Mrs. Lillian Ramos retired in August 2017, after 17 years at the College of Education and Human Performance. "Even though it was a hard decision to go into retirement," says Lillian, "I want to let you all know what a pleasure it's been to have worked with all in the department, the College, and UCF. My objective was always to learn as much as I could in order to better assist the faculty, staff, and students. I learned so much during all those years, and I hope someone learned something from me." Lillian sends her appreciation to all who supported her during difficult moments and for the many good wishes for her new journey. Lillian is happy to report that "retirement hasn't hit yet," and that she feels like she's on vacation.

Mrs. Joyce Goodman retired in September 2017, after 12 years at UCF and some 27 additional years of service to students in the State of Florida. "I feel my life's work has been to help students reach their goals," writes Joyce. "I watched as master's students became counselors and doctoral students became faculty members all over the country and world...nothing is more gratifying than seeing the smiles and sometimes happy tears on their faces when they realize 'they made it.' I feel proud of each and every one."

Chi Sigma Iota named the recurring Outstanding Service Award in honor of Joyce. Although Joyce will miss seeing students, faculty, and friends who supported her throughout her time at UCF, she is looking forward to the next chapter in her life. Joyce plans to continue to help students as a volunteer in the schools, to spend time with her four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and to celebrate her upcoming 50th anniversary with her husband Roger in July 2018.
As the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Interdisciplinary Coaching As a Nexus for transforming how institutions support undergraduates in STEM, **Dr. Matthew Marino** received the **Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award from Insight Into Diversity**. Dr. Marino’s research into helping students with disabilities succeed in STEM is supported by the Institute of Education Sciences, the Office of Special Education, and the National Science Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Marino is the PI on an NSF-funded grant project focused on Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and he serves in leadership roles on several committees dedicated to UDL.

Dr. Marino’s work was also featured in the U.S. Department of Education’s publication, *Reimagining the Role of Technology in Education* (p. 22). Video games developed with funding from Inclusive Education Services (IES) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) were featured as exemplary science learning games.

**Dr. LaSonya Moore**, a graduate of the National Urban Special Education Leadership Initiative Educational Doctoral Program at UCF, was awarded the **2017 Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Outstanding ESE Administrator of the Year Award**. Dr. Moore was recognized for her exemplary work ethic and performance, as well as her commitment and dedication to furthering the work of special education in the State of Florida.

**Dr. Kathleen P. King**, Professor and Program Coordinator in the Higher Education and Policy Studies program, was awarded membership into the **Textbook and Academic Authors’ (TAA) Council of Fellows** at the TAA 2017 annual conference. This award represents the association’s highest honor, and is based on Dr. King’s outstanding academic achievements and service to the field through mentoring, workshops, and keynotes. As of this year, Dr. King has authored, co-authored, and edited 32 academic books across the fields of higher education, faculty development, adult learning, and instructional technology. For more information about TAA, visit TAAonline.net or email Dr. King at Kathleen.King@ucf.edu.

**Dr. Judith Levin**, Associate Lecturer in the Early Childhood Development and Education program, will continue to serve as the Board Chair at Nap Ford Community Schools, Inc. throughout the 2017-2018 school year.
Drs. W. Bryce Hagedorn, Dayle Jones, Viki Kelchner and J. Richelle Joe were awarded a $1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for their Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program. The purpose of this 5-year project is to expand the behavioral health workforce serving populations across the lifespan, including those in rural, vulnerable, and medically underserved areas in Central Florida. Dr. Hagedorn, Dr. Jones, Dr. Kelchner, and Dr. Joe will focus on expanding internship and field experience placements in agencies serving the targeted communities. The project supplies stipend funding for master's students in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling track and Marriage, Couple, and Family Therapy track within the UCF Counselor Education program. The program supports students who intern at Aspire Health Partners, the area's largest behavioral health provider. Interns, interdisciplinary faculty, and field placement supervisors will receive specialized training through partnerships with the UCF College of Medicine and Florida Hospital regarding prevention, clinical intervention, and integrated care to serve the target population.

The Reading Assessment Validity, Program Fidelity, and Teacher Effectiveness project is a funded research contract ($756,251.00) for two years to complete three primary studies: (a) validity studies examining the soundness of the Istation’s Reading Assessments for Grades K-8 data, (b) treatment fidelity study examining the effectiveness of the Istation Program when implemented appropriately by educators, and (c) teacher effectiveness study as measured by change in students’ reading scores over time. The Principal Investigator for the research project is Dr. Laurie Campbell, and the Co-Principal Investigator is Dr. Glenn Lambie. In addition, the research project provides funding for doctoral graduate research assistants.

Mr. Kyle Dencker, M.A., a graduate of the Career and Technical Education program, was named Teacher of the Year at Timber Creek High School in Orlando.
Dr. Glenn Lambie received the **UCF Luminary Award** in honor of his academic leadership and research contributions with global significance. Dr. Lambie has been recognized nationally for his work through 23 peer-reviewed articles and dozens of awards. He leads a partnership between Seminole County Public Schools and UCF that provides mental health counseling services to students and their families at three Title 1 elementary schools, providing more than 1,100 counseling sessions.

Dr. Lisa Dieker, Professor and Lockheed Martin Eminent Scholar, received the **UCF Luminary Award** for her work in the field of Exceptional Education, drawing national attention to UCF and an invitation to the White House. The Luminary Award is given to individual faculty members or groups of faculty members who have achieved notable accomplishments in research and creative activity over the past three years, thereby demonstrating significant impact that can be recognized either nationally or internationally.

The College of Education and Human Performance was honored to receive its first **University of Central Florida Pre-eminent Post-doctoral Program Award** given to **Dr. Dena Slanda**. This prestigious UCF postdoctoral award supports the scholarship and advanced research of Dr. Slanda, mentored by Drs. Suzanne Martin, Mary Little and Cynthia Pearl of the Exceptional Student Education program. Drs. Martin, Little and Pearl are Co-Principal Investigators for multiple, innovative federal projects funded through the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Slanda will actively engage in scholarship, teaching, and state and federal policy development. This opportunity will provide multiple, interdisciplinary research foci for innovative and productive scholarship that will extend and enhance the research, technical assistance, and publications of the federally-funded projects.
Welcome to New Staff

Mrs. Luevenia Jackson, MSW, comes to UCF as the Program Assistant for the Counselor Education and School Psychology programs. She has more than 30 years of experience working with children and families. After obtaining a Master's in Social Work, Mrs. Jackson worked with at-risk youth and families for both Wraparound Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

Mrs. Erika Menna

Mrs. Erika Menna, Administrative Assistant for the Department of Child, Family, and Community Sciences, joined UCF in the summer of 2017. Mrs. Menna has a variety of work experience, ranging from Assistant Athletic Director for the Archdiocese of Miami, to Executive Assistant for a private grant writer, to Legal Assistant at a law firm.

The Early Childhood Development and Education program is pleased to offer its new Study Abroad Program to Germany from April 24-May 4, 2018. The program welcomes teacher education students and graduate students interested in studying and experiencing the foundations of Kindergarten and the Waldorf method. Participants will be able to visit early childhood centers, attend university lectures, and visit museums and exhibits highlighting the history and practice of Friedrich Fröbel and Rudolf Steiner. Participants will also be able to participate in cultural explorations. For more information, please visit: http://studyabroad.ucf.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=11364

The 2017 American Heart Association's (AHA) Greater Orlando Heart Walk was rescheduled for Saturday, November 18 due to Hurricane Irma. The mission of the AHA is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Over 20,000 walkers and runners are expected to participate in the event, which includes a 3 mile and a 1 mile walk/run. The CEDHP Heartbeats team is hoping to repeat as the top fundraising group at UCF. In support of the campaign, the CEDHP Heartbeats held a Silent Auction on November 14 to raise funds for the cause.

Dr. Judy Levin, Associate Lecturer in the Early Childhood Development and Education program, traveled to Atlanta in late September to attend and present at the 47th annual National Black Child Development Institute Conference. Dr. Levin's presentation was entitled "Exploring Authentically Diverse Picture Books to Support Identity Development and Increase Reading Proficiency."
Dr. Stacy Van Horn, Associate Lecturer and Coordinator of both the School Counseling Program and Graduate Career Counseling Certificate, was one of 12 counselor educators invited to participate in the 2017-2018 National Career Development Association (NCDA) Counselor Educator Academy. In June 2017, Dr. Van Horn attended the NCDA annual conference in Orlando with a group of graduate students. During the conference, master’s students Weslee Aristor, Amanda Bumgarner, Haleigh Hitzing, Octavia Powell, and Christina Sabbides presented original career and college readiness interventions that they developed during the summer 2016 course, Career and College Readiness in Schools PK-12, taught by Dr. Van Horn. During the conference, Dr. Van Horn also conducted a roundtable discussion addressing ways in which the UCF Graduate Career Counseling Certificate students partner with school districts and university career centers.

Dr. Marisa Macy, Lecturer in the Early Childhood and Education program, recently presented three sessions at the Division for Early Childhood's (DEC) 33rd Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families in Portland, Oregon (October 4-6, 2017). Dr. Macy and co-presenters discussed research on a new edition of a curriculum-based assessment, as well as a strategy using DEC-recommended practices to create culturally and linguistically meaningful services with families of young children with disabilities.

Dr. Judith Levin, Associate Lecturer in Early Childhood Development & Education, and students in the Early Reading, Writing, and Language Arts Course (RED 3310) continue to offer the "Milk and Muffins" program in the Parramore Community. Milk and Muffins is a Saturday morning program for children 3-5 years old and their parents. During the program, UCF students lead children in early reading activities while parents learn ways to help their children succeed in school. For more information, contact Dr. Levin (judith.levin@ucf.edu) or visit www.facebook.com/milkandmuffins1/
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Mary Little

Dr. Mary Little, Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Programs in Exceptional Student Education, is a leader in the field of Exceptional Education. She has received nearly $20 million in external funding for research and personnel preparation projects from federal, state, and foundation funding agencies, including the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Currently, Dr. Little serves as the Co-Principal Investigator for Intensive Interventions, a federally-funded research and development project through OSEP focusing on interventions in reading and mathematics in diverse, urban schools. She was awarded a sabbatical for the 2018 Spring semester, during which she will work with researchers from the National Center for Intensive Interventions to further her work in intensive interventions in the field of Exceptional Education. One of her most recent books, Teaching Mathematics to Struggling Students, is in its second printing, and will be translated into several languages due to high demand.

When asked about the accomplishments of which she is most proud, Dr. Little reflected on her collaborations with multiple CEDHP faculty that resulted in UCF being one of the first universities to put inclusive practices into the CEDHP Elementary Education classes. Due to her team’s numerous state and national presentations, UCF is seen as a leader in inclusion nationally and by the Florida Department of Education.

Dr. Thomas Cox

Dr. Thomas Cox, Associate Professor in the Higher Education and Policy Studies program, became the Academic Director of the English Language Institute at UCF Global in the fall of 2017. Dr. Cox’s interest in literacy and language stems from his keen knowledge of how learning a language can change a life. “Growing up in rural Mississippi with no books in the home and illiterate parents make a person sensitive to others’ language needs,” Dr. Cox shared. “Having lived and studied in Mexico and parlaying that experience into academic preparation that led to a TEFL Graduate Certificate (2015) and an anticipated M.A. degree in TESOL have provided me this wonderful opportunity to change lives,” he added.

Dr. Cox began a consulting project with the English Language Institute (ELI) in May 2017, in which he was tasked with restructuring the curriculum, improving language placement testing, providing professional development for faculty, and much more. The ELI is a leader in intensive, student-focused English learning, and it offers a high-impact curriculum based on face-to-face instruction in core language subjects. The innovative program of study meets learners where they are, offering a learning experience unlike any other in Central Florida.
Please share with us what's going on at the Marriage and Family Research Institute (MFRI).

**Dr. Dillman Taylor** - We are currently immersed in a five-year, federally funded project: Project Harmony. Through this project, we provide relationship education and career enhancement programs to 1,200 economically vulnerable couples and individuals annually, nearly 5000 participants over the life of the project. Project Harmony is unique from previous projects at the MFRI for several reasons: (1) We offer career enhancement workshops to every participant who goes through our program to meet the needs of our community, (2) we implement a randomized control trial, the most rigorous research design, and (3) we are examining participant outcomes longitudinally.

**Dr. Barden** - In addition to Project Harmony, we have a clinical internship placement for Counselor Education and social work students. We have just brought on a team of six undergraduate research assistants this semester to assist with the research being conducted at the MFRI. We’re very involved in research mentorship at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

How did Project Harmony start?

**Dr. Barden** - The MFRI was founded in 2003, and we have always been soft-funded; we rely on federal grants rather than funding from within UCF. Since 2003, we have received grants centered on strengthening relationships for economically vulnerable couples and individuals. In order to strengthen couples’ relationships, Project Harmony builds on the relationship education research conducted in previous years to determine how best to intervene with couples and individuals that experience chronic stress. Project Harmony is really innovative, in the sense that it’s a randomized control trial and longitudinal study. Project Harmony builds on previous research, but we are confident that the results of Project Harmony will move the field of healthy relationships forward through rigorous research methodology.

**Dr. Dillman Taylor** - Previous research shows that relationship education works; and so Project Harmony is helping us to determine what moderators influence and impact participants’ outcomes who enroll in relationship education.
What might a participant in Project Harmony expect to learn?

**Dr. Barden** - Basically, couples and individuals really learn skills and strategies for effective communication, conflict resolution, commitment safety, and knowledge related to financial literacy. Couples and individuals participate in a hands-on, skills-based workshop. Everything is done in a group setting, and all of our services are provided in English and Spanish. Everything is provided at no cost for service, and we provide several incentives to mitigate barriers for participation based on the population we target. Incentives include catered food, free childcare, and Walmart giftcards at most workshops. The curriculum that we use, PREP, is evidence-based. It’s been used with hundreds of thousands of couples by now, and so it’s important to us that all of the work that we’re doing is grounded in a strong base of empirical support.

Who is eligible to participate?

**Dr. Barden** - Anyone over the age of 18. We specifically target and recruit economically vulnerable individuals and couples, but we provide services to people from all backgrounds.

What are your hopes for the future of the MFRI?

**Dr. Barden** - I think my long-term vision and dream for the MFRI is to be nationally and internationally known for its expertise in strengthening relationships for families, grounded in its community partnerships and known for its strength in translating research back to the community. I would also love to see us grow and develop to be able to run multiple funded research studies through our institute.

**Dr. Dillman Taylor** - Adding to that, we’d also like to conduct research across different populations. Right now, we’re focused on couples, but we would like to expand to the entire family, focusing on family interventions, child interventions as well as couple interventions for a variety of issues that families may face.

**Dr. Barden** - Our number one referral source is word of mouth, so we really do have a strong reputation here in Central Florida. We aim to constantly evolve to meet the needs of our changing community.

What has surprised you most about working with Project Harmony? What are you most proud of?

**Dr. Barden** - I’m most proud of our team. We have a full-time team of 14 staff and 30 part-time staff. The family-oriented culture is very much embraced and embodied here at the MFRI, and I’m most proud of the dedication and passion of our team members. I’m most surprised by the constant need for flexibility and adaptability. The one thing that is certain is that things are always going to change.

**Dr. Dillman Taylor** - I completely agree. Each of our staff members is motivated and committed to serving the Central Florida community and helping them best meet their overall relationship needs. To see that dedication from each of them is what makes this project work, and we couldn’t do it without them. I think what surprised me the most in this project is how much it differs from our previous project, Project Together. It really is like starting fresh, starting new. Seeing everyone’s creativity blossom and seeing the staff step outside of the box and think about how to best serve our participants has been amazing.
Faculty and Student Presentations and Publications

Presentations


Van Horn, S. (June 28, 2017). Utilizing partnerships and collaborations to create an innovative graduate career counseling certificate. Presented at the National Career Development Association (NCDA) Global Conference, Orlando, FL.

Van Horn, S., Aristor, W., Bumgarner, A., Hitzing, H., Powell, O., & Sabbides, C. (June 30, 2017). Original ways to connect career and college readiness with students: From elementary to high school and beyond. A panel session presented at the National Career Development Association (NCDA) Global Conference, Orlando, FL.

Faculty and Student Presentations and Publications

**Publications**


## Calendar of Events
### Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>AHA Greater Orlando Heart Walk</td>
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<td>8 am - UCF Memory Mall</td>
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<td>November 23-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Fall Semester Classes End</td>
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<td>December 13</td>
<td>Grades Due in myUCF</td>
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<td>December 15</td>
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<td>December 25-January 1</td>
<td>Winter Break</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>Spring Semester Classes Begin</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No Classes)</td>
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<td>March 12-17</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Founders' Day Honors Convocation</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>Spring Semester Classes End</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
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