Dean’s Message

“T
here must be a continuous process of educational renewal in which colleges and universities, the traditional producers of teachers, join schools, the recipients of the products, as equal partners in the simultaneous renewal of schooling and the education of educators.” (from John Goodlad, Educational Renewal: Better Teachers, Better Schools)

The College of Education and Human Services does not exist in a vacuum. Our faculty are gifted, and our students bring many talents into their programs of study, but good faculty and students, though necessary ingredients for success, do not, in and of themselves, make for good professional programs. Indeed, an excellent curriculum grounded in the best thinking in the field and linked to the world of practice is also needed, but a good curriculum alone does not equate with a good program. So what else is needed? The answer to this important question lies in our professional and community partners who contribute so much to the work we do and who become the benefactors of much of our outreach.

Our local school districts are chief among our educational partners. We rely on the good will, cooperation, and input of superintendents, principals, and teachers to make our best work still more excellent. This spirit of collaboration is perhaps best exemplified in our four urban professional development schools (PDS). These four PDS’s—Woodland Acres Elementary, West Jacksonville Elementary, Pine Estates Elementary, and Lakeshore Middle—serve as clinical laboratories in which good teaching is fostered. Our COEHS resident clinical faculty members promote the growth of our teacher education students who are assigned to their PDS sites as tutors, preinterns, or interns. Other members of the faculty serve as “professors in residence”— holding their teaching methods classes on the PDS campuses, contributing to the schools’ leadership teams, and engaging in important school-based outreach and research endeavors. These schools continue to be an important training ground for our teacher education students, and the presence of the PDS concept allows UNF to contribute to school improvement and staff stability considering that those who work in these schools as teacher education students often want to take jobs in those same schools after program completion.

Partnerships extend to other facets of the community. We work with school partners to make approximately 3,000 school-based clinical learning placements per year, accounting for over 250,000 hours of school-based experiences for our students per year! These placements may be as near as Sandalwood High School, just minutes away from the UNF campus, or at Widey Court Primary School in Plymouth, England as a part of our international transformational learning opportunities. Graduate students in Educational Leadership and School Counseling also participate in quality school-based experiences, gaining valuable practical experiences in their fields of endeavor. Likewise, students in our Sport Management program have the opportunity to work with the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Jacksonville Suns, The Players Championship, and a host of community sporting organizations.

Dean’s Message continued on page 7
Student News

Student Profile – Andrea Bernard

International Student Gains Education and Career Experiences to Benefit Belize

Andrea Bernard grew up in a large family in Belize City, Belize, the youngest girl in a family of seven children. Coming from a family of educators, Andrea was determined to follow their lead and try to make a difference. She set a goal to obtain a doctoral degree in education as well as getting the work experience needed to help her country and its people. With this goal in mind, Andrea and daughter, Kyra left Belize in 2003 and moved to Jacksonville.

Education

After receiving her bachelor’s degree from the University of Belize, Andrea enrolled in a master’s program in Counselor Education which was offered through a partnership between UNF and the University of Belize. However, the courses she needed were only offered in the summer and unless she moved to the U.S., it was going to take years to graduate. Andrea took a deep breath and decided to make the move to Jacksonville. A year and a half later, she graduated with the master’s degree she had worked so hard for. Andrea is still a UNF student and is working towards a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

Throughout her education and career, Andrea has earned numerous awards and recognition including Best Debater, Best Student, Best Drama Coordinator and Teacher of the Year. At UNF, she has been the recipient of the Ellis White Founding Faculty Fellowship and the Latin American-Caribbean Scholarship (LAC).

Career

Andrea’s background is in education and counseling. In Belize City, she was an elementary teacher at All Saints Anglican School. She was also the Drama Coordinator for the Children’s Festival of Arts and Assistant Coach for the girls’ softball team.

After moving to Jacksonville, Andrea worked as a Family Social Worker for the Florida Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches, a Student Support Counselor and an Interim Director of the TRIO Upward Bound Program. Currently, she is an Academic Counselor at Edward Waters College and hopes to work in higher education for many years.

What’s been the most memorable about your time at UNF?

“I would have to say the university’s interactions with international students. The one-on-one relationships we have with our professors and UNF as a whole have been very, very warm and welcoming. It is something that will go with me forever. Everyone I have come across has gone out of their way to make sure we have a comfortable stay in this country.”

For information about donating to or establishing a scholarship and/or fellowship fund for students in the College of Education and Human Services, contact Pat Hanford, Director of Development, College of Education and Human Services, 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224. p.hanford@unf.edu 904-620-1792.

Student Profile – Andrea Bernard continues on page 7
DEAN’S EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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*UNF Alumni

DEAN’S EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROFILE:

Damon Olinto, Advancement Committee Chair

Bank President’s Career Blends Finance, Education and Coaching

Damon Olinto has woven both teaching and coaching into the career path that led to his current position as President and COO of Synovus Bank. Olinto is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of Bishop Kenny High School.

UNF Student Experiences: When it was time to select a university, Olinto chose UNF because he was able to stay in Jacksonville and go to school in the evening. He graduated from UNF in 1983 with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration in Banking and Finance. “I didn’t really have the kind of college life that you would see on the campus today. UNF was really a two year school at the time and most of the students lived off campus. I did make a lot of friends though.”

Career: After obtaining his degree, Olinto spent years as a math teacher and head baseball coach at Bishop Kenny High School. “I always wanted to be a teacher so when the opportunity to teach and coach presented itself, I took advantage of that.” Once he and his wife started their family, Olinto decided to make the move into banking.

Alumni Involvement: Olinto has served on the Dean’s Education Advisory Council for a number of years. “I was invited to join the Council by Gary Silverfield who had been a customer of mine. Gary knew about my background in education and knew that I still had an interest in the field. This past summer, Olinto was elected to serve as chair of the 2008-09 Advancement Committee. “This is the first year since I’ve been on the Council that we’ve had formally established committees. Our committee’s mission is to help build community awareness and financial support. Advancement Committee goals for 2008-09 include working with Dean’s Education Advisory Council to:

- Increase the funding available for scholarships and fellowships
- Identity community members interested in learning more about College of Education and Human Services initiatives

Community Involvement: Olinto has served as Co-Chairman of Finance and President of the Board of Governors of the San Jose Country Club, a Guardian of Dreams founding Board Member, a member of the Otis Smith Foundation, and a Northeast Florida Builders Association Board Member. Olinto was a recipient of the 2008 James H. Blanchard Leadership Award for being one of the visionary leaders of Synovus’ first “de novo” (startup) bank, as well as his volunteer roles in his church and community.

Personal: In his spare time, Olinto enjoys spending time with wife, Janet, and his three children. He is currently coaching his youngest son’s (Sean) baseball and basketball teams. His eldest son, Damon Olinto, Jr. is now in Synovus’ Gateway to Leadership Program after receiving his BBA and MBA from UNF. Damon Jr. was an assistant coach for the UNF baseball team after capping a five-year career with the Ospreys in 2007. Katie is attending FSU and is an English Major with plans to be a high school teacher.

“I would like to stay in Jacksonville and continue to work in banking for many more years. However, before I retire for good, I want to spend a few years working as a teacher and coach again.”
Five Duval County Public School teachers were recognized on October 9th, at the UNF University Center as the recipients of the 2008 Gladys Roddenberry Graduate Fellowships for Teaching Excellence. This program, established in 1998, is made possible due to the generosity of Gilchrist Berg, founder and president of Water Street Capital, a Jacksonville investment firm. Mr. Berg had a number of teachers that inspired him during his own school career and named this award after one of those teachers, Gladys Roddenberry. The purpose of the Roddenberry Fellowships is to encourage teachers to further their professional development by obtaining a graduate degree in education.

The University of North Florida’s College of Education and Human Services administers the Roddenberry Fellowships. Recipients are determined by a selection committee made up of key COEHS faculty. Each 2008 Roddenberry Scholar receives $3500 to use toward their graduate degree and will be paired with a faculty teacher-mentor to assist them during their course of study and provide future professional development guidance.

2008 Roddenberry Scholars

Keonnia Adair-Summers

Master of Education: Secondary Education

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Otilia Salmon

Keonnia Adair-Summers teaches Spanish at Terry Parker High School. Earlier in life, Mrs. Adair-Summers intentionally avoided a career in teaching. She came from a family of teachers and was determined that she would do something different. She majored in international business and language. After obtaining a bachelor’s degree, she worked in special events and development for a time. When Mrs. Adair-Summers interviewed for a development job with the Duval County Public Schools, they approached her about being a Spanish teacher instead. Much to her surprise, she fell in love with teaching. “It’s different every year because no student is the same. Teaching is like leaving a piece of you with someone else.” After spending five years as an ESOL teacher at Raines High School, she was asked to move to Terry Parker this year. Her educational goals are to complete a master’s degree in secondary education (ESOL track) and then pursue a doctorate in educational leadership. She strives to be a role model and better herself for the sake of her students. Many of them don’t have the money to go to college. She tells them, “I got a scholarship. If you work hard, you can get a scholarship and go to college, too.”

Victoria Felix

Master of Education: Counselor Education

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Stone

Victoria Felix has been a freshman and sophomore math teacher at Samuel W. Wolfson for the past five years. In high school, Ms. Felix wanted to be a systems analyst. She began taking college courses in information technology, but realized that she wasn’t happy. She re-evaluated her career options and decided to find out where her heart really was. She remembered that she enjoyed playing school as a child. As a teenager, she always looked for opportunities to tutor children. So, she enrolled in several education classes, hoping that teaching would be a good fit. She enjoyed the classes immediately and decided that teaching “just felt right”. During Ms. Felix’s third year at Wolfson, students began to seek her advice about emotional issues and problems they were having at home. Ms. Felix realized that she needed more training in order to really help these students. She set a goal to pursue a master’s degree in counselor education. As a future school counselor, she hopes to be able to provide individual support so that more students will complete high school and will go on to pursue a college degree.
Rose-Marie L. Green-Hanson  
Master of Education: Special Education  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sue Syverud  

Rose-Marie Green-Hanson teaches in a K-3 ESE Inclusion classroom at Hendricks Avenue Elementary. She was born in Jamaica and has always wanted to be a teacher, but didn’t have the opportunity until later in life. Mrs. Green-Hanson came to America when she was 30 years old and worked a variety of low-end jobs to make ends meet. About five years after she arrived in the U. S., she was able to begin school at FCCJ. She continued her education and earned a B.A.E. in Special Education from UNF in 2004. Finally, after many years of hard work, she had achieved her dream. She was a teacher! In her current teaching position, Mrs. Green-Hanson focuses on reading. The more she works with children, the more she wants to learn how to teach troubled children to read. Receiving the Roddenberry Fellowship has given Mrs. Green-Hanson the renewed hope that one day she will earn her master’s degree and become a reading specialist. In the future, she would also like to hone her public speaking abilities and use what she has learned through her personal experiences and studies to empower younger teachers.

Apryl Pelkey-Kokocki  
Master of Education: Elementary Education  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katrina Hall  

Apryl Pelkey-Kokocki is currently teaching kindergarten at Gregory Drive Elementary School on the Westside. Gregory Drive is a Title 1 school and most of the students are on free or reduced lunch. Her students are very diverse in ethnicity, socio-economic status, family background, disabilities and learning styles. Mrs. Pelkey-Kokocki demonstrates her commitment to her students by spending many hours in preparation so that she can give her students the individualized instruction they need. In the coming years, she would like to develop a website for parents and students that would include content from all subject areas, homework assignments, links to FCAT and future lesson plans. She would also like to write children’s literature. Mrs. Pelkey-Kokocki received a B.A.E. in Elementary Education from UNF in 2003 and will complete her ESOL certification (300 hours) by 2010. She would like to begin a doctorate program in education within the next 5-10 years.

Shannon Rose-Hamann  
Master of Education: Educational Leadership  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathe Kasten  

Shannon Rose-Hamann is a 5th grade teacher at Twin Lakes Academy Elementary. Her area of concentration is reading, writing, spelling, etc. She recently earned the English Language Learner endorsement by completing more than 300 credit hours of coursework. In 2007-08 her peers at Twin Lakes Academy selected her to be their Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rose-Hamann became a teacher because she has always loved children. As a child, she looked forward to school every day and enjoyed and respected her teachers. Her former principal at Twin Lakes has been an outstanding role model. After working for principal Debbie Menard, Mrs. Rose-Hamann has come to realize how fabulous it would be to work with many teachers. She has always enjoyed being “in charge”. Ultimately, Mrs. Rose-Hamann would like to become an elementary school principal. She is very grateful for the Roddenberry Fellowship and says that, even though she has been saving for years, she wouldn’t be able to pursue her master’s degree without the help the fellowship provides. “Being a teacher is the best job in the world. It doesn’t even feel like work. You are doing what you enjoy and are surrounded by people you love.”

“Excellence can be obtained if you:  
...care more than others think is wise;  
...risk more than others think is safe;  
...dream more than others think is practical;  
...expect more than others think is possible.”  
~ Anonymous
Pratt-Dannals takes non-traditional road to superintendent

When some educators begin their careers in teaching they have aspirations of eventually entering administration and even becoming superintendents. Not Ed Pratt-Dannals. He entered education via a non-traditional road, helping young people who had dropped out of school.

Pratt-Dannals, who is superintendent of the Duval County Public Schools, started out in Atlanta working with high school dropouts. Even after moving to Jacksonville, he worked at the community college level encouraging dropouts to return to get their General Educational Development or GED degrees. “I came at education more from the standpoint of youth development and finding ways for young people to be successful. Teaching was one way to do that.”

When Pratt-Dannals entered education he never intended to become a superintendent, in fact he wasn’t even sure he wanted to be in administration. As a teacher, he said he never had problems with students but more often had difficulty with the attitude of adults. “A principal can have a great impact on the attitude in a school.” Nevertheless, with the help of a UNF master’s degree, Pratt-Dannals entered the world of administration as an assistant principal, principal, regional superintendent and associate superintendent before stepping into the top position in October of 2007. Now, after more than 30 years of educational experience, Pratt-Dannals faces some of the most challenging and potentially most rewarding issues of his career.

Pratt-Dannals enters education he never intended to become a superintendent, in fact he wasn’t even sure he wanted to be in administration. As a teacher, he said he never had problems with students but more often had difficulty with the attitude of adults. “A principal can have a great impact on the attitude in a school.”

While earning his master’s degree at UNF, Pratt-Dannals obtained dual certification – in administration and in guidance. He said the focus on administration gave him the needed knowledge in finance and school organization. The focus on guidance gave him communication skills to work with people. “A whole lot of what I do as superintendent is communicating with people.”

These two areas of knowledge eventually propelled him to a position in which he is responsible for the education of 125,000 students by more than 14,000 teachers while administering a $1.8 billion budget. But it is more than just numbers to Pratt-Dannals. He has a broader perspective of his job. “We are the bedrock which will determine whether or not as a city we move forward.”

While Pratt-Dannals is very familiar with the problems facing the Duval Public Schools he is also able to place them in the context with problems facing all major urban public school systems, a focus of his Ph.D. studies at the University of Florida. “The top 50 school districts in terms of size teach more than half the students in the nation. Typically they have more poverty and higher minority populations. These districts have to work if our country is to work.”

That’s where UNF comes in, according to Pratt-Dannals who has an extensive record collaborating with the University’s College of Education and Human Services. He is very familiar with the educational resources available in Jacksonville since as an administrator he was the primary contact between the school district and the area’s colleges and universities. He sees a specific role for UNF in the future. “I’d love to see UNF become the premier university training center for urban teachers and principals in the Southeast. I think we could partner with the University to make that happen.”

Pratt-Dannals knows the training he received at UNF and the collaboration he will enjoy in the future will go a long way in determining the future success of the Duval County Public Schools. “I believe things happen for a reason. I was meant to be at this point at this time especially with the budget issues we face. I probably know the system better than anyone and can maneuver our way through these challenges.”

Continued on page 7
(Featured Fab Grad continued from page 6)

Although the demands of his job don’t give Pratt-Dannals a great deal of leisure time, he enjoys relaxing with his wife Jo on their boat. The couple has two children; a son Chris and a daughter Kate.

Despite the demands of the job, Pratt Dannals has no regrets about taking the non-traditional approach to becoming a superintendent. “I never had a burning desire to be a superintendent. My goal has always been to make a contribution in any way I can to making this district better for our students.”

(Dean’s Message continued from page 1)

The benefits of working collaboratively with our partners are many, including:

- UNF graduates are ready for the world of work when they graduate. The quality field-based experiences they receive give them a full sense of the realities of schools and other professional organizations.
- Turnover is reduced. Schools receive quality teachers, administrators, and counselors who are committed to change and development and who stay in positions in their schools for the long haul.
- UNF faculty stay on the cutting edge of their disciplines through their focused work in the community.
- Schools and other organizations receive the support of committed University faculty who build long-term relationships for addressing problems of practice.
- And, finally, partnerships make a difference in the lives of UNF students and faculty, children and adults in the community, and the quality of the professions.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

“When I came up from Belize, I was a single parent. I had gone through a very rough and abusive marital relationship. We divorced and I had a six year-old child to raise on my own. My daughter adjusted very well and we grew even closer after moving to Jacksonville. She had to get used to different school systems, a different climate, a different culture - - - everything is different here. Her ability to adjust really impressed me.

Kyra and I started doing more outdoor activities as far as ice skating, bicycle riding, bowling and going to the beach. I am from the Caribbean and I love the beach. Now that I’m engaged, my Jacksonville family has grown. My fiancé works with the JSO and has a 6 year-old daughter that we are getting ready to adopt fully. We go to movies because the kids love them. We do a lot of outdoor activities as a family. I love my family life.”

Is there anything else you would like to add?

“I think my diversity, openness, ability to adapt and ability to relate to people is something that I would like to share with everyone. These qualities were real assets, coming from a from a third world country to a first world country.

Moving to Jacksonville wasn’t scary for me. I think I have the adaptability that makes it possible to learn and adjust very quickly and easily. I will definitely return to Belize, but probably not for another 15-20 years. By then, I’ll have the education and work experience to really help my country improve its own educational system.”

For more information on UNF’s Fab Grad program: http://www.unf.edu/ia/alumni/fabgrads/
- Have you recently moved, been promoted, changed jobs or gotten married? Now you can review and update your alumni information easily in a secure online environment. Simply visit the UNF homepage and click on My Wings, then Login Help and follow the prompts from there. By keeping your information current, we can send you up-to-date information on all the newsworthy events and programs happening in the College of Education and Human Services.

ALUMNI
Fall Term Scholarships/Fellowships are currently being revised
Check our website in March:
http://www.unf.edu/coehs/scholarships/

Periodic building tours have been taking place for Faculty and Staff to take a peek at our new building while it is under construction. Everyone is really excited to get into the new building by this summer.
UNF HAPPENINGS

January 1    New Year’s Day (UNF Holiday)
January 2    Winter Break (UNF Holiday)
January 5    Spring Term Classes Begin
January 13   7:30 p.m. Distinguished Voices Lecture with H.E. Husain Haggani (UNF University Center)
January 19   Martin L. King, Jr. Day (UNF Holiday)
January 20   Inauguration Day
January 24   7:30 p.m. Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis (UNF Fine Arts Center)
January 30   UNF Art Fest 09 (behind UNF Fine Arts Center)
February 2   Groundhog Day
February 6   7:30 p.m. The Aquila Theatre Company presents The Comedy of Errors (UNF Fine Arts Center)
February 10  7:30 p.m. Distinguished Voices Lecture with Adam Posen (UNF University Center)
February 13  6:00 p.m. Alumni Recognition Dinner (UNF University Center)
February 14  Valentine’s Day
February 16  President’s Day
February 24  Mardi Gras
March 3      7:30 p.m. Distinguished Voices Lecture with Lt. General Douglas Lute (UNF University Center)
March 5      7:30 p.m. UNF Cummer Family Foundation Chamber Music Series (Recital Hall)
March 7      7:30 p.m. Dance Brazil (UNF Fine Arts Center)
March 8      Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
March 16 - 21 UNF Spring Break
March 17     St. Patrick’s Day
March 20     Spring Equinox
March 27     1:00 & 6:30 p.m. Birdhouse Factory by Cirque Mechanics (UNF Fine Arts Center)