Summer and Fall 2011 semesters were eventful in the College of Education (COE). We graduated 189 Master’s, 25 Educational Specialist, and 15 Doctoral students across the two semesters. You will see pictures of our Doctoral graduates on pages six and seven of this newsletter. In addition, 17 Doctoral candidates successfully defended their dissertation proposals and are now collecting data. Outstanding!!

On page two, I am pleased to highlight our Higher Education Administration Master’s program. After reading this article, you will learn that HE students are working in many offices across this university. This not only prepares them for a future career in higher education, but also provides a valuable service to our FIU community. Be sure to read about Jessica Greenwood (page three), a Higher Education student who recently was honored for her outstanding work at her internship.

In this newsletter, you will also read about accomplishments of several of our other graduate students such as fellowships, interviews and publications. Be sure to read about the Project QUEST special education teachers who received iPad training Summer 2011.

Dr. Patty Barbetta
The Master of Science in Higher Education (HE) Administration prepares graduates to serve in a variety of roles at universities and related institutions across the country, as well as here at FIU. Not only does the program provide an extensive curriculum of higher education research, policy and theory, it also provides many Master’s students with opportunities to put these theories to practice through internships and graduate assistantships (GAs) through its partnership with FIU’s Student Affairs Division. In any given semester, about 30 HE masters students serve as GAs in offices such as Academic Advising, Campus Life, Career Services, Center for Leadership and Service, Housing and Residential Life, Multicultural Programs and Services, and Sorority and Fraternity Life. In addition to providing the Higher Education majors with invaluable experiences, the quality of their work in these offices impacts the daily lives of many FIU students and faculty.

Cinthya Salazar, a 2nd year HE Master’s student, is just one of many HE GAs. She currently holds an assistantship in the Women’s Center. “I feel that all the work that I have done in the Women’s Center has prepared me to find a job right after,” she said. One of her most memorable moments working at the Center has been planning their annual Sisterhood Retreat. “I oversaw seven students in one committee, and to see these students plan everything from the beginning and pull it off at the end was awesome,” she said. Cynthia hopes to obtain a position in Multicultural Student Services. Veronica Gonzalez is a GA working in the Center for Academic Success. Her projects include hosting various workshops for students who are placed on academic probation or warning and training student tutors. “What I love about the program is definitely the assistantship component where you are able to take what you learn and put it into practice,” she said. Veronica hopes to continue advising students after graduation, since her biggest motivation is seeing at-risk students become empowered and fulfill their potential. Dr. Glenda Musoba serves as the Higher Education Program Leader, and she informs us that, “FIU is the future of higher education. If our students have professional experience here, they are prepared to work anywhere. The student affairs staff are invaluable mentors and talk about the fresh energy the GAs bring to their departments.” If you want to learn more about the MS in Higher Education, you can email Dr. Musoba at musobag@fiu.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Jessica Greenwood for being awarded the 2011 National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Intern Award. The mission of NODA is to provide education, leadership, and professional development in the fields of college student orientation, transition and retention. This Intern Award recognizes up to two individuals annually who have demonstrated commitment to learning, professional development, and service, through the successful completion of a NODA Internship experience. Previous winners were from the University of South Carolina, Michigan State, the University of Maryland, and the University of Georgia.

Jessica is an FIU-MS student in Higher Education Administration and is a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Orientation and Commuter Student Services. She was nominated for this award by the professional staff at the Center for the First Year Experience Office at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was assigned for one of her FIU internships. For Jessica, being nominated and receiving this award was an honor. She said, “I didn’t even know I was nominated for the award. So I was completely surprised when I won it. To me, I was just doing a job that I love. I didn’t expect to win an award for it, but it did feel great to be recognized!” Jessica attributes her award to the mentoring she has received from professional staff both at FIU and at UW-Madison. Her experiences working with orientation at FIU helped her to be a contributing member of the UW-Madison team, and continue to help her make the most out of her academic program.

Recent Graduate Interviewed by National Counseling Association about Forgiveness

Ms. Sandy Walker, Fall 2010 graduate from our Master’s program in Mental Health Counseling, was recently interviewed on the benefits of forgiveness and gratitude for a feature article in Counseling Today, the journal of the American Counseling Association (ACA), which has a membership of over 48,000 people. To read the article, please go to: http://ct.counseling.org/2012/01/the-benefits-of-forgiveness-and-gratitude/. She was encouraged to join the ACA by her professors while she was a student at FIU.

Sandy was interviewed for this article because she recently published a book called, “Freedom through Forgiveness: The Power of Forgiveness Can Change Your Life.” Congratulations Sandy!!!
The COE is committed to creating a stimulating, engaging learning environment for its students, faculty, and the community at large. To that end, in addition to our typical course offerings and other scholarly endeavors, we have been offering a colloquium series lead by national and international experts in educational research, educational issues related to globalization, and the education of multicultural and diverse learners in urban settings. To facilitate this effort, a COE Graduate Colloquium Committee (GCC), comprised of COE Masters and Doctoral students, was formed. Under the supervision of Dr. Patty Barbetta, this Committee was actively involved in all aspects of Summer-Fall 2011 Colloquium Series including surveying students and faculty to assess interests, researching potential speakers, making presenter recommendations, and managing the many logistics of these events. Ron Miles, Chair of the GCC, says, “Serving on the GCC allowed me to work in a professional capacity with my colleagues, COE staff and administrators. I benefited greatly from being a part of a team effort that fostered new learning opportunities for the entire FIU learning community--I guess that what being a good educator is all about!”

During Summer 2011, the Committee facilitated a visit from Dr. Yvonna Lincoln who is a Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, the Ruth Harrington Endowed Chair at Texas A&M University, and a leader in the field of naturalistic inquiry and qualitative studies. While here, Dr. Lincoln conducted a presentation for students and faculty, entitled, “New and Emerging Methods in Qualitative Research,” and held two separate workshops, one for students and the other for faculty. When asked about Dr. Lincoln’s workshop, Dr. Benjamin Baez, Associate Professor in Higher Education Administration pointed out that “Dr. Lincoln’s workshop on qualitative research offered those of us who chair dissertations an understanding of the complexities associated with qualitative research (e.g., what counts as a proposal, how many participants are required, how to deal with ethical questions, how to address differences among committee members, etc.). I came away thinking that even for someone as renowned as Dr. Lincoln, these
decisions about research are always complicated and always under negotiation.” We heard similar sentiments from other faculty and students.”

In early Fall 2011, Dr. Mercelo Suárez-Orozco visited our campus. Dr. Suárez-Orozco is a Courtney Sale Ross University Professor of Globalization and Education. His research is on conceptual and empirical problems in the areas of cultural psychology and psychological anthropology with a focus on the study of mass migration, globalization, and education. His featured presentation, “Immigration and Education in the Age of Global Vertigo” was exceptionally well received. Also, students benefitted highly from his afternoon workshop.

Finally, during one of the last weeks of the Fall 2011 semester, we were privileged to have Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings on our campus to conduct the keynote, “Pushing Past the Achievement Gap: The Case for Culturally Relevant Pedagogy” and to hold an afternoon student workshop. Dr. Ladson-Billings is a Kellner Family Professor in Urban Education and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research is in the areas of educational anthropology, cultural studies, multicultural perspectives in education, and critical race theory applications to education. Dr. Joyce Fine, Associate Professor in Reading and Curriculum and Instruction could not be on campus that evening but was able to take advantage of watching the entire featured presentation online which made her feel part of this “important event.” She plans to have the next presentation streamed live into her classroom.

Additional events are planned for Spring 2012 semester. Look for our upcoming events on the COE website (http://education.fiu.edu/).
Summer 2011
Doctoral Graduates and Faculty

Yang Yang ("Lydia")

Dean Garcia, President Rosenberg, Colleen Quinn, Provost Wartzok, Dr. Glenda Musoba

Dr. Len Bliss, Yang Yang, Dr. Glenda Musoba, Colleen Quinn, Dr. Linda Spears-Bunton, Patricia Salahuddin

Dean Garcia, Yang Yang, Provost Wartzok

Patricia Salahuddin, Dr. Linda Spears-Bunton
Fall 2011
Doctoral Graduates and Faculty

Front Row: Lisa Barrocas, Joyce Walsh-Portillo, Dorret Sawyers, Jayne Klein, Diann Carr, Andrea Floyd
Back Row: Sergio Nieves, Carlos Albornoz, Eric Arneson, Richard Prentiss, Donald Cramp

Dr. Peter Cistone, Donald Cramp
Richard Prentiss, Dr. Benjamin Baez
Dr. Mohammed Farouk, Sergio Nieves
Dr. Elizabeth Cramer, Lisa Barrocas

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Photos
I am a doctoral candidate in Educational Administration and Supervision in the Department of Educational Leadership and Professional Studies, and an Assistant Principal within the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Currently, I am in the final stages of collecting data for my dissertation regarding spirituality and transformational leadership in education.

As a graduate student, I have developed an appreciation and understanding for the theoretical constructs and models related to organizations and administration of educational institutions. Most importantly, I have embraced my role as an advocate for ethical leadership. I have learned the importance of establishing a moral vision for the global community. With the encouragement of faculty members, I have had the opportunity to present a research paper at the 11th Annual Ethics and Leadership Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. This worthwhile experience offered me the ability to meet other prominent authors and researchers who assisted me in refining my dissertation and research questions. Moreover, the opportunity to present at the conference facilitated the publication of my research paper in the Values and Ethics in Educational Administration.

The challenges attributed to full-time employment and participation in a doctoral program can be daunting. However, I have learned that what seemed to be a dichotomy between work and school was truly a symbiotic relationship. The concepts I learned within the domain of my doctoral studies were easily applied in my day-to-day experiences as a school administrator. In turn, real-life work occurrences proved to be of great value for critical analysis within doctoral course class discussions. I am grateful for the experiences I have garnered as a graduate student. This experience has taught me the importance of persevering regardless of the obstacles, yet maintaining a degree of playfulness in mind.

Omar Riaz, EdD Student in Educational Administration and Supervision

“Opportunities abound!” is a phrase that I use to punctuate my many scholastic and professional experiences. As a young child, I had many opportunities to “play school” with my real and imaginary friends. As a young adult, I began my teaching career with opportunities to educate children with varying ability levels. Then in May of 2011, I was provided the opportunity to begin my doctoral studies at Florida International University as a student member of Project EDUCATE (Empowering Diverse Urban Change Agents Through Education).

I work as a Staffing/Placement Specialist with Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ Division of Special Education, while attending classes at FIU in the evenings. After more than a decade and a half of working with children with special needs, I realized that more opportunities were awaiting me beyond the PK-12 schools. Specifically, my current desire is to work with college and university teacher education programs. Fortunately, I was selected as a cohort member of the Higher Education/Teacher Education (HETE) strand of Project EDUCATE. EDUCATE is a federally-funded grant that prepares doctoral-level special education leaders to meet the demands of high need communities and students (Dr. Blanton [PI], Co-PIs Drs. Cramer, and Valle-Riestra). Partnering with members of my cohort who have chosen the Community Agency Leadership/Advocacy (CALA) strand of EDUCATE will allow me to grow beyond the educational institution to affect change in urban communities.

In addition to attending classes towards my degree, I have had several opportunities to expand my professional horizons, including guest lecturing, and being a guest facilitator for current teachers seeking certification in Special Education. I look forward to working in other areas where my expertise can be utilized and where I can garner rich experiences to share with future educators. Opportunities abound!

Princess Briggs, EdD Student in Exceptional Student Education
COE Doctoral Students Awarded DEA and DYE Fellowships

The FIU Research and University Graduate School Doctoral Evidence Acquisition (DEA) Fellowships provide financial support to highly-qualified doctoral students during the phase of their dissertation research when they need to commit intensive time and effort toward the collection of evidence they will use to answer their research questions. Dissertation Year Fellowships (DYF) provide support to highly-qualified FIU doctoral students in their final year as they are entering the data analysis and writing phase of their dissertation. It is intended to facilitate the timely completion of high-quality manuscripts and dissertations.

Roxanne Molina Receives DYF Fellowship

Roxanne Molina was awarded the DYF for the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters during the data analysis and writing phase of her dissertation. Roxanne is a PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction and her dissertation is entitled, “Microteaching Lesson Study: Mentor Interaction Structure and its Relation to Elementary Preservice Mathematics Teacher Knowledge Development.” Microteaching Lesson Study (MLS), a blend of Japanese lesson study with microteaching principles, is a professional development process in which participants work collaboratively with an MLS mentor to develop a research lesson. Roxanne’s research hopes to provide knowledge as to which of three MLS mentor interaction structures results in the most gains in elementary pre-service mathematics teacher knowledge. Roxanne plans to defend her dissertation this Spring.

Lianhong Gao Receives DEA and DYF Fellowships

Lianhong Gao, PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction, was awarded both the FIU-DEA and DYF Fellowships from Summer 2011 to Fall 2012 for data collection and dissertation writing. Her dissertation is entitled “Examining Argumentative Coherence in Essays by Undergraduate Students of English as a Foreign Language in Mainland China and their English Speaking Peers in the United States”. This study was conducted in an attempt to provide insights toward a deeper understanding of the association between culture and writing. To do this, concepts of culture and coherence and the relationship between them were examined through a mixed methods research design in the research context of Contrastive Rhetoric by comparing the coherence quality in argumentative essays written by undergraduates in mainland China and their U.S. peers. Text and interview data were collected in both China and the U.S.
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LPS=Department of Leadership and Professional Studies; T&L=Department of Teaching and Learning
On a hot, humid day in early August when most teachers were still on vacation, 32 special education teachers spent the entire day in a COE classroom learning how to use iPads to teach their students with disabilities. Most had never even touched an iPad, let alone had one of their own. So, they were thrilled to get to leave with their own iPad, a day of outstanding training, and the promise of many more apps to follow. These teachers were attending a technology-focused Summer Institute for Project QUEST (Qualified Urban Elementary Special-Education Teachers), a federally-funded project where 46 ESE teachers earned a Master’s degree in Special Education with an emphasis on Elementary Education (Drs. Barbetta and Cramer, Grant PIs). In early September, the teachers met again with Dr. Barbetta to share ideas and stories about how they had been using the iPads with their students. The ideas were creative and the stories inspiring. That day, three teachers won a 2nd iPad for their classroom!! When asked on a survey about using their iPads with their students, one teacher wrote, “My students are obsessed! This motivates them in a way that I could never have imagined.” Another wrote, “It’s an amazing tool.”
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-Patty Barbetta, Newsletter Editor
COE Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

(Front, left to right) Caprila (Office Manager), Kayla (Federal Work Study [FWS] Office Assistant; (back, left to right), Katie (Graduate Studies Advisor), Julie (Graduate Studies Advisor), Christel (FWS Office Assistant)