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You're reading **coE-News**, an electronic newsletter produced monthly during the academic year by the College of Education News & Publications Office to keep faculty and staff up-to-date on college news and activities. Click [here](#) to download a PDF version of this edition. You will need a [PDF reader](#) to view this document.

GOT NEWS? We want to hear it. Submit individual or unit news and calendar events of collegewide interest to news@coe.ufl.edu for publication consideration. All submissions must be in writing or via e-mail and must include contact information for follow-up questions.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

Improving the research culture at COE

Standing in for vacationing Dean Catherine Emihovich, Associate Dean for Research Paul Sindelar offers an overview of a year of progress at the Office of Educational Research. ([more](#))

TOP STORIES

\$10M gift spurs all-out push to help Florida children succeed in school

UF's Lastinger Center for Learning and the Miami-based Early Childhood Initiative Foundation will share a \$10 million grant from the W.W. Kellogg Foundation, for efforts to improve learning by smoothing the transition to school for children who are likely to start school unprepared. ([more](#))

UF joins effort to revamp Ed. D. degree, seeks faculty input

UF's College of Education is joining a high-profile group of universities to rethink the Ed.D. degree, to better differentiate it from the Ph.D. and to better serve the educational needs of students who plan to be practicing educators. Faculty members can weigh in on the process at a meeting to be held March 21 at noon in the Norman Hall Terrace Room. ([more](#))

NEWS AND NOTICES

COE sponsors Blackout Weekend

The College of Education is proud to be a sponsor of Blackout Weekend – a new, major campus event to be held March 30-31. Created and run by the Black Student Union, Blackout Weekend will bring high school and college students from around the state to UF for a conference on the state of black student unions across the nation, a formal ball, a career fair, a speech by novelist Omar Tyree and more. For more information, write to ufbsuconference@yahoo.com or visit the BSU website [here](#).

Teachers to share knowledge at April showcase

Teachers from around the state will join COE faculty and students to share their knowledge about school improvement at the annual Teaching, Inquiry and Innovation Showcase, to be held by the Center for School Improvement April 21 at the PKY Performing Arts Center. Now in its third year, the showcase exists to celebrate classroom teachers whose research and inquiry have helped to improve schools from within. More information is available [here](#).

COE Viewbook wins ADDY Award

Last year, COE released a new publication designed to introduce the college to newcomers – with a personal touch. Now the COE Viewbook is among the winners of a respected ADDY Award. ([more](#))

RESEARCH/GRANTS

UF professor takes common calculator to next level

Since the early 1990s, a humble little computing device has caused a quiet revolution in the way mathematics is taught in America's middle and high schools. Now a pilot

project, led in part by UF Associate Professor Stephen Pape, is taking the graphing calculator to the next level. ([more](#))

FACULTY/STAFF APPOINTMENTS/HONORS

Building at FAMU named for former COE professor

He worked on the NASA's mission to the moon, helped implement the Civil Rights Act and served as a monitor for one of South Africa's first post-apartheid elections. Now former COE professor Walter L. Smith has received one of the highest honors a university can bestow. ([more](#))

COE professor appointed to dental journal

Professor Linda Behar-Horenstein has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Education*. One of the nation's most influential publications on academic dentistry, the JDE publishes dental research and articles on the instruction of student dentists. As an affiliate professor at UF's College of Dentistry, Behar-Horenstein has helped that college improve its teaching methods. Last year, she was appointed to UF's Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, a task force dedicated to improving teaching across the UF campus.

Repetto honored for assisting students with disabilities in transition to adulthood

For years, UF's Transition Center has been quietly assisting hundreds of students with disabilities as they make the transition from K-12 school to the demands of adulthood. Associate Professor Jeanne Repetto, co-founder and director of the center, will be honored for her work by the Council for Exceptional Children in April. ([more](#))

Three at COE selected for Faculty Achievement Recognition

Professor Thomas Oakland, Professor Mary Brownell, and Professor and Associate Dean for Research Paul Sindelar are among 51 UF faculty selected as Faculty Achievement Recognition honorees. ([more](#))

STUDENT HONORS/AWARDS

Essay lands Ph.D. student a trip to see Oprah

Denise Payne, a Ph.D. student in the School of Teaching and Learning, was awarded two tickets to the taping of an Oprah Winfrey Show episode about the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, a newly constructed school in South Africa. Payne acquired the tickets by submitting an essay to the show, illustrating the opportunities that her education has opened her. Payne wrote that she found the South African students' stories inspiring, and plans to share her experience with her students. The show she attended aired in February.

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Hagedorn a headliner at conference on Latino students

Professor Linda Hagedorn, chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy, has been invited to serve as plenary speaker at the National Capitol Summit on Latino Students and Educational Opportunity, to be held June 13-14. Sponsored by the Educational Policy Institute and the University of Maryland College Park, the conference will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and will focus on the educational needs of America's growing Hispanic population.

Jones speaks at Levin environmental conference

Associate Professor Linda Cronin Jones spoke as a member of a panel on "Incorporating Sustainability into Education" during the 13th Annual Public Interest Environmental Conference at UF's Levin College of Law, held March 1-3.

DISSERTATION DEFENSES

Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the following dissertation defenses. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

- **Curriculum Components of Classroom Management for School Counselors**

Doctoral candidate: Jill A. Geltner
10 a.m. April 4, Norman Hall Room 1205
RSVP to: Larry Loesch, lloesch@coe.ufl.edu

- **The Turning Hour Project: Using Literature for Suicide Education in Schools**

Doctoral candidate: Patricia Xirau-Probert
10:30 a.m.- noon March 26, Norman Hall Room 1235B
RSVP to: Silvia Echevarria-Doan, silvia@coe.ufl.edu

P.K. YONGE NEWS

PKY instructor gets Toyota "mini-grant"

P.K. Yonge science teacher Michelina "Mickie" MacDonald was awarded a \$2,500 grant from Toyota's TAPESTRY initiative, for an innovative program that brings UF genetics experts to PKY to teach high school biology students. Under the program, professors from UF's microbiology and agronomy departments will discuss their own research and the real-life applications of genetic engineering with PKY students, and will provide field and laboratory experiences. Students will debate the ethics of genetic engineering and will conduct a literature review under the guidance of media specialists from UF's libraries. The Toyota grant is one of about two dozen "mini-grants" the automaker offers each year to innovative, low-cost educational projects.

Road to college paved with basketball victories

Congratulations to Coach Mark Griseck and the Blue Wave basketball team for advancing all the way to this year's state championship game in Class 3A. As state runner-up, they did their school proud – and along the way, three members of the team scored college basketball scholarships.

IN THE NEWS

A recent sampling of “media hits” from the College of Education, many of them resulting from press releases or media requests coordinated by COE News & Publications:

***Gainesville Sun* – Professor and Chair Linda Hagedorn, EAP (3/6/07)**

The Sun wrote a story about Hagedorn's recent study which found that Hispanic college students show better academic performance at schools with a large Hispanic population. Hagedorn was also interviewed by WUFT-TV 5 in relation to the study.

***Meridian (Miss.) Star* – Professor and Chair Linda Hagedorn, EAP (2/21/07)**

Hagedorn was quoted in a story about the Institute of Higher Education's presentation of one of its Outstanding Graduate Awards to UF IHE alum Scott Elliott, president of Meridian Community College.

Associated Press – Lastinger Center for Learning (3/5/06)

The news service carried the story of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's gift of \$10 million to the Lastinger Center and the Miami-based Early Childhood Initiative Foundation for efforts to improve learning by smoothing the transition to school for children who are likely to start school unprepared. The story appeared in *Florida Times-Union, Orlando Sentinel, Bradenton Herald, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Gainesville Sun, Lakeland Ledger, Naples Daily News, Pensacola News Journal* and *Philanthropy News Digest*.

***Providence (R.I.) Journal* – Professor Craig Wood (3/7/07)**

The newspaper covered Wood's presentation of a study on education funding to the Rhode Island Legislature. Wood told lawmakers their state would need approximately \$94 million in additional funding to meet the needs of its students.

***Jefferson City (Mo.) News Tribune* – Professor Craig Wood (2/15/07)**

Wood was quoted in coverage of a lawsuit in which plaintiffs alleged the State of Missouri does not distribute its education funding fairly. Wood testified as an expert witness in the case.

CALENDAR

MARCH 21

Educational Psychology Guest Speaker:

Joseph Torgesen, W. Russell and Eugenia Morcom Chair of Psychology and Education at Florida State University

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Norman Hall Terrace Room

Contact: Tracy Linderholm, linderholm@coe.ufl.edu, or 392-0723 ext. 241

MARCH 22

McNair Scholars Poster Day

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., Reitz Student Union

MARCH 26

College Curriculum Committee meeting

2 p.m., Norman Hall Room 158

MARCH 27

COE Staff Appreciation Luncheon

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Norman Courtyard

Contact: Jodi Mount, 392-0728, ext. 250 or jmount@coe.ufl.edu

MARCH 30-31

Blackout Weekend

Contact: Black Student Union at ufbsuconference@yahoo.com

APRIL 2-6

Alachua County Schools Spring Break

APRIL 9-13

AERA Annual Convention: The World of Educational Quality
Chicago, Ill.

APRIL 11

Gator Day in the Legislature

APRIL 13-14

Spring Weekend by the Alumni Association

Contact: Jodi Mount, 392-0728, ext. 250 or jmount@coe.ufl.edu

APRIL 14

Education Alumni Council Spring Meeting

Norman Hall Room 158

Contact: Jodi Mount, 392-0728, ext. 250 or jmount@coe.ufl.edu

APRIL 14

Orange & Blue Football Game

APRIL 18-21

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention
Louisville, Ky.

Contact: Shaira Rivas-Otero, 392-0701, ext: 242 or srivas@coe.ufl.edu

QUICK LINKS

UF: www.ufl.edu

College of Education: education.ufl.edu

coE-News: education.ufl.edu/pubs

Education Times magazine: education.ufl.edu/pubs

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