenis Mendez, an Exceptional Student Education major, who was one of nine recipients of the Undergraduate Researchers of the Year Award. [...Read more](#)

Michael Green, a dual-enrolled FAU High School student and a junior biology major within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, who was one of two FAU students named 2023 Goldwater Scholars. [The Barry Goldwater Scholarship](#) is the most prestigious national research fellowship for undergraduate students. [...Read more](#)

Bianca Nightengale-Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, who was one of four recipients of the Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching Award given for "enhancing undergraduate instruction." [...Read more](#)

Sita Ramnarace, M. Ed., Assistant Director, Office for Academic and Student Services, who was one of three recipients of the Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Advising Award given for "enhancing undergraduate advising." [...Read more](#)

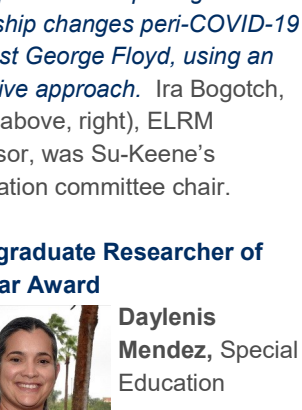
Ayse Torres, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Counselor Education, who was one of three recipients of the Presidential Awards for Engaged Faculty given for "engagement achievements in one of FAU's three mission areas." Torres received the award in the category for community engaged research/scholarship. [...Read more](#)

Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, who was one of eight finalists for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award. The award winner is determined by students; each college's Student Advisory Committee selects the finalist from its college. [...Read more](#)

COE Faculty and Students Participate in OURI Symposium and SURF

FAU College of Education faculty and students took part in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)'s 2023 Undergraduate Research Symposium and 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

13th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium—hosted by OURI was held on Friday, April 7, 2023 on the Boca Raton campus.



Impacting Students with ADHD. Sharon Darling, Ph.D., (above, right) Associate Professor, Special Education, was her faculty mentor.

Gina Cipriano (above, left), **OURI Peer Mentor for the College of Education**, participated as a panelist in a discussion on the topic of [Harnessing the Power of ChatGPT](#), a large language model trained by OpenAI, and its implications for undergraduate students.

Daylenis Mendez, Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (UROY) for the COE, was among the 2022-2023 OURI Awardees — one from every college. The selected students are in good academic standing and have participated in at least two semesters of documented faculty-mentored undergraduate research and inquiry at FAU. During the symposium, Daylenis presented a research poster titled, *The Flipped Classroom Model*

More information about the panel discussion and poster presentations can be found in the [2023 Symposium Program Booklet](#).

2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Awardees—awarded by OURI on May 24, 2023. Among the SURF awardees was Student Fellow:

Alexis Crowder, a biochemistry major in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, for her project: *The Influence of Working Memory, Grit, and Personality on Physician Performance*. Faculty Mentor: Michael DeDonno, Ph.D., (ELRM).

OURI will be showcasing their projects on social media. The OURI Summer Research Showcase will take place the week of Aug. 14, 2023. [...Read more](#)

Congratulations to all and best wishes in your future academic endeavors.

COE Holds Honors and Awards Ceremony

FAU College of Education recognized its faculty, staff and students during the COE Honors and Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, May 4, 2023 in ED-119 in the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus.

Faculty Awards
Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean, presented College awards to faculty and staff members:

Yash Bhagwanji, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CI, Distinguished Teacher of the Year

Bianca Nightengale-Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, CI, Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Teaching

Sita M. Ramnarace, M.Ed., Academic Advisor, OASS, Excellence and Innovation in Undergraduate Advising

COE Scholar of the Year
Connie Porcaro, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CSD, at the Associate Professor level

COE Researchers of the Year
David Devraj Kumar, Ed.D., Professor, CI, at the Professor level

Daniel Reyes-Guerra, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELRM, at the Associate Professor level

Ayse Torres, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, CE, at the Assistant Professor level

Student Awards
Silverman presented two college-wide awards to students:

Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award
DUCATION Eleanor Su-Keene, Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, Dissertation Title: *Under pressure: Exploring school leadership changes peri-COVID-19 and post George Floyd, using an abductive approach.* Ira Bogotch, Ed.D. (above, right), ELRM Professor, was Su-Keene's dissertation committee chair.

Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Award
Daylenis Mendez, Special Education

Among the students honored by Chairs for academic excellence in their departments were:

Academic Excellence
Robert Fritz, Outstanding Graduate, CSD

Clara Bossie, M.S., LMFT-QS, CEDS, Outstanding Graduate, CE

Sierra R. Van Dreason, Outstanding Undergraduate, CI

Alicia Haywood, M.A., Outstanding Graduate, CI

Matt Fritzius, M.Ed., Outstanding Graduate, ELRM

Kelly Brown, Outstanding Undergraduate, SE

Lauren Berlingo, M.Ed., Outstanding Graduate, SE

ADHUS/FAU High School
Gracie Diaz, M.S., Deputy Superintendent, A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High School, honored:

Christopher Clevenger, B.S., World History Teacher, as the FAU District Teacher of the Year [...Read more](#)

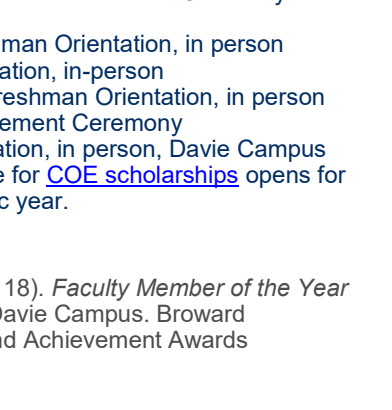
Ana Gazco, Teacher Aide, as the FAU District School Related Employee of the Year

Silverman recognized retiring faculty. Deborah Shepherd, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Office for Academic and Student Services, acknowledged donors and scholarship recipients during the ceremony.

COE Owl Among FAU Distinguished Alumni

Kavin Ming, Ed.D. (left in photo at right) who earned a doctoral degree in Special Education in 2007 from Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, receives the Distinguished Alumni award as the 2023 recipient for the COE from Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean. She was one of nine distinguished alumni from FAU colleges honored for their career accomplishments by the FAU Alumni Association (FAUAA) during its annual Hall of Fame & Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony held at the Live Oak Pavilion on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Ming is a professor of literacy, chair of the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, and director of the Richard W. Riley College of Education's New Faculty Mentorship



She joined the faculty in 2008, serving as the program director for the M.Ed. in Literacy program until summer 2018. Previously, she served as an assistant professor at Lynn University, and a special education and reading resource teacher in the School District of Palm Beach County. [...Read more](#)

FAU High School Students Recognized at OURI and Senior Research Symposiums

Florida Atlantic University High School students took part in OURI's annual symposium on Friday April 7, 2023 on the Boca Raton campus and were recognized for extraordinary academic achievements at the Senior Research Symposium on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience.

Office of Undergraduate Research Initiative (OURI) 13th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium—FAU High School students engaged in undergraduate research and scholarly activity presented their findings either through poster/visual arts presentation or an oral/performing arts presentation.

Michael Green was among the nationally competitive research awardees for 2022-2023, having been selected as one of two Goldwater Scholars at FAU. Tricia Meredith, Ph.D., Director of Research, FAU High School, was his mentor.

Meredith along with Amy Tift, Ph.D., and Allan Phipps, M.S., both University School Accomplished Instructors, A.D. Henderson University School, mentored several students who presented research posters. [The 2023 Symposium Program Booklet](#) contains a complete listing of students, including the 58 FAU High School students and recent alumni, who

presented at the event.

Senior Research Symposium at MPFI—Twenty-two remarkable students from Florida Atlantic University High School—Jupiter Campus—were recognized for extraordinary academic achievements at the Senior Research Symposium held on April 25 at the [Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience](#).

The students are the latest group to benefit from a partnership between FAU High and Max Planck Academy, one of the world's leading scientific research institutions.

During the symposium, seniors shared posters and oral presentations of their research. An awards ceremony followed to highlight their achievements, including:

More than \$10,000 in grant funding to support their research, and

Several presentations delivered at university, state, and national conferences. [...Read more](#)

Congratulations to all and best wishes in your future academic endeavors.

FOND FAREWELLS

Valerie C. Bryan, Ed.D., Charles Stewart Mott Eminent Scholar in Community Education and Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, retired effective Dec. 16, 2022. She served the College of Education for 28 years.

Deborah Harris, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, retired effective May 5, 2022. She served the College of Education for 27 years.

Important Dates

Students

- July 10—Summer Dissertation due to the University Graduate Dean
- July 12, 21 & 27—Freshman Orientation, in person
- July 20—Transfer Orientation, in-person
- Aug. 1, 4, 7, 10 & 17—Freshman Orientation, in person
- Aug. 8—COE Commencement Ceremony
- Aug. 9—Transfer Orientation, in person, Davie Campus
- Aug. 23—Application site for [COE scholarships](#) opens for 2023-2024 academic year.

Awards

Willems, P. (2022 April 18). *Faculty Member of the Year Award* for the Davie Campus. Broward Appreciation and Achievement Awards Committee.

Publications

Books

Williams, D.F. (2023). *Stuttering Perspectives: A Journey Through Research, Treatment, Controversies, and Personal Accounts* (2nd Edition). Routledge.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Aazh H., Taylor L., Danesh A.A., Moore B.C.J. The Effectiveness of Unguided Internet-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Tinnitus for Patients with Tinnitus Alone or Combined with Hyperacusis and/or Misophonia: A Preliminary Analysis. *J Am Acad Audiol*. 2023 May 5. doi: 10.1055/a-2087-0262.

Berlin, B.L.* & Sarro, R.A. (2023) Erythematous Papules and Nodules on the Left Arm. *Journal of the Dermatology Nurses' Association*, 15(3): 159–160. *FAU High School student

Bousalis, R. (2023). Exploring the Use of Digitally Archived Folk Music to Teach Southern United States History. *The Social Studies*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377996.2023.2202375>

***Chance, E., Villares, E., Brigman, B., & Mariani, M.** (2022). The effects of the ready for success classroom program on third-grade students' social-emotional skills and competence. *Professional School Counseling*.

Diaz, P. D., Peluso, P.R., Freund, R., Baker, A., & Pena, G. (2023). Understanding the role of Emotion and Expertise in Psychotherapy: An Application of Dynamical Systems Mathematical Modeling to an Entire Course of Therapy. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14, 980739. doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2023.980739.

Downey, A., Kearney, K.B., Adams, K., Brady, M.P., Berlingo, L., & Kenney, S. (2023). Effects of remote audio coaching on workplace communication for college students with intellectual disability. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 58(3), 317-327. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-230020>

Jackson, I., Ball, A., Nightengale-Lee, B., Shaw, S., Hernandez, A., & Torres, A. (2023). "There's so much young people need to learn that only the community can teach them" A Conversation with Dr. Armetha Ball. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 25-1, 43-51. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15210960.2022.2162524>

Lapp, S. I., & Bousalis, R. (2023). Preservice Elementary Teachers' Perceptions of the Learning and Teaching of Civil Rights. *Athens Journal of Education*, 10, 1-17. <https://www.athensjournals.gr/education/2022-4906-AJE-Lapp-05.pdf>

Miller, B.J. & Berlingo, L. (2023). Perspectives and experiences on engaging in physical activity for adults with intellectual disabilities. *Global Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities*, 11(5), 1-11.

Powers, J.R., Brown, S.L., Musgrove, A.T., & Bird, F.J.L. (2023). Introducing Young Learners to Robots and Coding through the Very Hungry Caterpillar. *Journal of Literacy and Technology*, 23(3), 2.

Ramirez, A. (2023). Genre-Based Pedagogy and Literacy Instruction. EBSCO Pathways to Research in Education. <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/pathways-research>

Vaughan, M., Meredith, T., Timar, A., Mariani, M., & Calabrese, E. (2023). Building the comprehensive educator research program: Action research as a vehicle for empowerment, growth, and professionalization in K12 schools. *Educational Action Research*.

Prestigious Lectures

Brown, V.

(2023). Keynote: Navigating to the Future of Higher Education using Instructional Technology. International Conference on Transition of Traditional Universities to Online Mode, International Islamic University, Islamabad. [Invited Speakers – International Islamic University \(iiu.edu.pk\)](#)

Keynote

Nightengale-Lee, B. (2023, April). *Teaching for Joy & Justice: Restorative Tools for Teaching in Troubling Times*. [Invited Keynote Speaker]. Nebraska Teachers of Color Summit, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Propst Cuevas, A.E. (2023, Apr 26). *It's all about the soil! Cultivating the appreciative advising framework to help students and each another thrive*. [Virtual Keynote Speaker]. University of Waterloo Advisor Conference, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Grants

Mariani, M. & Peluso, P. (2023, January). *School District of Palm Beach County Bicultural/Bilingual School Counselor, M.Ed. Degree-Cohort VI*. U.S. Department of Education, School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). Principal Investigator. \$445,272.

Ramasamy, R. & Kearney, K. (2023, July 1 - 2026, June 30). *Academy for Community Inclusion at Florida Atlantic University: Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Continuing Grant*. Florida Council for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA). Co-Principal Investigators (FAU). \$1.5 million. [...Read more](#)

Steele, K. & Porcaro, C. (2023, April) Parkinson Voice Project SPEAK OUT!® Program Development Grant. \$7,500.

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