The Ed Spread

Highlights in this month’s issue:

NSTA Conference attendees comment on the benefits of their participation. Take a look at what they said on Page 2...

An FIT alumnus wins a national prize for her use of insects as an educational tool in the classroom. Read more on Page 4...

Our student teachers are still working hard...

Ashley Sicard
Jared Kennedy
Nicole Aia
Deirdra O’Donnell

FTCE Update:
Upcoming FTCE Exam on January 9, 2010
Computer-Based Testing is Now an Option:
http://www.fl.nesinc.com
The next FTCE date is: February 20, 2010
Register by 1.1.10
Late Reg. by 1.20.10
You can now register online at
http://www.fl.nesinc.com

Passing the General Knowledge test is required before registration for the Junior Sequence of Education Courses (EDS 3033, 4051 & 3095), and seniors must pass the FTCE Professional Education and Subject Area Test before graduation.

Happy Holidays

Deirdra O’Donnell

Con’t. on Page 3...
Students weigh in on the NSTA Conference...

“The conference was a wonderful experience and an excellent opportunity for me. It was great to see teachers and sponsors coming together to support a common cause. Sessions covered topics from laboratory practices to bringing nature into the classroom. I highly recommend this conference to both pre-service professionals and those presently teaching in secondary education classrooms.” ~ Ashley Sicard

“...I gained valuable information about teaching on whiteboards and even entered a contest to win a miniature A & P skeleton. I had a great time and can’t wait for the FFEA conference in January.” ~ Jessica Phillips

December Student Feature:

Winter

Holly McKnight

Holly is yet another new PhD Science Education student in the Science & Math Education Department this year, and we are glad to have her on board. Holly came to us from Nova Southeastern University where she received her MS in Education Leadership. Additionally, she took classes in biology at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI). Holly is a woman on the move and definitely knows how to keep herself busy. Besides attending classes at FIT, she is a mother of two (Nicholas, age 7; Lilly, age 9) and a full-time science teacher at Heritage High School. She has been teaching for 12 years now, but it all started when she got her first teaching job at Sebastian River High School. Holly hopes to teach at a community college or university in Florida after graduation. On her “bucket list” of things to do, Holly would love nothing more than to go diving on Australia’s Great Barrier Reef. Take pictures for us!

Welcome to the Department Holly!
Save the Date . . .

Don’t forget to mark your calendars so you don’t miss out on these upcoming events . . . Come join us and get involved!

1. BFEA Conference (hosted @ FIT) 12/4
2. Spring Semester Begins 1/11
3. FFEA Conference (Orlando, FL) 1/22 - 1/24

Student Teacher Awarded Grant

Nicole Aia, one of our student teachers currently teaching biology at Heritage High School, was recently awarded a $500 Undergraduate Research Grant from the College of Science for the purchase of supplies and equipment to support her research project. Nicole is researching methods to improve the critical thinking skills of her students.

Nicole is thrilled to receive this award and can’t wait to use the new supplies and evaluate the effect these strategies have on her students.

News from the Library . . .

New Books and New Holiday Hours!

ERIC access update: ERIC can now be searched via the WilsonWeb database. Look for the listing for ERIC in our Database/Indexes section.

Recent additions to the Library: (New books, 1st floor)

- Boldly Sustainable: Hope and Opportunity for Higher Education in the Age of Climate Change
  Peter Bardaglio, Andrea Putnam
  LB2324 .B36 2009

- Discipline with Dignity: new challenges, new solutions
  Richard L. Curwin, Allen N. Mender, Brian D. Mendler
  LB3012.2 .C87 2008

- Leading Change in your School: How to Conquer Myths, Build Commitment and Get Results
  Douglas B. Reeves
  LB2805 .R416 2009

Library Hours

As we enter the final weeks of the fall semester, please note the change in hours for the library. Best of luck with your exams!

UPCOMING SPECIAL HOURS - Evans Library

Extended hours:
Monday, 11/30 – Thursday, 12/3
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.
Friday, 12/4
8:00 a.m. – midnight
Saturday, 12/5
9:00 a.m. – midnight
Sunday, 12/6 – Thursday, 12/10
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.
Friday, 12/11
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Break hours (Saturday, 12/12 – Wednesday, 12/23 and Monday, 1/4 – Sunday, 1/10):
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
CLOSED

The library will be closed Thursday, 12/24/09 – Sunday, 1/3/10 and will reopen for regular semester hours at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 1/11/10.

Cheryl Davis (cdavis05@fit.edu)
Information Advocate, Science and Math Education
Biology Teacher Wins National Prize

Ms. Emily Torlak (B.S. Biology Ed ’03), a biology teacher at Eau Gallie High School in Brevard County, was recently named the winner of the Entomological Society of America’s President’s Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education. The award recognizes educators who have gone beyond traditional teaching methods by using insects as educational tools to teach science. Ms. Torlak will receive a donation to purchase teaching materials to expand the use of insects as teaching tools, travel expenses to present a paper or poster on the use of insects in educational programs at her choice of a peer professional venue, and an opportunity to attend the Entomological Society of America’s annual meeting in December. We’re proud of you, Emily!


May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and may every window open to great possibility.
~ Mary Anne Radmacher

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

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