



## Fall 2010 eNEWSLETTER

### From the Dean

“Welcome to the Fall 2010 issue of our College eNewsletter - **science connect**. As we begin the new academic year, I hope that this on-line newsletter keeps you current on the news and past and future events relevant to you and to our College. Since the last newsletter in the spring, many exciting things have happened in the University and the College and are summarized below.

I would personally like to highlight two important events. The most important piece of news is the appointment of Dr. Mary Jane Saunders as FAU's sixth president. Dr. Saunders is a botanist who was appointed not only as our president, but also as professor of biology with tenure in our College. We welcome Dr. Saunders as our new president and fellow faculty member, and very much look forward to working with her to help take FAU to its next level of excellence. Dr. Saunders was previously provost at Cleveland State University and was the founding dean of the college of science at the same institution. Another exciting piece of news for FAU and indeed our College was the approval of an independent Medical School at FAU. Some of you may remember that the program in Biomedical Science began in our College and became a new college in 2006 but continued to partner with the Miller School of Medicine at UM. It is now the Charles E Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU and will confer its own MD degrees. We heartily congratulate our colleagues in Medicine for this great achievement. A feature of the new medical program will be the MD/PhD program that will involve Scripps Florida as well as our College.

In future editions of this newsletter we would very much like to feature brief bites about our alums and so we need to hear from you. Please send me or Patsy Jones at [patsyj@fau.edu](mailto:patsyj@fau.edu) information about what you are now doing that you would like to share with your fellow alumni. Also, please visit the College's NEW web site at <http://www.science.fau.edu/> to view College programs and news as well as our gallery of pictures of various past events. As Dean, and as a member of the faculty, I invite you to contact me for any additional information you would like about the College. I hope to hear from you soon.

Gary W. Perry [perryg@fau.edu](mailto:perryg@fau.edu)

### New Faculty

- This new academic year, we are fortunate to have the following new faculty members join The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science: Department of Biological Sciences-Dr. John Nambu, Professor; Dr. Brian Benschoter, Assistant Professor; Department of Chemistry- Dr. Daniel De Lill, Assistant Professor and Dr. Deguo Du, Assistant Professor; Department of Geosciences- Dr. Caiyun Zhang, Assistant Professor; Department of Physics-Dr. Jonathan Engle, Assistant Professor. Dr. Sukanya Chakrabarti will join the Department of Physics as Assistant Professor in December.

### Selected Research Priority Areas

- Following an extensive review process by the Division of Research at FAU to identify Research Priority Areas that will assist FAU achieve national prominence, there were three selections. Our college is lead in two of the three proposals that were selected. “Climate Change-Research, Engineering, and Adaptation to

a Changing Climate”, Dr. Leonard Berry and Dr. Marguerite Koch; and “Brain Function, Damage and Repair”, Dr. Janet Blanks and Dr. Rod Murphey.

### Research Summary ‘09-‘10

- The college received over \$7.4 million in research grants in the academic year July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010.
- Among new grants that were received are Dr. David Lewkowicz, Professor of Psychology from NIH, Dr. Elan Berenholtz, Assistant Professor of Psychology from NSF; Dr. Dale Gawlik, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences from SFWMD; Dr. William Kailes, Professor of Mathematical Sciences from NSF; Dr. Stephen Kajiura, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences from PGS Americas, Inc; and Dr. Robert Stackman, Associate Professor of Psychology from NIH
- Dr. Robert Stackman, Associate Professor of Psychology received FAU’s Associate Research Professor of the Year.
- At the 6th annual College Research Day, Dean Perry presented college nominee research awards to Dr. David Lewkowicz, Research Professor of the Year; Dr. Robert Stackman, Research Associate Professor of the year and Dr. Stephen Kajiura, Research Assistant Professor of the Year.
- Dr. Steven Bressler, Professor of Complex Systems & Brain Sciences and Psychology co-authored with Vinod Menon of Stanford University the featured review article in the June 2010 issue of Trends in Cognitive Science. It has now been recommended as ‘must read’ article by the Faculty of 1000 Biology, the prestigious online service that highlights and evaluates the most interesting papers published in the biological sciences based on the recommendations of over 2000 of the world’s top researchers. President Saunders mentioned this honor in her State of the University Address which she delivered on Wednesday, September 1.
- “Brain Coordination Dynamics: Conference at Sea-Florida and Western Caribbean” was held March 1-5 and organized by Dr. J. Scott Kelso, Eminent Scholar and Glenwood and Martha Creech Chair in Science and Dr. Emmanuelle Tognoli, Research Assistant Professor in the Center for Complex systems and brain Sciences. This was a truly international conference including over 80 scientists from, Sweden, Canada, France, Switzerland, England, Germany, Finland, N. Ireland and the United States.

### State of Florida Oil Spill Task Force

- Among the FAU faculty members serving on the oil spill task force are two members of the college faculty, Dr. Leonard Berry, Director of the Center for Environmental Studies and Dr. Ed Proffit, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences located at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

### Academics

- In the academic year July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010, the college awarded a record **652** degrees: **310** Bachelor of Arts, **243** Bachelors of Science, **21** Masters of Arts, **30** Masters of Science, **17** Masters of Science and Teaching, and **31** PhD’s.

### Education

- The College received approval from the FAU Board of Trustees to implement two new **Professional Science Master’s Degrees**; one in Medical Physics and one in the Business of Biotechnology.
- The Broward County School Board recently honored Dr. H.O. Peitgen, Professor of Mathematics for the 17 years he has supported Broward County students and teachers.

- “Exploring Science Today” a course representing a series of ongoing contemporary lectures designed for the public and presented by the faculty covering a few of the myriad of research areas from Astrophysics to Zoology will offer fall and winter classes as part of the LifeLong Learning Program on the Jupiter Campus.
- Dr. Robin Jordan, Professor of Physics held his annual workshop “How to Be a Much More Effective Teacher” on Friday, August 20.

### People

- Dr. Todd Shackelford, Professor of Psychology accepted the position of Chair of the Psychology Department at Oakland University in Michigan.
- Dr. Larry Liebovitch accepted the position of Dean of the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Queens College of the City University of New York. Dr. Liebovitch has been a faculty member in the College since 1993 and has most recently held the position as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Programs.
- Dr. Charles E. Carraher, Professor of Chemistry has been elected to the 2010 class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society.

### Alumni

- Dr. Cafer Caliskan '10 has begun his position in mathematics teaching and research at Michigan Tech. He writes that it is a smaller community as compared to FAU with about 10,000 students but that his students seem very focused.

### Turtle Movie Gala

- “Turtle: The Incredible Journey” an epic adventure film by award winning director, Nick Stringer will be shown on Tuesday, November 9 at the Crest Theatre in Old School Square, Delray Beach with proceeds going to support sea turtle research at FAU. Dr. Jeanette Wyneken, Associate Professor in Biological Sciences served as the film's scientific advisor. For more information, please click on [www.science.fau.edu/turtlemoviegala](http://www.science.fau.edu/turtlemoviegala) or contact Avy Weberman [aweberma@fau.edu](mailto:aweberma@fau.edu) or 561-297-0007.

### Save the Dates

- October 29-Department of Physics 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **Pumpkin Drop**
- January 7 begins the Frontiers in Science Public Lecture Series—for the list of presenting lectures check out the College website at
- [http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster\\_spring\\_2010.pdf](http://www.science.fau.edu/frontiers/poster_spring_2010.pdf)

**We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and future issues. Please send any feedback to Patsy Jones at [patsyj@fau.edu](mailto:patsyj@fau.edu)**