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Spring Semester Highlights

COE Second Annual Literacy Festival
On February 2, 2018, the second annual FGCU COE Literacy Festival invited 17 children’s and young adult authors and over 1,800 students from Title I schools in five local school districts to the FGCU campus. Each student received a free book featured from one of the participating authors before the event. The Literacy Festival involved a variety of activities for students including author book signings, interactive workshops, literacy gaming, digital literacy, and read-alouds and hands-on disciplinary literacy activities offered by over 120 COE teacher candidates. Due to the popularity of literacy gaming last year, digital literacy with 3D pens and iPad literacy apps, to expand on the books students received, was added to the schedule of activities. The goal of the FGCU COE Literacy Festival is to invite authors whose writing would represent strong, diverse characters that students from Title I schools would allow them to see themselves and their culture through literature on a deeper level. Through the process of engaging with young adult authors, students will come to see themselves as writers and express a desire to share their thoughts and enthusiasm with others, which has been shown to foster a lifetime of reading. COE faculty, students, and staff greatly appreciate Pat and Leoni Cacho for their generous support and contribution. With their philanthropic engagement we are able to offer the rich literacy experiences to the children and youth! THANK YOU!

The Golden Apple Award
Congratulations to Florida Gulf Coast University’s College of Education Alumni who received the Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching:
- Brooke Przespolowski: Lee County School District Completed Elementary Teacher Education in 2003

The COE congratulates all school districts’ finalists and recipients.

FGCU Hall of Fame 2018
Congratulations to Madeline Quinn!
Dear COE colleagues: faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners, and lifelong supporters,

We have just completed another busy, but very meaningful and fruitful semester, Spring 2018. We have successfully hosted the 2nd Annual Literacy Festival and the 11th Annual Promising Pathways conference as part of our education mission driven engagements for the Southwest Florida region. Our graduates are continuously making a difference in the field; for example, this year, Brooke Przespolewski (Elementary Teacher Education, 2003) was honored as one of six Golden Apple Teachers in Lee Country School District, and fourteen (14) out of 56 Teachers of Distinction recognized by Collier County School District are COE graduates. During the semester, our faculty publishes 19 research articles and 57 conference presentations, and the list continues! In addition, COE’s teacher education faculty successfully completed the official FLDOE site visit as part of the 9-month program review and reaffirmation protocol.

This academic year, for the first time, the College collectively engaged in developing a 5-year strategic plan in conjunction with the university’s new strategic plan. During the one-year strategic planning, we were able to identify our strengths, weakness, areas of improvement, some big and bold ideas, and direction for capacity building for the College’s short-term and long-term future. We now have a collective sense moving forward with shared goals we have articulated together. Thank you ALL for your serious commitment, deep sense of caring, and collective engagement in improving the profession of learning.

All the Best,
Eunsook “Eunny” Hyun, Ph.D., Dean

Assistant Dean’s Desk: The Office of Student Services, Outreach and Recruitment

Student Services, in the College of Education (COE), assists students with completing their General Education course requirements at FGCU, along with getting admitted into the College. Once admitted to the COE, and through to graduation, student services works with students on advising, test prep, internships, timely graduation, and career guidance. The professionals working in student services help make the experience for students meaningful, impactful, and successful during their time in the COE.

Department Highlights:
- To help school districts grow their own future teachers, as a part of COE’s mission-driven practice supporting the region’s teaching workforce development, the first ever Dual Enrollment teacher education course offered by the College of Education at Ida S. Baker High School with 12 students enrolled. Course was taught on-site at the High School by the COE’s Dr. Jackie Greene in partnership with Ida S. baker teacher, Claudia Cacicone. A similar dual enrollment teacher education program will be offered at Immokalee High School in near future.
- To help COE teacher education students’ academic success, during the Spring semester, the office offered eight additional FTCE’s test prep sessions for COE teacher education students, a total of 241 students participated including first fully virtual GKT test prep.
- To further strengthen COE teacher education’s clinical practices, under the direction of COE PDS Coordinator, Jennifer Fulwider, a total 23 school sites were visited to discuss and strengthen our PDS-based teacher education and educational leader programs in partnership with district leaders.

Upcoming Highlights
- To inspire and cultivate future teacher education majors as we work with high school teacher academy students and teachers, COE’s 2nd Annual EDUCamp preparation is underway. This year, it will be held June 18-22, with a maximum student participation capped at 45 students.
- Under COE’s proactive advising practice for student success, COE Academic Advisors are actively engage in Eagle View Orientation. The advisors will attend 22 Eagle View Orientation sessions over the summer to meet with incoming freshmen and transfer education majors and undeclared majors, and guide them through for their the first step toward their academic success and beyond at FGCU College of Education

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Dean’s Message

The Office of the Associate Dean handles a multitude of tasks in the COE including: accreditation, assessment, program approval and review, strategic and operational planning, and continuous-improvement efforts.

This spring, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) completed the bi-decadal review for continued-program approval. The site visit was subcontracted to an external organization, Teacher Preparation Inspection-US (TPI-US). Four reviewers plus the executive director from TPI-US were on site from March 26th through March 30th along with Eileen McDaniel from FLDOE. The reviewers were very impressed with the quality of the courses and the dedication of COE faculty members. We especially wish to thank our school partners for their assistance in the process: Bethany Quisenberry, Dr. David Sanon, Gabrielle Babyak, and Katie Angello from Franklin Park Elementary School; Karen Manzi, Dr. Jennifer Misewicz, Katie Nettles, Heather Dunn, and Gail Kearney from Orange River Elementary School; Diane Sherman, Tammy Forkey, Courtney Lebel, and Terri Mancuso from Spring Creek Elementary School; Dana Franklin-Riashi, Kristin Pukin, and Janice Jacovino from Veterans Memorial Elementary; Ben Ausman, Andrew Hamstra, Barbara Nelson, and Virginia Winte from Bayshore Elementary; Kelly Thorton, Cayce Staruk, Donna McFee, April Cox, Amy Brewington, and Brooke Feldman from Treeline Elementary School.

Reaffirmation of national accreditation will occur in March 2019; however, the self-study report will be submitted to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) by the end of June. Our district partners are vital for continuous improvement initiatives required for national accreditation. Biannually, the Associate Dean’s Office hosts an advisory board focused on continuous improvement. The advisory board offers a forum for district partners, alumni, and current students to provide input so the COE can meet the local needs.

Through the advisory board, a new certificate program was established, and will be implemented in fall 2018. The Teacher Credential Certificate is a post-baccalaureate program designed for individuals who hold a temporary educator’s certificate through FLDOE. The program is comprised of the same undergraduate-level courses as the education minor. Completion of the program allows individuals to meet the coursework requirements needed to secure a professional educator’s certificate.

Finally, Dr. Chris Parfitt, the Assessment Coordinator, will be leaving his current position to become an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership in the COE. Dr. Parfitt has played a crucial role in and contributed greatly to the continued approval of the teacher education programs by FLDOE, CAEP accreditation preparation, new teacher certificate program applications, and crucial support to the daily administration of Associate Dean’s Office. We thank Dr. Parfitt for what he has done for this College, and we wish him our best in his new position. Currently, the COE is searching for a new Assessment Coordinator.

Associate Dean’s Desk: Office of Program Assessment and Accreditation

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Faculty Publications Published during Spring 2018


COE Graduate Builds 3D Prosthetic Arm for 3rd Grader

Eric Demeri is a College of Education graduate from 2004, and currently teaches at Sunshine Elementary School in Lehigh. He started a 3D printing club in the school to teach kids the power of technology. Together they built school supplies, but the real surprise was when Eric printed a 3D prosthetic arm, and presented it to one of the 3rd graders in the school. The little girl now has the ability to grab items, something that she was unable to do before the arm. Eric hopes this achievement will bring awareness to the benefits of technology in school.

The College of Education continues to be proud of its graduates.

Eric’s success story is just one of the many that continue to show the FGCU Effect.

Story Source: *Hello SWFL*
Alumni of Distinction: Recognized Feb. 16, 2018

Soaring Eagle, College of Education
Kimberly Zambito, is a double alum of Florida Gulf Coast University. She began her educational career as a kindergarten teacher at Bonita Springs Charter School and then served as lead teacher. She was then promoted to Dean of Curriculum and Instruction. After obtaining her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from high school mathematics, best practices with struggling students, adolescent psychological needs and creativity, children’s reading to dogs, educational kits and community partners, and teacher candidates' perceptions of English learners self-assessments of English proficiency.

The following Ed.D. students were among the presenters:
Jaimee Sidisky: Connecting Authors and Students from Title I Schools;
Keiana Desmore: Advising Afro-Caribbean Student Immigrants for Success;
Shahid Rasool: Parental Involvement in Children education: A study Based on Longitudinal Hierarchical Modeling;
Jessica Lennox: Dual Enrollment and Postsecondary Transition Experiences;
Clarisse Halpern: A Descriptive Study of the Effects of a Family language and Literacy Program: Multiple Perspectives;
Samantha Junkin: Story in High School Mathematics;
Melissa Meehan: Dogs are Great Listeners: A University Course Project Leads to Young Children's Reading to Shelter Dogs

Students are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal for presentation at next year’s event.

Undergraduate Program Admission Deadlines
For Fall Semester Start:
March 15th: Deadline to participate in early registration
June 15th: Deadline for fall semester start
August 15th: Transfer student deadline for a fall semester start

Ed.D. Dissertation Defenses:
Keiana L. Desmore
Culture as an Influence of Academic Achievement for Afro-Caribbean Student Immigration.
Faculty Chairs: Elia Vazquez-Montilla (Co-Chair), Jackie Greene (Co-Chair), Cecil Carter

Brian T. Pollitt
Determinants of Student Success in Eighth Grade Algebra I.
Faculty Chairs: Judy Wilkerson (Chair), Dorothy Rea, Jingshun Zhang

Both Successfully Defended!

Student of the Year Finalists

Until next semester, tootles!