



# EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

VOL. 4, ISSUE 6 | A BIMONTHLY ENEWSLETTER | JULY/AUGUST 2024

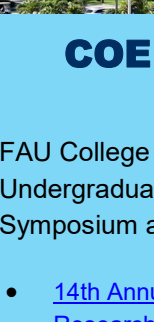
## COE Faculty, Staff, Students and FAU High School Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

FAU Interim President Stacy Ann Volnick and Interim Provost Russ Ivy recognized two faculty members in the College of Education and two students in the College of Education or conducting research under the College of Education and two FAU High School students during the 55th annual Honors Convocation, held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. in the University Theatre on the Boca Raton campus. Among the award recipients are:

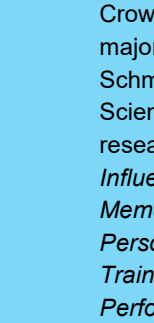


**Daylenis Mendez**, an Exceptional Student Education major, who was one of eight undergraduate recipients of the University Scholars Award. ...[Read more](#)

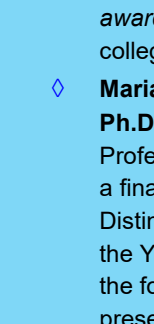
**Alexis Crowder**, a Biochemistry major in the Charles F. Schmidt College of Science, who was one of nine recipients of the Undergraduate Researchers of the Year Award. Her research was conducted under the College of Education since her mentor is Michael DeDonno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELRM. ...[Read more](#)



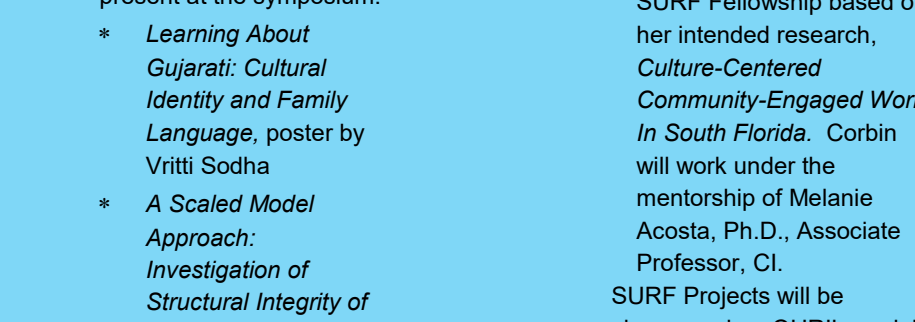
**Natasha Mayorga** (far left) and **Cristian Pena**, dual-enrolled FAU High School students, who were two of three Florida Atlantic students named 2023 Goldwater Scholars. Mayorga is also a biochemistry and data analytics major at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College and Pena is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The Goldwater Scholarship is the preeminent undergraduate award of its type in the fields of the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics. ...[Read more](#)



**Maria Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, who was one of seven Finalists for the Distinguished Mentor of the Year in Undergraduate Research given by the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry. ...[Read more](#)



**Kelly Emelianchik-Key, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Counselor Education, 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

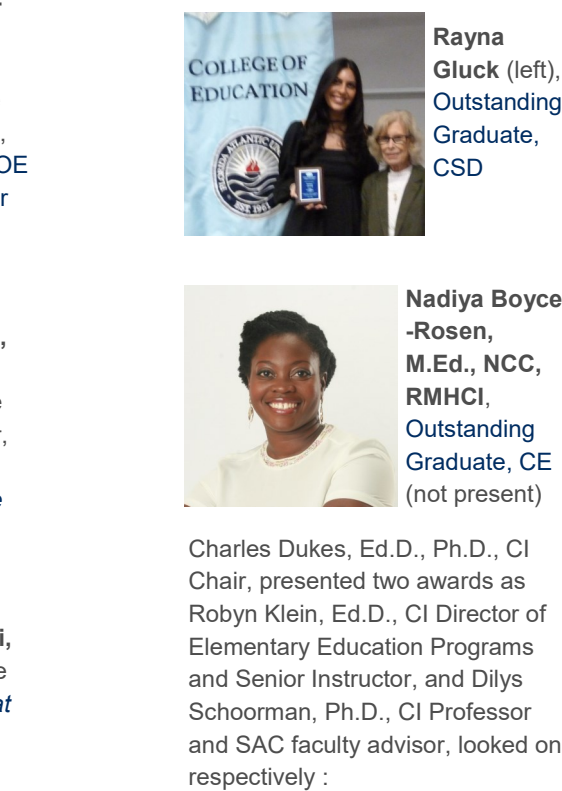
FAU College of Education faculty and students took part in the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)'s 2024 Undergraduate Research Symposium and 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

- 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium**—hosted by OURI was held on Friday, April 5, 2024 on the Boca Raton campus.
  - Michael DeDonno, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, mentored **Alexis Crowder**, Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (UROY) for the COE. Crowder, a biochemistry major in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, presented a research poster titled, *The Influence of Working Memory, Grit, and Personality on Resident In-Training Exam Performance. OURI awards one UROY per college each year.*
  - Maria Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, who was a finalist for the 2023-2024 Distinguished Mentor of the Year award, mentored the following students to present at the symposium:
    - Learning About Gujarat: Cultural Identity and Family Language*, poster by Vriti Sodha
    - A Scaled Model Approach: Investigation of Structural Integrity of Timber Bridges*, poster by Victor Vasquez and Madasamy Arockiasamy
- Undergraduate Student Academic Performance at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI): A Systematic Review**, poster by Sofia Blanco and Abigail Sinu
- Sharon Darling, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, SE, mentored Mariana Guzman, who presented a research poster titled, *The Impact Disability Has on a Child and Their Family*. Additional information about the oral and poster presentations can be found in the [2024 Symposium Program Booklet](#).
- 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship**—SURF projects are ten-week, intensive summer immersion research experiences for an FAU undergraduate student and faculty mentor.
  - Jayla Corbin**, an Elementary Education major, was awarded a SURF Fellowship based on her intended research, *Culture-Centered Community-Engaged Work In South Florida*. Corbin will work under the mentorship of Melanie Acosta, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CI. SURF Projects will be showcased on OURI's social media and an in-person showcase will take place Aug. 13, 2024.

Congratulations to these student researchers and their faculty mentors.

## COE Dean Shares Vision for the College

**Stephen Silverman, Ed.D.**, Dean, College of Education was featured in the Faculty Spotlight column on pages 18 and 19 of the Spring 2024 issue of the *Florida Atlantic University Magazine*. The article, "Teaching Teachers," recounts his continued dedication to preparing effective instructors and reveals his vision for the College. ...[Read more](#)



## COE Holds Honors and Awards Ceremony

FAU College of Education recognized its faculty and students during the COE Honors and Awards Ceremony held on Friday, May 3, 2024 in ED-119 in the Education building on the Boca Raton Campus.

Professor, was Kosches' dissertation committee chair and Ira Bogotch, Ph.D. (right), served on the dissertation committee.

### Faculty Awards

Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean, presented College awards to faculty member:

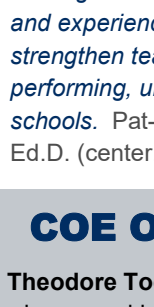


**Michael DeDonno, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, CE, COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year

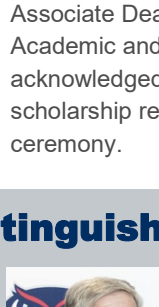


**Clara F. Bossie, M.S., LMFT-QS, CEDS**, at the Graduate level

Paul Peluso, Ph.D., COE Senior Associate Dean, presented College awards to faculty members:

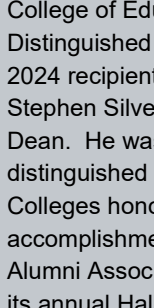


**Maria D. Vasquez-Colina, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, COE Distinguished Mentor of the Year

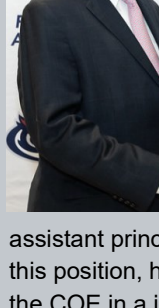


**Rayna Gluck** (left), Outstanding Graduate, CSD

### COE Scholar of the Year

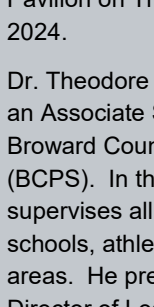


**Michelle Vaughan, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, CI, at the Associate Professor level

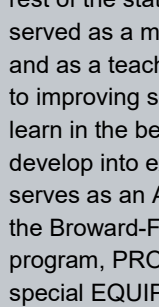


**Nadiya Boyce-Rosen, M.Ed., NCC, RMHCI**, Outstanding Graduate, CE (not present)

### COE Researcher of the Year

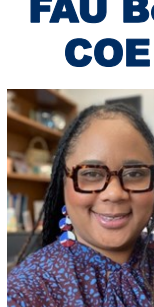


**Melissa Mariani, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, CE, at the Associate Professor level (not present)

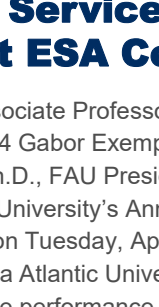


**Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D.**, CI Chair, presented two awards as Robyn Klein, Ed.D., CI Director of Elementary Education Programs and Senior Instructor, and Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D., CI Professor and SAC faculty advisor, looked on respectively:

**ADHUS/FAU High School**  
Silverman honored a faculty and a staff member of A.D. Henderson University School and Florida Atlantic University High School:

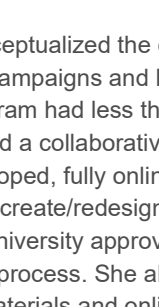


**Kristin Potter-Oliveri** (above, left), M.S., English/Language Arts and Debate Teacher, as the [2025 FAU Lab School District Teacher of the Year](#) and Jennifer Fries, B.A. (right), Student Data Specialist, as the FAU District School Related Employee of the Year



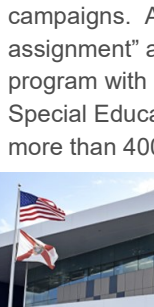
**Kristin Miller** (center), Outstanding Undergrad, CI

**Student Awards**  
Peluso presented the following college-wide award to a student:

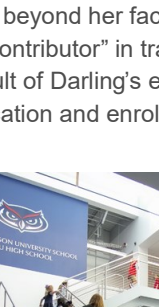


**Sarah Henry**, Outstanding Undergrad, SE

**Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award**

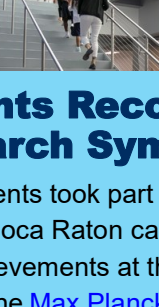


**Sara Kosches, Ph.D.** (center left), Educational Leadership and Research Methodology



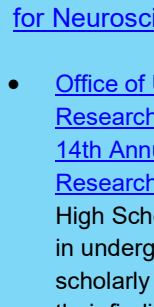
**Robert Shockley, Ph.D.**, ELRM Chair, presented one award:

Dissertation Title: *Principals build trusting relationships with novice and experienced teachers and strengthen teacher retention in low performing, underserved urban schools.* (Pat-Maslin Ostrowski, Ed.D. (center, right), ELRM

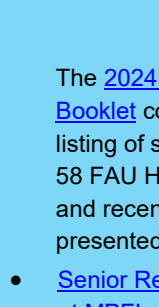


**Daniel Cornely, M.A.E.** (left), Outstanding Graduate, ELRM

**Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award**

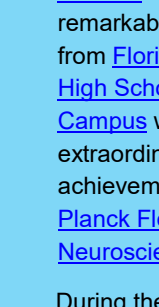


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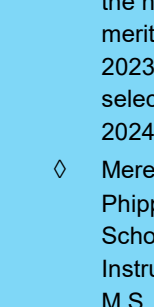
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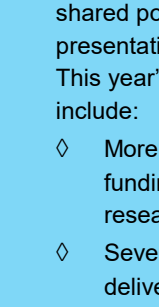


**Jeannineda Saint Hubert**, Outstanding Graduate, SE

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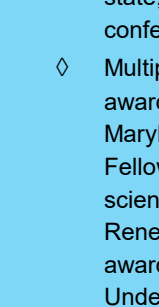


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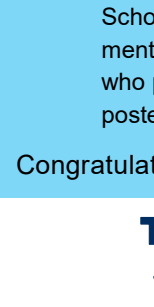
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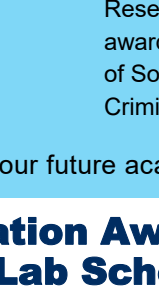


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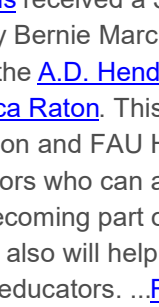


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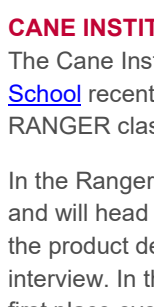
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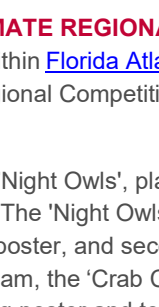


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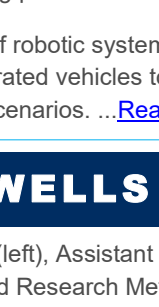


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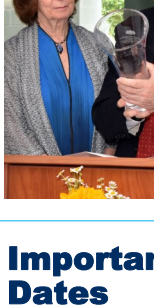
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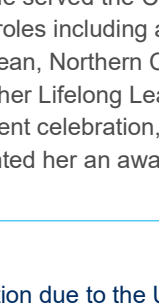


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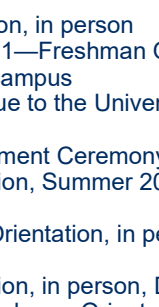


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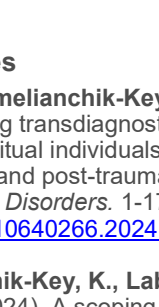


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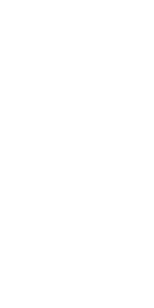
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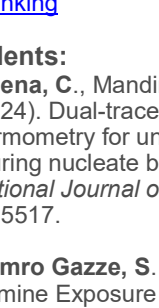


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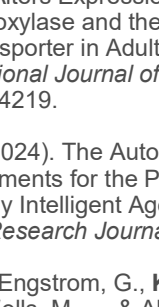


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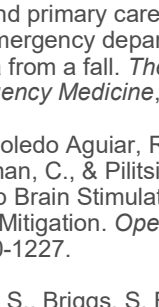


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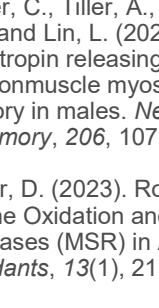


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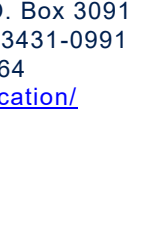


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**Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award**

## The Marcus Foundation Awards \$2M Grant to FAU Lab Schools

[Florida Atlantic University Laboratory Schools](#) received a \$2 million grant from The Marcus Foundation, established by Bernie Marcus, to launch the Marcus Research and Innovation Center at the [A.D. Henderson University School and FAU High School campus in Boca Raton](#). This grant will enhance the pipeline of students at Henderson and FAU High as they strive to become talented researchers and innovators who can address the country's most pressing challenges, while becoming part of a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of the nation. It will help to re-engineer education to train future school leaders and educators. ...[Read more](#)

## CANE INSTITUTE PLACES 1ST IN STATE IN MATE REGIONAL COMPETITION

The Cane Institute for Advanced Technologies within [Florida Atlantic University High School](#) recently competed in the [MATE](#) ROV Regional Competition SCOUT and RANGER class.

In the Ranger class, FAU High School team, the 'Night Owls', placed first in the state and will head to the [MATE World Championship](#). The 'Night Owls' won first place in the product demonstration, first in the marketing poster, and second in the team interview. In the Scout class, FAU High School team, the 'Crab Company', earned first place overall, and placed first in the marketing poster and team interview.

Participating students used their understanding of robotic systems, electricity, sensors, and waterproofing to craft remotely operated vehicles to solve problems based on real-world ocean and climate change scenarios. ...[Read more](#)

## FOND FAREWELLS



**Elijah J. Watlington, Ph.D.** (left), Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Research Methodology, retired effective May 10, 2024. She served the College of Education for 29 years in a variety of roles including as Associate Provost, FAU; Associate Dean, Northern Campus, COE; and Executive Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Jupiter. During her retirement celebration, Robert Shockley, Ph.D., ELRM Chair, presented her an award for Excellence in Leadership and Service.

### Important Dates

- Students**
  - July 8—Summer Dissertation due to the University Graduate Dean
  - July 9—Transfer Orientation, in person
  - July 12, 16, 19, 24, 29 & 31—Freshman Orientation, in person, Boca Raton campus
  - July 15—Summer Thesis due to the University Graduate Dean
  - Aug. 6—COE Commencement Ceremony
  - Aug. 7—Transfer Orientation, Summer 2024, in person, Davie campus
  - Aug. 8 & 12—Freshman Orientation, in person, Boca Raton campus
  - Aug. 9—Transfer Orientation, in person, Davie Campus
  - Aug. 15—Out-of-State Freshman Orientation, in person, Boca Raton campus

### Publications

- Peer-Reviewed Articles**
  - Labarta, A.**, Colvin, K., Emelianchik-Key, K., & Gill, C., & (2024). Examining transdiagnostic factors among religious and spiritual individuals with comorbid eating disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders. *Eating Disorders*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10640266.2024.2352991>
  - Muzacz, A. K.**, Emelianchik-Key, K., Labarta, A. C., Litherland, G. (2024). A scoping review of sizeism in peer-reviewed journal articles: Where is counseling? *Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2326716x.2024.2342823>
  - Musgrove, A., Powers, J.**, Azhar, M., & Yao, C. (2024). Preservice teachers designing assistive educational robots using computational thinking. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education*, 24(2). <https://citejournal.org/proofing/preservice-teachers-designing-assistive-educational-robots-using-computational-thinking>
- FAU High School students:**
  - Ghazvini, M., Hafez, M., Pena, C., Mandin, P., Inguanta, R., & Kim, M.** (2024). Dual-tracer laser-induced fluorescence thermometry for understanding bubble growth during nucleate boiling on oriented surfaces. *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*, 227, 125517.
  - Ke, T., Poquette, K. E., Amro Gazze, S. L., & Carvelli, L.** (2024). Amphetamine Exposure during Embryogenesis Alters Expression and Function of Tyrosine Hydroxylase and the Vesicular Monoamine Transporter in Adult C. elegans. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 25(8), 4219.
  - Dash, I., & Hahn, W. E.** (2024). The Automatic Generation of Game Environments for the Purpose of Training Artificially Intelligent Agents. *FAU Undergraduate Research Journal*, 13, 47-47.
  - Shih, R. D., Solano, J. J., Engstrom, G., & Zamem, M.** (2024). Lack of patient and primary care physician follow-up in geriatric emergency department patients with head trauma from a fall. *The American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 75, 29-32.
  - Mayer, R., Desai, K., de Toledo Aguiar, R. S., McClure, J. J., Kato, N., Kalman, C., & Piltits, J. G.** (2022). Evolution of Deep Brain Stimulation Techniques for Complication Mitigation. *Operative Neurosurgery*, 10-1227.
  - Hafenbreidel, M., Pandey, S., Briggs, S. B., Arza, M., Bonthu, S., Fisher, C., Tilley, A., Hall, A. B., Reed, S., Mayorga, N. and Lin, L.** (2023). Basolateral amygdala corticotropin releasing factor receptor 2 interacts with nonmuscle myosin II to destabilize memory in males. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, 206, 107865.
  - Chandran, S., & Binninger, D.** (2023). Role of Oxidative Stress, Methionine Oxidation and Methionine Sulfoxide Reductases, (MSR) in Alzheimer's Disease. *Antioxidants*, 13(1), 21.

FAU Lab Schools Research Newsletters: [April 2024](#) [May 2024](#)



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