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COE Alumni Receive Outstanding Young Owls Awards

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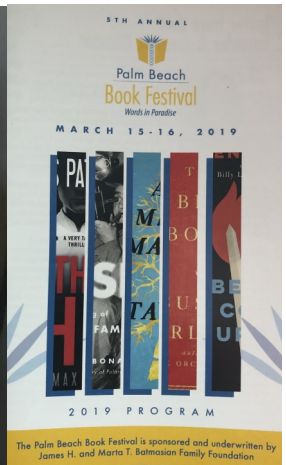
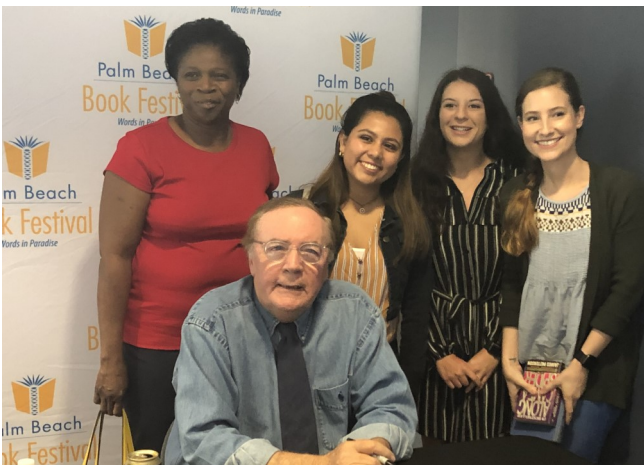


Holmes Scholars Benefit from AACTE Conference

Due to the generous support of donors, three doctoral students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) attended the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)'s annual conference held Feb. 20 - 22, 2019 in Louisville, Ky. The students are members ... [Read more](#)

COE Alumni Donate to Fund Two Scholarships

Bob and Connie McGee, College of Education (COE) alumni, sought to provide the experiences and opportunities they appreciated as students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to COE undergraduate students. So when they heard about the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars ... [Read more](#)



Patterson Scholars Attend Book Festival Panel Discussion

Recipients of the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year had the opportunity to hear their benefactor, best selling author James Patterson, in person as he participated in a panel discussion during the fifth annual Palm Beach Book Festival held at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) on the Boca Raton Campus on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Other... [Read more](#)



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COE Alumni Receive Outstanding Young Owl Awards



Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s Department of Teaching and Learning offers bachelor's degree programs that lead to eligibility for certification in particular subject areas for secondary education, as well as a master's degree in secondary education. These programs require observation and field experience hours throughout the program and culminates with a student teaching semester, under the guidance of a clinical teacher. Lauren Rower (left) and Anthony Melei were student teachers when tragedy struck, but it did not deter them from becoming high school teachers.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2019

Two Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School teachers, who graduated from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) on May 3, 2018, were selected to receive the 2019 Outstanding Young Owls (OYO) Award for the College from the FAU Alumni Association (FAUAA). Lauren Rower and Anthony Melei were in their student teaching semester when tragedy struck on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 at MSD High School in the Broward County Public School District. Both Lauren and Anthony exceeded the expectations of FAU interns and showed their support for the community, noted Robyn Klein, Field Director and Secondary Methods Instructor, Teaching and Learning. They emerged from the tragedy stronger and committed to the teaching profession.

"The College of Education is proud of both of these alumni.

They exemplify the high caliber and tenacity of our students pursuing degrees in the teaching profession."

— Valerie J. Bristor, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Education

Both COE alumni received the award along with nine other honorees from seven other FAU colleges during the sixth annual OYO Ceremony and Reception hosted by FAUAA on Friday, March 15, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the FAU Tech Runway in Boca Raton, Fla. The OYO award is bestowed upon remarkable alumni under the age of 40, who exemplify the academic and personal development ideals of FAU. The recipients were honored for their personal and professional accomplishments. Lauren, who holds a B.A.E. degree in English Education from the COE's Department of Teaching and Learning (TL), teaches ninth and tenth-grade English and Anthony, who earned a B.A. in Social Studies Education from the COE's TL, teaches ninth-grade geography,

So what was the most helpful course they took at FAU? "The student teaching course required by the College of Education for graduation," Lauren and Anthony concurred. "This course functioned as an internship in which I was placed at a local high school to shadow a teacher before fully taking over the classroom and assuming the teacher role," explained Lauren. "This course allowed me to experience the classroom first-hand and gave insight into what it really takes to be an educator on a daily basis. Without the student teaching experience my first year as an educator would have undoubtedly been much harder." Anthony added. "I learned so much so quickly about myself and about how to connect with students to help them learn."

As for their teaching philosophy, Lauren believes that "all students are unique and need a stimulating educational environment where they can grow mentally, emotionally, and socially" in order to meet their full potential. Anthony believes interest drives learning and, therefore, strives to make the content relevant. He tries to make his lessons engaging by including activities and projects into units so students learn something important about the content and he hopes to drive students to research further themselves. Showing interest is not one sided, Anthony cautioned. It is important for teachers to show interest and excitement about the subject as well.

Considering becoming a teacher? "Plan well, but be flexible," advised Anthony. Sometimes changing or eliminating an activity will enable a teacher to reach the students. Lauren added, "If you are not organized now, start making it a habit."

For more information on degree programs offered by the Department of Teaching and Learning, contact an advisor at the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#). To explore ways to give, contact Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development, College of Education, at jjameson2013@fau.edu.

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Holmes Scholars Attend AACTE Conference



Three Florida Atlantic University (FAU) doctoral students from the College of Education attended the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) conference in Louisville, Ky., in February 2019. Members of the Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU, they are (from left) Danna Demezier, Shanett Dean, and Denise Dowdie. Deborah King McEwan (far right) attended last year's AACTE Conference and is also a Holmes Scholar.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2019

Due to the generous support of donors, three doctoral students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education (COE) attended the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)'s annual conference held Feb. 20 - 22, 2019 in Louisville, Ky. The students are members of the AACTE Holmes Scholars® Program at FAU. The conference provides networking and professional development opportunities for doctoral students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, especially racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities, who are in the Holmes Scholars® Program. Here is a recap of their experience.

“The Holmes Scholars are underrepresented College of Education doctoral students, who possess outstanding credentials and demonstrate a commitment to equity and diversity within education.”

— Rangasamy Ramasamy,
Ph.D.
Professor, Exceptional Student
Education, and Coordinator
Holmes Scholars® Program at
Florida Atlantic University

Danna Demezier, doctoral student working on a Ph.D. in Counseling, gleaned insightful and practical information on ways to improve her writing practices. In addition, she gained helpful tips on ways to succeed throughout her doctoral journey and prepare her transition into academia. “I gained so much knowledge in such a short time and am fortunate to have been part of the experience.”

Shanett Dean, doctoral student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, welcomed the opportunity to see research from graduate students across the country. “The forums, panels and sessions, facilitated by seasoned faculty, offered invaluable information as I make key decisions at this genesis of my doctoral process. For instance, there was a session held

around the dissertation process, where the professors speaking not only offered sage advice and anecdotal evidence, they provided resources in the form of texts that attendees could revisit throughout their time as doctoral students. With such helpful information shared that I can bring back to our FAU community, I am eager to visit next year with research of my own.”

Denise Dowdie, a doctoral student seeking an Ed.D. in Exceptional Student Education, expounded, “The AACTE conference essentially showcased a myriad of talents, knowledge, and networking experiences that provided an insightful journey into a menu of rich and diverse opportunities for scholarship, advocacy and mentorship. I found the *Scholarly Writing*, *Job Talk* and *Dissertation Preparation* sessions to have broad appeal to me as a doctoral student.”

Having attended the 2018 AACTE Conference in Baltimore, Deborah King McEwan, a doctoral student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, recalled, “I was able to reflect on the concerns, struggles, and triumphs of experienced teacher educators. As a Holmes Scholar, I was encouraged and proud of the opportunity to network with estimable peers, who are aspiring to make a difference as educators.”

Other benefits of the Holmes Scholars® Program are opportunities for Holmes Scholars to present their research at the AACTE annual meeting and hone their leadership skills during Washington Week. Please extend your generosity to fund expenses for FAU Holmes Scholars to attend next year's conferences.

For more information, contact Rangasamy Ramasamy, Ph.D., Professor, Exceptional Student Education, and Holmes Scholar Coordinator at rramasam@fau.edu. To explore ways to give, contact Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development, College of Education, at jjameson2013@fau.edu.

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COE Alumni Donate to Fund Two Scholarships for Aspiring Educators



Alumni of Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education, Bob and Connie McGee, donated funds to provide four-year scholarships to two first-generation undergraduate students, who aspire to become educators, through the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program. Bob and Connie got married the same year they graduated.

By Josephine Elliott | April 30, 2019

Bob and Connie McGee, College of Education (COE) alumni, sought to provide the experiences and opportunities they appreciated as students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to COE undergraduate students. So when they heard about the Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program, they decided to fund two four-year scholarships, starting this fall, for first-generation students, who aspire to become educators. The McGees were impressed that the program provides on-campus housing and comprehensive support, including mentors, checkpoints and milestones to maximize student success.

In 1964, Bob was among the charter class of FAU students. He began his undergraduate studies in math and science education as a junior since the University only offered upper-division and graduate-level courses then. Bob

"We decided to pay back and pay forward by investing in young people. We are grateful for the experiences and opportunities Florida Atlantic University's College of Education gave us. We hope to give two scholarship recipients as good a start as we had."

*--Bob and Connie McGee
College of Education Alumni*

remembers when Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States, declared FAU officially opened in October 1964. The following trimester, Connie began FAU as an art education major and English minor. She recalls that within walking distance were the off campus apartments where they met during their senior year.

In 1967, Bob earned his B.A. degree from FAU in April; Connie, in December and the following day they got married. Upon graduation, Bob substituted at a junior high school in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), where he was offered a full-time math position that fall. Nineteen years later, he moved on to teach high school math for 13 years. Bob earned a master's degree in administration/supervision from the University of LaVerne in LaVerne, Calif. Connie taught art from January 1968 through 1972 in M-DCPS before having

three children. Afterwards, she taught English and Reading for 20 years and became a Language Arts Supervisor for M-DCPS for six years. She earned a master's degree in reading from Barry University in Miami, Fla.

Reflecting on their teaching careers, the McGees noted that FAU's COE prepared them well. The program required them to do observations and student teaching, which they found very helpful. "The supervising teachers who watched us teach, provided helpful hints and positive support," said Connie. Bob recounted that these experiences provided a natural transition to teaching in the classroom. "I learned by doing," he said. In 2010, they were both selected as COE Distinguished Alumni. In 2017, they not only celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, but also the 50th anniversary of graduating from FAU, thus joining the Majestic Owls Society. While standing in line to receive their medallions from FAU President, John W. Kelly, Ph.D., they noticed Bob's roommate in front of them and they reconnected after 50 years. Bob and Connie are thankful for these FAU experiences and opportunities and hope the scholarship recipients will be too.

For more information on degree programs offered by the COE, contact an advisor at the [Office for Academic and Student Services](#). To explore ways to give, contact Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development, College of Education, at jjameson2013@fau.edu.

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Patterson Scholars Attend Book Festival Panel Discussion



Florida Atlantic University (FAU)'s College of Education students met James Patterson (seated), *New York Times* bestselling author, during the fifth annual Palm Beach Book Festival held at FAU on Saturday, March 16, 2019. They are (from left) Karol S. Robertson, who is a graduate student in M.Ed. Elementary Education plus Certification (ESOL K-6); and Adriana Arevalo del Rio, Megan Caliri and Courtney Pritchard, who are undergraduate students in the bachelor's in Elementary Education. Each of them were awarded the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship for 2018-2019 funded by James Patterson.

By Josephine Elliott | APRIL 30, 2019

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." —James Patterson

Recipients of the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year had the opportunity to hear their benefactor, *New York Times* bestselling author James Patterson, in person as he participated in a panel discussion during the fifth annual Palm Beach Book Festival held at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) on the Boca Raton Campus on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Other participants included Valerie J. Bristor, Dean, College of Education (COE); Jorene Jameson, Ph.D., Director of Development assigned to the COE; and Bessie P. Dernikos, Ed.D., Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning.

The event, hosted by the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters,



included a reading and presentation followed by a book signing. At left, Patterson (right) shares a story about how he told a teacher that he met two brothers who had been in the teacher's class. The teacher responded that these two students drove him crazy. "Well, interestingly," Patterson replied to the teacher, "They told me that you saved their lives and they are both teachers."

Clearly, teachers make a difference in students' lives. To support up-and-coming teachers, who will help give children the necessary foundation for lifelong reading enjoyment, Patterson has generously funded the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship at the COE yearly since 2012. This year, new features were implemented to provide Patterson Scholars with more flexibility and opportunities to practice reading education strategies and methods in Palm Beach County classrooms. Eighteen outstanding COE undergraduate and graduate students were awarded scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year. Four of those Patterson Scholars—Karol S. Robertson, Courtney Pritchard, Adriana Arevalo de Rio and Megan Caliri—met Patterson during the Palm Beach Book Festival.

Among the enduring fictional characters and series Patterson created are Alex Cross and Michael Bennett, as well as the "Women's Murder Club," "Maximum Ride," "Middle School," and "I Funny." His notable literary collaborations include "The President Is Missing," with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the Max Einstein series, produced in partnership with the Albert Einstein Estate. At right, Bristor holds a children's book Patterson wrote with his wife, Susan. The National Book Foundation recently presented Patterson with the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community. He is also the recipient of an Edgar Award and six Emmy Awards.



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