Notes from the Dean...

Dear Colleagues,

As you will see in this issue of The Educator, our school continues to be very active in research, teaching, and service. Some very exciting developments took place in the school in the beginning of 2011. This past month we held two events that embodied our vision to be a center of excellence in the promotion of educational, physical and psychological well-being in multicultural communities. Our participation in The Global Business Forum with a panel on the “Promotion of Wellness and the Prevention of Obesity” drew a large crowd. This standing room only event was a great success. Arlette Perry spoke at the symposium, and as usual, she gave a fabulously engaging presentation. Our exercise physiology students, ably guided by Wes Smith, conducted physical examinations of volunteer participants. The feedback we received for that event was terrific.

Only ten days later we held a second major event when we hosted noted education historian Diane Ravitch. In another standing room only event at the Storer Auditorium, we brought over 500 people to hear this eloquent education critic. The lecture was timely, powerful, and empowering of teachers. Just like the Global Business Forum, this major event drew a large and important crowd who complimented our leadership in the community. Both events reminded us how tightly connected the physical, educational, and psychological dimensions of well-being are. I wish to use this opportunity to thank Marsha Talianoff, Marilyn Neff, Laurie McDonald and Aaron Merideth for the wonderful work on both events.

January also marked an important milestone in our school’s history. Several of our colleagues in KIN inaugurated the first floor of Orovitz by moving to a top class facility that will house the exercise physiology lab and several faculty offices. This is a long overdue development in the school, and we all share in the excitement of our colleagues in KIN. Once the lab is fully functional we will host a reception for all of us to see what a great facility that is.

Our next major step in improving our physical facilities will be to renovate the third floor of Orovitz to accommodate the office of graduate studies and the Institute for Individual and Family Counseling led by Brian Lewis. We hope this work will be completed during the summer.

With the transfer of most of the equipment from the Merrick physiology lab to Orovitz, we have been able to recapture much needed instructional space, which is already being used by our KIN colleagues. In a matter of days we will also complete the renovation of MB 321, enabling many of our students and professors to use a state of the art classroom. But the process of improving our school is not limited to physical space. Over the last few months, the diversity committee and the curriculum alignment committee have been at work elaborating recommendations for the entire school. They have presented recommendations to school council, and we are now looking at how to incorporate their work into the new strategic plan.

Soon Marilyn Neff will be scheduling visits to the various departments and staff groups to begin the process of defining our goals for the next strategic plan. Soon also the Provost will visit the school with representatives from the General Welfare Committee of the Senate to share with you the results of the Dean evaluation.

TAL has been busy making progress on the INCLUDE grant to revise their curriculum to focus more on special education. This week we met with the school council of Arts and Sciences to request their approval to release our elementary education students from having to take a second major. The school council at Arts and Sciences overwhelmingly supported our request. Now it goes to their full faculty for a vote. I wish you all a productive and enjoyable spring semester, and I look forward to seeing you all at the spring retreat, which we will be scheduling soon.

Isaac

Upcoming Events

Feb. 7th - 2:30PM - 4:00PM - Dr. Michael Bernstein will be speaking at the School of Nursing, Room 428 as part of the CEW Lecture Series
Feb. 14th - Valentine’s Day
In the News...

**Dean Isaac Prilleltensky** is the recipient of two awards from the division of community psychology of the American Psychological Association. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Contribution to Theory and Research Award. In addition, he won the John Kalafat Practitioner Award in Applied Community Psychology, presented by the Society for Community Research and Action, Division of Community Psychology of the American Psychological Association. The Awards will be given at the biennial conference of the division next June in Chicago.

To read more about the award, go to [http://www.scra27.org/membership/memberreso/awards/johnkalafa](http://www.scra27.org/membership/memberreso/awards/johnkalafa)

Or [http://johnkalafat.com/content/up-09-23-08/Kalafat_Donation.pdf](http://johnkalafat.com/content/up-09-23-08/Kalafat_Donation.pdf)

**Dr. Walter Secada** is pleased to report that **Felicia Robinson** (also known as Felicia Robinson Fee while she was our student) was elected to the Miami Gardens City Council with just over 50% of the vote in a field of four candidates. Felicia graduated from the (secondary-school) Math Resource Teacher M.S.Ed. program that Dr. Secada directed upon first arriving here at UM.

Her facebook page is: [http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=120804771274623&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=120804771274623&ref=ts) and her e-mail: fsrobinson2010@gmail.com.

**Corrine Huggins**, a fourth year doctoral student from the Research, Measurement, and Evaluation program, was nominated for consideration for the Distinguished Paper Award for her FERA proposal entitled: Equating Invariance for English Language Learner Students on a Fifth Grade State Science Exam. She is to be congratulated for the quality of her scholarship and for her willingness to share her scholarship with others.

**Seth Christman**, a Doctoral Candidate in Counseling Psychology in the Department of Education and Psychological Services, was recently inducted into the University of Miami’s Beta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda (AEL), an honor society for graduate and professional school students. Seth was selected from a pool of graduate, law, and medical students, alumni, and faculty who are in the top 35% academically in the in class, have completed a minimum of nine credits towards a graduate degree, and have shown exemplary leadership and character, including service to the University of Miami graduate student body and service in the public interest at large.

From Florida Jewish Journal: CJE, UM present student symposium By Shani McManus, Staff Writer

August 24 2010, 7:36 AM EDT

The Jack and Harriet Rosenfeld Foundation Program in Jewish Education, School of Education, University of Miami and The Friedman Commission for Jewish Education presented a two-day seminar, "Service is Learning," recently for the Arthur I. Meyer Academy faculty and middle school students.


Visit Florida Jewish Journal at [http://floridajewishjournal.com](http://floridajewishjournal.com)

**Georgette Lee** is a graduate of our program in the Bahamas. Recently she earned her doctorate from University of Illinois, Chicago. Her dissertation chair was **Dr. Marie Hughes**, a graduate of our doctoral program in Reading/Learning disabilities and a faculty member at UI-C. **Dr. Jeanne Schumm** served as a member of her doctoral committee as well.
Dr. Guerda Nicolas poignantly remembers the day she overheard a class of African American students being told that their effort and performance did not matter in determining their future—they had nothing more to look forward to than careers at McDonald’s. This incident reiterated for Dr. Nicolas the need to take a close look at the messages that students—especially ethnic minority students—receive regarding their education and value as individuals. With this as the impetus, Dr. Nicolas and the CRECER research team partnered with the Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews (MCCJ) to address the intersection of culture and education at the 3rd annual Day of Dialogue. The Day of Dialogue is a forum that provides neighborhood leaders and CRECER partners a space to identify the needs of the community, and develop strategies to address them. This year’s theme—Building Bridges Across Cultures: Promoting Education—is particularly salient for our local community, as 91 percent of Miami-Dade County’s students are students of color (Fall 2009) and 24 percent of students are designated as English Language Learners (2008-2009).

Held on Saturday, October 30th, at the CAS Gallery at the Wesley Foundation, the event drew about 30 participants including UM students and faculty, local school staff, parents, and representatives of various nonprofit and community-based organizations across Miami. Participants insightfully discussed personal and professional experiences that reflected on issues of discrimination and lack of acceptance.

The day began with African music and storytelling, as well as a Unity Circle exercise to set the tone for a day of open dialogue and sincere communication. A circular seating format and the participant-based agenda/structure encouraged active and passionate engagement by attendees. One of the highlights of the day was the sense of encouragement and fulfillment that came from dialoguing with those who share a common sense of dedication and passion for addressing issues of discrimination and diversity of all kinds.

Work in this field can often be daunting and draining, with lack of social and professional support. Regarding the struggle of roles in this type of work, participants shared concerns and frustrations, as well as gave each other advice and suggestions. Some suggestions included being knowledgeable about different cultures, working from a position of love, thinking critically and speaking up, providing a sense of constancy, and being genuine in one’s interactions.

As many participants pointed out, individuals and organizations doing similar work should continue to look for the ways to work together. It was concluded that combining resources only works to increase the impact of a particular intervention or program. This year’s Day of Dialogue overall continued the tradition of encouraging the expansion of perspectives and fostering the communication between local organizations.

About the Organizers:
The Challenging Racism and Empowering Communities through Ethnocultural Research (CRECER) Team is a community-oriented research group based at the University of Miami’s School of Education. Led by Dr. Guerda Nicolas, CRECER is comprised of graduate students dedicated to addressing social justice issues through academic research and intervention programs. CRECER (A Spanish word meaning growth) is committed to addressing issues affecting ethnic minority and immigrant populations. Working from a community perspective, the team seeks to encourage community empowerment through the development and sustainability of programs for youth, families, and organizations.

MCCJ (the Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1935 in response to a rising anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic climate in America. Presently, MCCJ is broadly dedicated to eliminating intolerance. MCCJ profoundly believes that every person has the right to live in dignity and enjoy respect, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or socioeconomic status. MCCJ aspires to make Miami a model of intercultural understanding.
Third Annual Miami SPEC conference by Adrine McKenzie

The Third Annual Miami SPEC conference, entitled, “Grow the Good: The SPEC Pathway to a Better Miami Future” was held on October 27th at the Newman Alumni Center. The half-day conference brought together representatives from community organizations serving children and families in Miami-Dade to discuss how they can collectively build and sustain a SPEC network. A SPEC network would utilize the principles of SPEC, namely using a strength-based preventive model to empower and bring about meaningful community change.

Dr. Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean of the School of Education, University of Miami, welcomed the approximately 70 participants, which included leaders, executives and staff members representing over 40 human service organizations. Ronald L. Book, a specialist in government affairs and prominent state lobbyist delivered the keynote address and spoke of the importance of making a difference through civic engagement and community involvement. Daniella Levine, Founder and CEO of the Human Services Coalition who served as discussant, led the group discussion on ways in which grassroots community organizations can make a difference. Attendees had the opportunity to share ideas in small and large groups about how community organizations can work collectively to transform human service towards improving the lives of residents Miami-Dade.

The Miami SPEC Project is a three-year action research project in partnership with five local human services organizations and funding agencies. The goal of the project is to work with the five agencies to help them change their cultures and to improve the ways they approach their work. The research project, which is in its final year, aims to train and support agents of change who can create organizational settings for transformative human service practice that are aligned with SPEC principles. For more information, please visit www.specway.org

Council of the Great City Schools by Dr. Wendy Cavendish

The Council of the Great City Schools (CGS) is a coalition of 66 of the nation’s largest urban public school systems. CGS promotes legislation and research designed to improve the quality of urban education. CGS’s 54th Annual Fall Conference was held in Tampa on October 20-24, 2010 and focused on sessions designed to share promising practices with school, district, and state administrative personnel from around the country.

These sessions highlighted practices from urban centers related to: improving the achievement gap; professional development for teachers and administrators; educational leadership; district governance and management; efforts for improving bilingual, refugee and immigrant education; and special education practices. A research team (Dr. Wendy Cavendish, Anabel Espinosa, Margaret Mahotiere, Tracy McLeod and Ana Menda-Marshall) from University of Miami’s Department of Teaching and Learning presented on a panel entitled, “Challenges and Successes of a Response to Intervention (RTI) Scale-up.” The presentation provided information on the RTI framework adopted by Florida and Miami-Dade Public Schools (MDCPS) as well the process of systems change and how it is intertwined with the development of RTI. The team presented emerging trends from RTI initial implementation within MDCPS based on observations of district trainings and school level data-based decision team meetings.

“Our goal was to provide this group of professionals with the [legislative and research] history behind Response to Intervention and the framework that is currently being used by Miami Dade County Public Schools to initiate this statewide reform. We linked the eight principles of Systems Change Theory (Fullan, et al., 2005) to the current status of RTI reform within our district and the audience was able to understand how these conceptual processes were applied to actions taken by the district to transition into Response to Intervention,” said Anabel Espinosa, doctoral student and RTI research team member.

“The conference provided an incredible opportunity for our team to interact with superintendents, policy makers and administrative support personnel from all over the nation, and for us to experience first hand how different districts are adapting to the implementation of RTI, progress monitoring and the inherent difficulties of implementing a new plan,” said Ana Menda-Marshall, doctoral student and RTI research team member.
I am delighted to formally announce the approval by the University of Miami Faculty Senate, and President Donna Shalala, for the establishment of the Community and Educational Studies Press. The press is a special project of the Dunspaugh-Dalton Community and Educational Well-Being (CEW) Research Center and the School of Education and will be under the direction of Professor Eugene F. Provenzo.

The Community and Educational Studies Press will focus on community studies, well-being, and related educational issues. It will include an academic unit that will publish innovative monographs, textbooks and critical readers, and a curriculum unit that will focus on innovative K-12 materials. Distribution of the academic monographs and texts is tentatively scheduled as a joint undertaking with Information Age Publishing. The publication and development of curriculum materials will be done independently by the press. The press will also emphasize the development of electronic texts.

Dr. Provenzo and I will be meeting with individual faculty members and departments during the next few months to help them become more familiar with the publishing opportunities provided by the press. Through the CEW, we will also be establishing an advisory board that will include representation from all three departments in the School of Education, other units in the university, and our community partners.

This is a great moment for the CEW, the SOE, and the University of Miami. The Community and Educational Studies Press will now be the only active regional university educational press in South Florida. I want to express special appreciation to Dr. Provenzo for inviting us to consider the role that a press like this could play in supporting the vision and mission of our school and for putting in the work to make it happen. We look forward to engaging our faculty, students, and community partners in this exciting project.

Youth Violence Prevention

Dr. Wendy Cavendish participated in a presentation of a program/process evaluation of the Palm Beach Youth Violence Prevention Project (PBYVPP) to the Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners in June 2008. Dr. Cavendish is part of an evaluation team that includes faculty from Florida State University and the Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. The PBYVPP is a two million dollar Palm Beach County funded initiative utilizing a gang and youth violence reduction model adapted from the Spergel Model (University of Chicago) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The initiative is being implemented in five high violent crime cities within Palm Beach County. The components of the initiative include a four-pronged approach in each of the five cities. These include involvement from stakeholders in (1) law enforcement, (2) courts, (3) corrections, and (4) prevention which includes the collaboration of the Palm Beach School Board, multiple community and grass roots agencies, and business partners to provide infrastructure and support for the development of Youth Empowerment Centers (governed by community teens) in five crime “hot spots” in each of the five cities.

The five cities experienced varying levels of implementation within the first year, but general findings were reported that include:

- The YVPP served 16,840 youth
- The teen councils of each Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) increased their self-determination skills (specifically, level of psychological empowerment and goal setting/problem solving skills) through involvement in leadership activities related to the governance of the YECs.
- A reduction in the actual county-level rates of violent crime (murder, rape, and assault) compared to the “projected” levels (absent the program) during the project’s first year
- These crime “reductions” (actual versus projected) during the project’s first year of operations resulted in an estimated economic impact of $4,377,730
A five-year $1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help the University of Miami School of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning revamp its curriculum and implement a course of study to empower elementary- and secondary-school teachers to serve children with various learning, behavioral, and developmental disabilities.

The first year of the program will involve planning, while the remaining four years will support implementation.

“Over the years, school systems have become more inclusive,” says Elizabeth “Beth” Harry, professor and chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning (TAL). “They expect kids with a range of learning difficulties to be included in general classrooms.”

The five-year grant will fund the school’s new Project INCLUDE (Inclusive, Collaborative Leaders United for Diversity in Education), which will allow TAL to graduate teachers who can effectively teach, support, and provide effective programs for special-needs students in their classroom. The ultimate goal of the program is to graduate students with dual certifications in special education and general education.

During the first year of the grant, TAL’s curriculum will be restructured to train future teachers to identify needs, provide positive support to students, and utilize divergent methods of teaching students with high incidence disabilities. These could range from attention deficit disorder to speech delays and difficulty in subjects such as reading or math.

As part of the grant, professors from the College of Arts and Sciences will collaborate with TAL faculty to ensure a high caliber of instruction, according to Harry. Learning how to instruct children who come from underserved and diverse communities is also part of the new project.

Additionally, the grant will provide workshops for School of Education professors to access new technology programs designed to assess and instruct students from culturally diverse environments. Representatives from cooperating Miami-Dade County Public Schools, where teachers in training are placed for field service, will also participate in these workshops. The first of these workshops were held in January 2011.

Dean Isaac Prilleltensky was an inaugural speaker for TEDxMIA, which is an extension of the famous Ted Talks that originated in California. Ted Talks invites creative thinkers to spread their ideas. You can view Ted Talks at Ted.com. Dean Prilleltensky’s talk may be viewed at the following link…

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJlx8Cl-rRg

Dean Prilleltensky received the first ever “Education Catalyst” award from the Miami-based Human Services Coalition (HSC) on December 9th. The Catalyst award honors someone that has been a change agent in the education field. During the event, the HSC organization will celebrate the launch of its new name, Catalyst Miami.

On January 31st, the Dean received a Movers & Shakers award from Business Leader Media.
News from Kinesiology and Sport Sciences...

Hear ye, hear ye, Exercise and Sport Sciences is now Kinesiology and Sport Sciences!

Strength & Conditioning

The Kinesiology & Sport Sciences Department has expanded its program offerings to include a graduate strength and conditioning/fitness entrepreneurship program through a four plus one or two year graduate degree. Kinesiology & Sport Sciences undergrad students can now take an additional year in the exercise physiology program and earn their masters degree, specializing in either clinical exercise physiology or strength and conditioning.

Exercise Physiology

Dr. Kevin Jacobs, Dr. Sae Yong Lee & PhD students in the Exercise Physiology program this summer presented at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland from June 1-5, 2010. The presenters and topics:

- Kevin A. Jacobs, Worth the Headache: The Efficacy of Phosphodiesterase-5 Inhibitors at High Altitude, Highlighted Symposium entitled "Into Thin Air: Optimizing Exercise Performance at High Altitude"
- David Edwards, Surface EMG Median Power Frequency Shifts as Indicators of Quadriceps Synchronization Following Whole Body Vibration, Free Communication/Poster Presentation
- Elizabeth Edwards, Can a Translational Health Modular Summer Program Positively Impact Minority Adolescent Health and Wellness?, Free Communication/Slide Presentation
- Jochen Kressler, Sildenafil Does Not Improve Peak Exercise Capacity During Acute Hypoxia in Trained Men or Women, Free Communication/Slide Presentation
- Pete Lisman, Cervical Strength Training Does Not Enhance Dynamic Stabilization of Head and Neck During Football Tackling, Free Communication/Poster Presentation
- Daniel Serravite, Increased Postactivation Potentiation With Whole Body Vibration, Free Communication/Poster Presentation
- Mark Stoutenberg, Sildenafil Does Not Improve Performance at Simulated High or Moderate Altitudes in Men or Women, Free Communication/Poster Presentation
- Rich Viskochil, Men and Women Exhibit Similar Declines in Peak Exercise Capacity and Performance at Simulated Altitudes, Free Communication/Poster Presentation

Athletic Training

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) has voted to award continuing accreditation to the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at the University of Miami. CAATE announced that our program has met all of the nationally recognized Standards for Entry-Level Athletic Training Education.

Sport Administration

Dr. Windy Dees and Ty Martin headed out to Dadeland Mall on Thursday, September 30 with Mr. Martin’s Intro to Sport Administration Class to help out with the IZOD Indy Racing promo stop at the mall. Students helped run various aspects of the event. This was all to help with the promotion of the Cafes do Brasil Indy 300 Race at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Saturday, October 2.
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Dr. Marilyn Neff’s granddaughter Erica (current student at UM) and her roommate with Alonso Highsmith (UM Alum)

School of Education junior Willie Schefer is the top finisher from South Florida for the ING Miami half-marathon with a time of 1:11:00 (sixth overall). This was Schefer’s first half marathon.
### Active Grants...

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<td>DEPT OF EDUCATION (U.S.)</td>
<td>10/10-9/15</td>
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<td>LEE-SALWEN, OKHEE</td>
<td>PROMOTING SCIENCE AMONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (P-SELL) EFFICACY</td>
<td>DEPT OF EDUCATION (U.S.)</td>
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<td>PEREZ BENITEZ, CARLOS</td>
<td>COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR THERAPY FOR PTSD AND MEDICALLY UNEXPLAINED PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS</td>
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<td>SECADA, WALTER</td>
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PUBLICATIONS...


PRESENTATIONS...

Nick Mescia and Dr. Scot Evans won the "Most Outstanding Paper Presentation" award at the 2010 SECO Conference (Southeast Ecological and Community Psychology Conference) held at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, October 8-10. The title of the presentation was, SPEC check: A deliberate approach to promoting SPEC (strength, prevention, empowerment, and community change) principles in community based organizations.