The COE Office of Graduate Studies (OGS)

The College of Education (COE) graduate programs had an accomplished, busy Spring 2011 semester. We graduated 96 masters, 9 educational specialist, and 10 doctoral students. In addition, two doctoral students passed their comprehensive examinations and moved to candidacy, and eight doctoral candidates had their dissertation proposals approved and are now collecting data. Also, several of our recent doctoral graduates were offered faculty positions. You will read about them on page 9.

It is my extreme pleasure to dedicate this issue of our newsletter to the COE’s outstanding graduate assistants (GAs) who serve as instructors, researchers, grant assistants, office staff, and in other valued roles. Getting to know these GAs and working closely with many of them has been an absolute pleasure. These bright and talented, young professionals are students in our masters, educational specialists, and doctoral programs. Some GAs are from Florida, but we have many from other states such as South Carolina, Colorado, and Texas, to name a few. Also, we have GAs from countries all over the world, including (but not limited to) Belize, Kuwait, China, Columbia, Turkey, Ukraine and Jamaica.

Throughout this newsletter, you will have an opportunity to get to know a few of our GAs “up close and personal.” There are many others in key positions throughout the College. Hopefully, you will have a chance to meet them, as they are an integral part of our College.

Dr. Patty Barbetta
The College of Education has the honor of housing two scholarly journals, New Horizons in Adult Education and Human Resource Development (NHAEHRD) and Human Resource Development Review (HRDR). NHAEHRD is a quarterly, online, peer-reviewed scholarly journal that focuses on current research in adult education, human resource development, and related fields. HRDR, also a quarterly journal, includes articles related to theory development, foundations of HRD, and integrative reviews of the literature.

Chaundra L. Whitehead and Keisha Hill-Grey, Adult Education and Human Resource Development program (HRDR) doctoral graduate assistants, manage the two journals. Chaundra is managing editor of NHAEHRD, and Keisha is the managing editor of HRDR. As managing editors, they supervise and coordinate the editorial and publishing process for the journals including soliciting manuscripts, communicating with reviewers, and serving as the liaisons between editors and authors. They work with Drs. Tonette Rocco, Thomas Reio, and Marc Weinstein, HRDR faculty in the Department of Leadership and Professional Studies.

Chaundra points out that she really enjoys the position because it allows her to read (or at least skim!) the latest research in her field, as well as have personal contact with some of the field’s leaders. However, the “position can be demanding at times, as there are editors, board members, reviewers and authors who have questions and concerns, and each must be addressed in a diplomatic, professional manner.” Chaundra has been in this position for a year and a half. Her research interests include corrections education and literacy, and she hopes to defend her dissertation proposal in Fall 2012. Professionally, she hopes to change the correctional education world in the future.

Keisha has enjoyed the last six months as managing editor and has learned a lot about the review and publication process. The most rewarding experience for her was “the opportunity to help make decisions in consultation with the Journal’s editor on whether a manuscript should be accepted or rejected.” Keisha’s research interests surround the impact that culture has on conflict in the workplace. She hopes to defend her dissertation proposal in the summer of 2012. Upon completion of her degree, Keisha hopes to begin her profession as a faculty member while launching her own consultancy firm in the Caribbean, providing training and development opportunities.
Danika Weiss, Ann McGarey, Julie Beineke, and Katie Schmidbauer are masters students in International/Intercultural Education, as well as COE Graduate Assistants. After various experiences studying and teaching abroad, they have come to FIU to pursue their academic aspirations in graduate school. They bring with them the cultures of Spain, Guatemala, China, Ecuador, Australia and Wales and, as such, contribute to the global perspective of the College. As graduate assistants, they have had the opportunity to learn how the University works behind the scenes. Through their daily interactions with students, faculty, and administrators, they point out that they get a first-hand look at how these individuals’ responsibilities come together to create the “big picture.” Each of them believes their assistantships have provided them with practical skills that will be invaluable to their future careers. Many faculty and administrators have recognized the intelligence and talents of these young professionals and value their contributions to the College. We are fortunate to have them as part of the COE team.

These GAs serve various functions. Danika is a grant assistant on the Florida State Personnel Development Grant with Co-PIs, Dr. Patty Barbetta and Ms. Melanie Morales. This grant supports teachers earning an autism endorsement, amongst other special education initiatives. Ann, who just became a GA in Summer 2011, works with Dr. Alexis McKenny, the Chairperson of the Department of Leadership and Professional Studies, supporting the needs of faculty and students. Julie and Katie work together in the Office of Graduate Studies with the Office Manager, Capriala Almeida and Associate Dean Patty Barbettas. They provide support for many of the critical tasks in that office related to graduate studies (especially the dissertation process).

If you are interested in joining these talented graduate students and others like them in the study of international and intercultural education, contact, Dr. Roger Gonzalez, at (305) 348-3208 or gonzaro@fiu.edu. You can also learn more about the program at the COE’s website: http://education.fiu.edu/academic_programs.html. FIU’s program is one of only 34 programs in the U.S. and it places special emphasis on training in cross-cultural communication and exchange, international development, and educational practice in a global context. FIU’s program is designed to provide graduate training to students interested in understanding the processes of globalization, the global environment, and the responsibilities of citizenship in an increasingly interdependent world.

Pictured from left to right: Danika Weiss, Ann McGarey, Dr. Roger Gonzalez, Julie Beineke, and Katie Schmidbauer
Three Math GAs Add up to GREAT Preparation In Math Education

Roxanne Molina, Leslie Nisbet, and Onel Leon all serve as mathematics education TAs under the supervision of their major professor, Dr. Maria Fernandez, Associate Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning and Associate Professor of Mathematics Education. According to Dr. Fernandez, each has been “invaluable in helping to carrying-out the work of mathematics education for the department. They are all wonderful to work with and have bright futures ahead as mathematics educators and researchers.”

Roxanne is a third year teaching assistant who currently is collecting dissertation data. Over the last several years, she has helped develop curricula and has taught mathematics education courses. This year, in conjunction with her FIU colleagues, she conducted research that investigated the effectiveness of the microteaching lesson study approach with elementary preservice teachers and presented these findings at several conferences, as well as in a published co-authored paper. Roxanne is a native of Miami and returned from Louisville, Kentucky to begin the Ph.D. program at FIU. Her experiences as a TA and GA have been highly valuable to preparing her for a career in academics as she was given the opportunity and support necessary to actively engage in research, teaching, and service.

Leslie, who plans to defend her dissertation proposal Fall 2011, has also assisted with math course curricular development and has taught undergraduate mathematics education courses. Leslie is an international student from Belize who decided to pursue a doctorate degree after teaching at a Jesuit institution. She saw the need for further education in mathematics education to assist in teacher training in Belize. She has presented research findings from work conducted in collaboration with FIU colleagues, which investigated the use of contextual problems as a strategy to reduce mathematics anxiety. She presented her findings at multiple local and state conferences, and has published a co-authored paper. Leslie has found her numerous and varied experiences as a graduate assistant at FIU rewarding as she pursues a career in the academic field.

Onel, aspiring to become a professor in mathematics education, will also be defending his dissertation proposal Fall 2011. With parents who emigrated from rural areas in Honduras and Cuba, Onel aspires to attain his PhD to validate the struggles that they had to overcome to allow him the opportunity to succeed in the USA. Onel began his doctoral work the same year he began his journey into fatherhood, and has had to balance family and education. He has worked with Dr. Fernandez, Roxanne and Leslie in curricular development and has taught math education courses for several semesters, presented at conferences and has an article in press. Once he has completed his doctoral work, Onel hopes to dedicate his life to helping mathematics teachers improve their instruction and to contribute to research in this area.
From Eastern Europe to South Florida: Two GAs Who’ve Come a Long Way

Cigdem Catmali and Iryna Dzhuryak are COE graduate assistants working with Exceptional Student Education faculty on master’s and doctoral federal personnel preparation grants designed to support graduate students in earning masters or doctoral degrees. Cigdem, who is a graduate student in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in English education, came to the USA from Turkey. Cigdem holds a bachelor’s degree in English Language and Literature and a Cambridge University IELT Certification (In-service Certificate of English Language Teaching). She worked in Turkey for three years as an ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor at Bilkent University School of English Language. She worked with students of various cultural backgrounds at the college level.

Cigdem came to FIU to earn her masters degree because of the diversity of the students and faculty, the positive reputation of the program, and the academic and research facilities provided for graduate students. Cigdem’s interest areas include teaching strategies in second language acquisition, and teacher training and development. Cigdem values her GAship as it provides “experiences in gaining communication skills and leadership abilities, and abilities to improve my English language skills by communicating with faculty, staff, and students on a daily basis.”

Iryna, who is a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction, came to the USA from Ukraine. She is in the third year of her doctoral program and plans to finish her coursework and take the comprehensive exam next year. She decided to study at FIU because she believes she will get a good education here and gain valuable experiences for her professional pursuits. Her research interests include the involvement of international organizations in education of developing countries. Professionally, she has worked for two years as an assistant professor of ESOL and Business English for undergraduate students of Galytska Academy in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Along with her grant work, Iryna works with Dr. Linda Spears-Bunton, Curriculum and Instruction Doctoral Program Leader, assisting her with research and administrative duties. Iryna’s GAship has provided her with useful university experiences such as grant administration, research in education, and collaboration with faculty and students. She also values her experiences as the treasurer of COE Graduate Student Network and as a member of COE Graduate Student Colloquium Development Committee.

“It has been an absolute pleasure working with both of these ladies,” says Dr. Barbetta, one of their ESE supervisors. “Not only have they been excellent workers and a joy to be around, but I have had the opportunity to learn so much about their countries and their cultures. Working with students like these two is what makes FIU so interesting.”
Spring 2011
Doctoral Graduates and Faculty

Dr. Leonard Bliss (Major Professor) with Katherine Perez

Dr. Elizabeth Cramer (Major Professor) with Whitney Moores-Abdool

Dr. Thomas Reio (Major Professor) with Jesus Fernandez

Lyle Culver (Major Professor was Dr. Baez)

Roary the Panther with Renita Ferreira (Major Professor was Dr. Farouk)
Spring 2011
Doctoral Graduates and Faculty

Carolyn Tonge and Dr. Roger Gonzalez (Major Professor)

Fernando Ganivet, Jeannette Cruz, and Dr. Leonard Bliss (Major Professor)

Front Row: Carolyn Tonge, Whitney Moores-Abdool, Jeannette Cruz, Renita Ferreira, Katherine Perez
Back row: Fernando Ganivet, Jesus Fernandez, Lyle Culver, Raul Escarpio, Edwin Arrieta

Raul Escarpio (Major Professor was Dr. Patricia Barbetta)

Photos compliments of GradImages™ a division of Eve Photograph Group, Inc

Roary with Edwin Arrieta (Major Professor was Dr. Eric Dwyer)
I am an international full-time Ph.D. student in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). I have lived in Miami for the last six years along with my wife who is also working on her doctorate in clinical nutrition at FIU. Since moving to Miami we have been blessed with two children, a girl Yara (4 years) and a boy Faris (18 months).

As an international student I have benefited tremendously from my Teaching Assistantship (TAship). I have taught TESOL courses and learned from those experiences. Faculty members have also been very supportive in offering their advice, experiences and mentorship. With the right encouragement and guidance from faculty, I have gained interest in researching the application of virtual environments in teaching English as a second language, which is my dissertation topic.

Recently, I presented at the 27th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti students that was held in Miami. This three-day event, organized by the Kuwaiti Students’ Union, provided me with a great opportunity to meet many students from back home and to make professional connections. I am looking forward to going back to Kuwait to start my professional career.

I tend to take any task as a challenge, but whenever things get tough, I remind myself that pressure makes diamonds. As challenging as the doctoral process can be at times, I have found the most significant challenge is finding the right balance among being a father, husband, student, and a TA. The times that I find the Ph.D. by itself overwhelming, I remember my father’s words, “Getting a Ph.D. is not getting a doctoral degree in some field, it’s getting a doctorate in life.” Nothing can be closer to the truth.
Three recent graduates from the Urban SEALS (Special Education Academic Leaders) doctoral cohort were offered and have accepted special-education faculty positions beginning Fall 2011. Urban SEALS is a federal personnel preparation grant awarded to FIU to prepare leaders in urban special education (Grant PIs: Drs. Barbetta, Cramer, and Nevin). The three graduates are Dr. Whitney Moores-Abdool (left, Spring 2011 graduate), Dr. Raul Escarpio (center, Spring 2011 graduate) and Dr. Liana Gonzalez (right, Spring 2010 graduate). Whitney will be an Assistant Professor at Kutztown University located in Pennsylvania. Raul will be a new Assistant Professor at Miami-Dade College, and Liana will serve as an Instructor in FIU’s COE.

We are very proud of all three of them, and we know that they will be outstanding faculty and will represent FIU well.

A Fond Farewell to Professor Yoel Camayd-Freixas

In Fall 2010, Dr. Yoel Camayd-Freixas joined the College of Education as a Professor of Research Methods in the Department of Leadership and Professional Studies. We were very excited to have someone with his intelligence, abilities, experience, and passion join our College. There was never a dull moment with Yoel. He was full of ideas and had begun some impressive work with our doctoral students, and had already made an impact on the College. Unfortunately, we had very little time with Yoel as he became ill that fall semester and passed away on April 28, 2011, only his 2nd semester at FIU.

This happened much too quickly for most of us to get to know Yoel very well. Most of us had yet to learn important details about his life such as: He had a wife named Ana and daughter Christina; He had been flown out of Cuba as a child with others in Operation Peter Pan in 1962; From 1984 to 1988, he served on the Massachusetts Commission on Hispanic Affairs for Governor Michael S. Dukakis, and; He was a driven advocate in the Hispanic community. His brother, Dr. Erik Camayd-Freixas, Professor of Hispanic Studies at Florida International University said about Yoel, “He was a rebel in the best sense of the word. As a youngster, Yoel rebelled against adversity and fate and became a self-made man. Later, when he rebelled against injustice, he became an activist. When he rebelled against poverty, he became entrepreneurial in leading economic development initiatives in poor communities. When he rebelled against ignorance, he became an educator. And, in the end, he rebelled against death through his generous acts of love.”

We are sorry that we didn’t have more time to get to know him better.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Students/Dissertation Titles</th>
<th>Major Professor</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LPS</td>
<td><strong>Jeannette Cruz</strong> - Understanding the Relationship between the Talented Twenty Program and College Aspirations for High Ranking at a High Priority School</td>
<td>Dr. Bliss</td>
<td>Drs. Sandiford, Wynne, Kenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Lyle Culver</strong> - The Influence of Study and Travel Abroad on the Personal and Professional Development of Students in Architecture Design Programs</td>
<td>Dr. Baez</td>
<td>Drs. Musoba, Gonzalez, Gray Read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fernando Ganivet</strong> - Development of a New Student Evaluation Instrument of Instructor Effectiveness in Online Courses</td>
<td>Dr. Bliss</td>
<td>Drs. Thirunarayanan, Baez, Reio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jesus Fernandez</strong> - Factors that Differentiate Persistence beyond the First Session at a For-Profit University</td>
<td>Dr. Reio</td>
<td>Drs. Tashakkori, Rocco, Musoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Katherine Perez</strong> - GRE as a Predictor of Graduate Student Success at Florida International University</td>
<td>Dr. Bliss</td>
<td>Drs. Reio, Sandiford, Gonzalez, Butchey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Carolyn Tonge</strong> - Predicting the In-Term Persistence of Community College English-as-a-Second-Language Students</td>
<td>Dr. Gonzalez</td>
<td>Drs. Farouk, Musoba, Reio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L</td>
<td><strong>Edwin Arrieta</strong> - Immigrant High School Students’ In-depth Understanding of the Value of Heritage Language and Bilingualism</td>
<td>Dr. Dwyer</td>
<td>Drs. Landorf, Baez, Farouk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Raul Escarpio</strong> - Comparison of Repeated and Two Non-Repeated Readings Conditions on Reading Abilities of Students with Emotional and/or Behavioral Disabilities</td>
<td>Dr. Barbetta</td>
<td>Drs. Miller, Valle-Riestra, Cramer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Renita Ferreira</strong> - Development of an Instrument to Measure High School Students’ Global Awareness and Attitudes: Looking through the Lens of Social Sciences.</td>
<td>Dr. Farouk</td>
<td>Drs. Landorf, Bliss, Nissen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Whitney Moores-Abdool</strong> - The Use of Curriculum Modifications and Instructional Accommodations to Provide Access for Middle School Students with Autism to the General Curriculum</td>
<td>Dr. Cramer</td>
<td>Drs. Barbetta, Kenny, Landorf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LPS=Department of Leadership and Professional Studies; T&L=Department of Teaching and Learning
Chi Sigma Iota is the International Counseling Honor Society that was established in 1985. The FIU Chapter, Delta Iota, was founded in 1996 by Dr. Adriana McEachern, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor in Counselor Education. The purpose of this organization is to promote the field of counseling, to help raise awareness of issues within the local community, and to promote the professional development of our members.

This year, FIU’s Delta Iota Chapter held two professional development events for all Counselor Education majors. The first event that took place in November aimed at giving future Mental Health Counselors an overview of the internship process required by the State of Florida. The second event took place in March and included a presentation by a representative of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools that focused on the employment outlook for school counselors. The organization plans to hold similar workshops in the future. The organization also holds an annual Initiation and Installation of Officers. At this year’s ceremony, 22 new members were welcomed, and Dr. Maureen Kenny, Professor in Counselor Education, served as the guest speaker and discussed counseling clients with problems in their romantic relationships.

The FIU Chapter also has been highly involved in serving the local community. For example, during the 2010-2011 school year, Delta Iota took part in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk held in November, at Nova Southeastern University. The event held great meaning to our members, because AFSP aims to raise awareness on suicide. As future counselors, our members are conscious that suicide is an issue that their future clients will be dealing with.

The Delta Iota Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota accepts membership applications year round. Membership requirements include: full admission into the College of Education Counselor Education degree, nine completed credit hours, and a minimum GPA of 3.5. For information on how to join or for upcoming event details, please email, Jeanette Martin, President, at martinje@fiu.edu.

Jeanette Martin (President), Joslynn T. Watson (Secretary), Carlo A. Borea, Ana Maria Lobos, Christina Maseda, Veronika Pava, Lidubina Chabarría, Sheniqua Dones-Wallace, Roberto L. Abreu, Robyn K. Lyn