



EDUCATION CONNECTION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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A BIMONTHLY eNEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2024

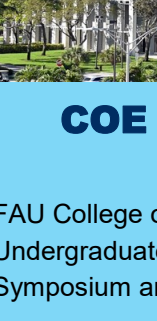
COE Faculty, Staff, Students and FAU High School Students Recognized at Honors Convocation

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:

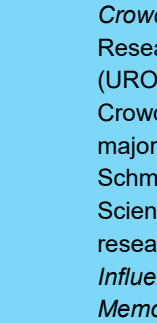


Daylenis Mendez, an Exceptional Student Education major, who was one of eight undergraduate recipients of the University Scholars Award. ...[Read more](#)

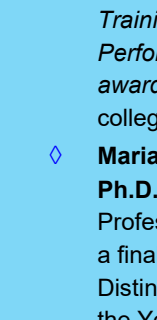
Alexis Crowder, a Biochemistry major in the Charles F. Schmidt College of Science, who was one of nine recipients of the Undergraduate Researchers of the Year Award. Her research was conducted under the College of Education since her mentor is Michael DeDonno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, ELRM. ...[Read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

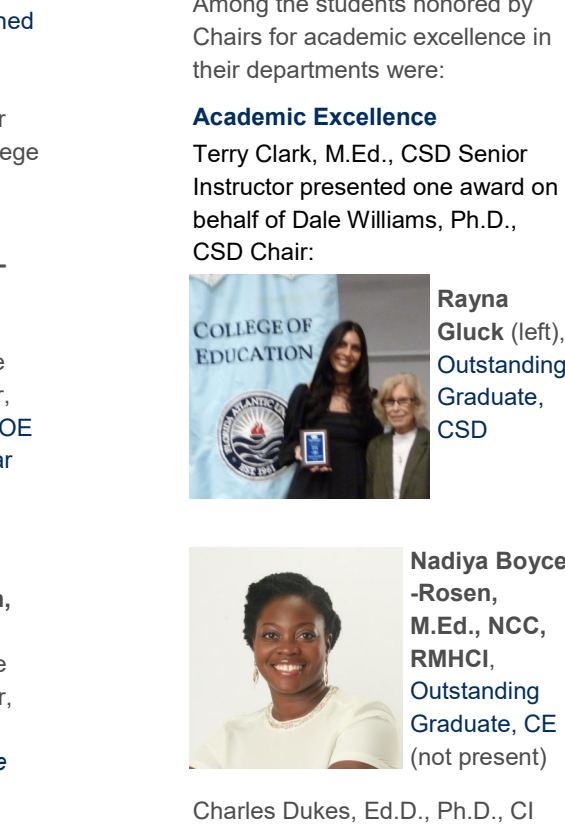
- [14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)—hosted by OURI was held on Friday, April 5, 2024 on the Boca Raton campus.
 - ◊ **Michael DeDonno, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, ELRM, mentored **Alexis Crowder**, Undergraduate Researcher of the Year (UROY) for the COE. Crowder, a biochemistry major 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 Gujarati: Cultural Identity and Family Language*, poster by Vriti Sodha
 - * *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](#)



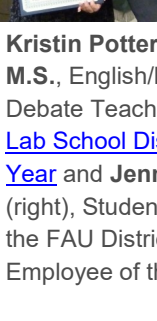
COE Holds Honors and Awards Ceremony

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

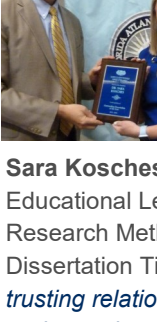
Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean, presented College awards to faculty member:



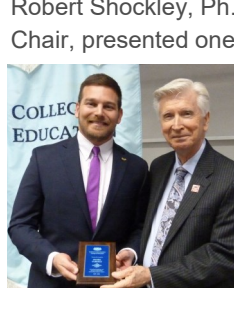
Michael DeDonno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CE, COE Distinguished Teacher of the Year



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



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



Dr. Rosanna Gatens Student Award for Outstanding Community Service

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



Rayna Gluck (left), Outstanding Graduate, CSD

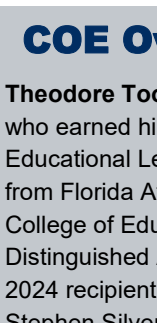
Charles Dukes, Ed.D., Ph.D., CI Chair, presented two awards as Robyn Klein, Ed.D., CI Director of Elementary Education Programs and Senior Instructor, and Dilys Schoorman, Ph.D., CI Professor and SAC faculty advisor, looked on respectively :



Kristin Miller (center), Outstanding Undergrad, CI

Catherine Restrepo-Whitney, M.Ed. (center), Outstanding Graduate, CI

COE Scholar of the Year

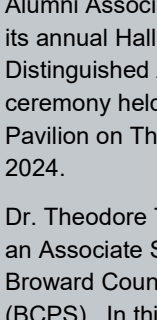


Michelle Vaughan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, CI, at the Associate

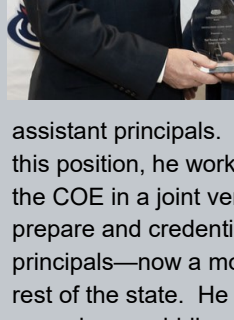


Nadiya Boyce-Rosen, M.Ed., NCC, RMHCI, Outstanding Graduate, CE (not present)

COE Researcher of the Year



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



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

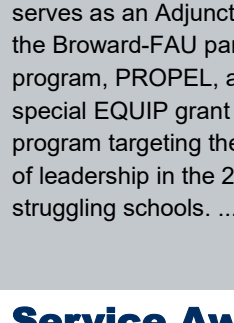
Daniel Cornely, M.A.E. (left), Outstanding Graduate, ELRM

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



Sarah Henry, Outstanding Undergrad, SE

Jeannineda Saint Hubert, Outstanding Graduate, SE

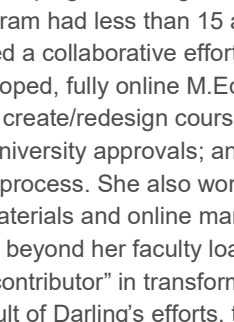
Student Awards

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

Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award



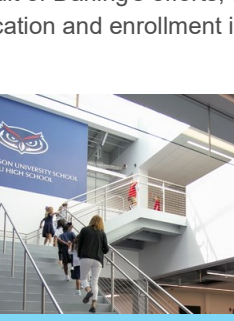
Sara Kosches, Ph.D. (center left), Educational Leadership and Research Methodology



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

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-Mersin Ostrowski, Ed.D. (center, right), ELRM



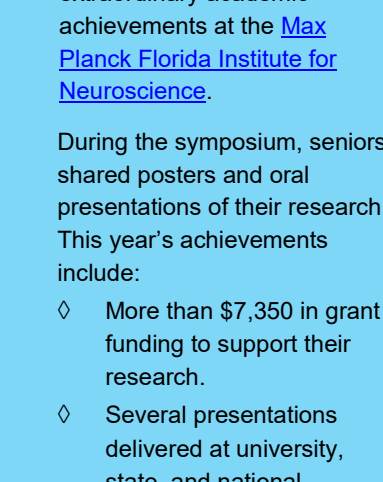
Sarah Henry, Outstanding Undergrad, SE

Jeannineda Saint Hubert, Outstanding Graduate, SE

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

COE Owl Among FAU Distinguished Alumni

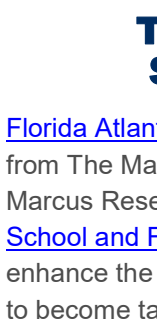
Theodore Toomer, Ed.D. (right), who earned his Certification in Educational Leadership in 2001 from Florida Atlantic University's College of Education, receives the Distinguished Alumni award as the 2024 recipient for the COE from Stephen Silverman, Ed.D., COE Dean. He was one of nine distinguished alumni 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 25, 2024.



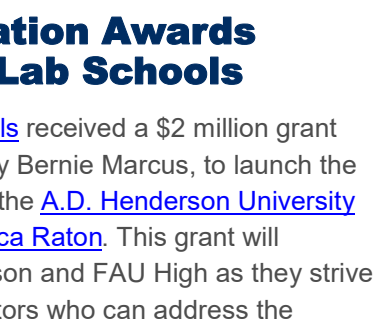
assistant principals. As a part of this position, he worked closely with the COE in a joint venture to prepare and credential assistant principals—now a model for the rest of the state. He previously served as a middle school principal and as a teacher. Ted is dedicated to improving schools so students learn in the best possible way and develop into excellent adults. He serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the Broward-FAU partnership program, PROPEL, and also the special EQUIP grant Master's program targeting the improvement of leadership in the 20 most struggling schools. ...[Read more](#)

Dr. Theodore Toomer currently is an Associate Superintendent in the Broward County Public Schools (BCPS). In this position he supervises all non-traditional schools, athletics, and other areas. He previously served as Director of Leadership Development in the BCPS where he was responsible for all programs that prepared teachers for administrative roles such as

FAU Bestows Exemplary Service Award to COE Faculty Member at ESA Ceremony



Sharon Darling, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Special Education, received the 2024 Gabor Exemplary Employee Award. Stacy A. Volnick, Ph.D., FAU President, presented the award to Darling during the University's Annual Employee Service Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. This award recognizes two Florida Atlantic University employees for their exemplary service in the performance of their job.



According to the award nomination, Darling "conceptualized the organization, programmatic structure, curriculum, advertising campaigns and logistics (e.g. student advising models)" after learning "the degree program had less than 15 active students and single digit applicants." She then led a collaborative effort "to bring these ideas to fruition and implement the redeveloped, fully online M.Ed. degree program." Darling worked with her colleagues to create/redesign course syllabi; draft and submit curriculum changes for college and university approvals; and redesign outreach, orientation and advising materials and process. She also worked with University public relations to design marketing materials and online marketing campaigns. All in all, Darling "worked above and beyond her faculty load assignment" and "emerged as a leader and key contributor" in transforming this program with miraculous results. As a direct result of Darling's efforts, the M.Ed. in Special Education degree program saw an application and enrollment increase of more than 400 percent in less than 18 months.

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 5, 2024 on the Boca Raton campus and were recognized for extraordinary academic achievements at the Senior Research Symposium on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the [Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience](#).

- [Office of Undergraduate Research Initiative \(OURI\)](#) [14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)—FAU High School students engaged in undergraduate research and scholarly activity presented their findings poster presentations.
 - ◊ **Tricia Meredith, Ph.D.**, Director of Research, FAU High School served as the prestigious fellowship advisor to two FAU High School students, **Natasha Mayorga** and **Cristian Pena**, who were among the nationally competitive, merit-based awardees for 2023-2024, having been selected as two of three 2024 Goldwater Scholars.
 - ◊ **Meredith** along with **Allan Phelps, M.S.**, University School Accomplished Instructor; **Tucker Hindle, M.S.**, GISP, Research Coordinator and Analytics Specialist; **Kristin Potter-Oliveri, M.S.**, English/Language Arts and Debate Teacher; **Jasmine Coyale, M.S.**, Research Coordinator; **Katherine Hendrickson, M.S.M. SCI**, Research Coordinator, A.D. Henderson University School/FAU High School, mentored several students who presented research posters.
- The [2024 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](#)—Seventeen remarkable students from [Florida Atlantic University High School-Jupiter Campus](#) were recognized for extraordinary academic achievements at the [Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience](#).

During the symposium, seniors shared posters and oral presentations of their research. This year's achievements include:

- ◊ More than \$7,350 in grant funding to support their research.
- ◊ Several presentations delivered at university, state, and national conferences.
- ◊ Multiple prestigious awards, including the MaryLynn Magar Fellowship in neural data science, The Stan and Renee Wimberly Scholar award, and "Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher of the Year," awarded by FAU College of Social Work and Criminal Justice.

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

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 also 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



Eliah 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 Campuses, 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., Khazem, M., Clayton, L. M., Wells, M., & Alter, S. 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., Bonthou, S., Fisher, C., Tiller, 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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