Nickels and Safi Awarded STEM Grant by NASA

The Orlando Science Center (OSC) is in partnership with BASE Camp Children’s Cancer Foundation and The University of Central Florida (UCF), who will engage chronically ill children (cancer, sickle-cell, HIV/AIDS, etc.) and other Orlando area youth ages 10-18 who face the greatest educational disparities in NASA-themed Aeronautics, Space Exploration, and Space Science exhibits through a project entitled "STEM Satellites: A Mobile Mathematics and Science Initiative for Orlando Metropolitan Area Children’s Hospitals." Dr. Megan Nickels and Dr. Farshid Safi will be the lead faculty members from UCF, and they will be supported by senior faculty from the College of Sciences, Department of Physics and the College of Education and Human Performance.

In this five-year grant, STEM Satellites will provide the most vulnerable and historically underrepresented population of children with meaningful NASA themed mathematics and science resources and activities consistent with the CP4SMPVC+ goals. Specific CP4SMPVC+ and federal STEM Education goals

(Continued on Page 2)
addressed will include: providing experiential authentic STEM opportunities, developing evidenced-based educational strategies to improve STEM instruction, and outreach to underserved and underrepresented youth in the STEM professions.

Practice in TeachLivE Touted by AIR Blog

Editor’s Note: On 04 January 2017, Lynn Holdheide published the InformED Blog, a publication of the America Institutes of Research (AIR) entitled, “How to Build a Better Teacher? Practice, Practice, Practice.” This mention is important because it implies that TeachLivE should be an integral part of teacher education.

Lynn Holdheide is a former special education teacher and current AIR Project Manager for the CEEDAR Center, which is led by the University of Florida. She is also Senior Advisor for the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders and a technical assistance facilitator for the National Center for Systemic Improvement.

The URL for the entire Blog is: http://educationpolicy.air.org/blog/how-build-better-teacher-practice-practice-practice. The following is an excerpt from the Blog.

In a recent brief, Learning to Teach: Practice-based Preparation in Teacher Education, The Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) and the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders (GTL Center) highlighted opportunities to practice within educator preparation programs.

These Practice-Based Opportunities are:

♦ Focused—target critical content and skills centered on what teachers should know and be able to do
♦ Coherent—common expectations of practice are advanced and reinforced throughout coursework and field experiences
♦ Scaffolded—carefully built in sequence and in complexity over time

They’re also coupled with a deeper, more immediate level of coaching, feedback, and reflection.

How does it work?

Let’s take an elementary education candidate who’s learning how to teach reading. He needs to build his knowledge—to understand the research behind successful ways to teach reading. But knowing how to do it isn’t enough. He needs practice.

First, he might practice a beginning skill in front of other teacher candidates. For example, he may demonstrate teaching student’s strategies to improve reading comprehension. The other
candidates give him feedback and he can learn from their observations.

Then he and his peers might watch and critique a video of a master educator teaching reading comprehension instruction. Next, he and his peers might watch a video of themselves teaching reading and give feedback and more coaching. After that, he might head to a special teaching technology lab, where he could practice his teaching in front of a virtual classroom of “students” (avatars) with a complex range of instructional skills. It’s like a flight simulator; he can make mistakes, crash, and try again and again.

Then he might be ready for live students—and live coaching. In a field placement at a local school, his supervisor or a master teacher can give him real-time feedback through an earpiece right while he’s teaching.

These “learning/practice” opportunities are repeated multiple times and become more complex over time as our teacher-candidate masters a wide array of teaching skills.

Teacher preparation programs across the country are employing innovative strategies to increase both the quantity and quality of practice-based opportunities. Schools like University of Central Florida are using virtual simulation with avatars to prepare their candidates. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is integrating bug-in-the-ear coaching for real-time coaching and feedback. The University of Virginia is using a modified version of a program that supports teachers through video analysis and individualized coaching during their preservice training.

Bottom line: Teaching is hard. It’s complex. Expertise doesn’t come overnight and new teachers—even those who have had plenty of opportunities for practice, coaching, and feedback—will still benefit from early additional support at their first schools. But in the long run, practice does lead to proficiency—or at least gives new teachers experience and confidence on the journey to becoming effective educators.

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) preservice teacher strand is a wonderful opportunity for students for only $30.00! Individuals network, share experiences, interact and learn from recognized educational researchers, teachers, and leaders. Preservice teachers will have the opportunity to learn about critical strategies, techniques, and crucial updates that will enhance their likelihood for success as new teachers. Presentations are high-energy sessions that are research-driven and reality-based.

ATE Invites Students to Orlando Meeting
Please consider conveying our invitation to your students to be part of this educational and networking opportunity as well as sharing this invitation with others that may help by sending students. Students will not want to miss this opportunity!

Reasons to Attend:
- Discover critical information regarding Instructional Strategies and Management techniques
- Interact with Nationally Recognized educational researchers, teachers, and leaders
- Learn about Employment Strategies and Student Engagement Techniques
- Discover how to best Differentiate Instruction for ALL learners
- Share and interact with colleagues regarding Critical Educational Issues & Topics
- Learn about innovative approaches regarding Quality Education and Shaping the Future

The ATE Preservice Strand 2017 will be held on February 13th, 8:00am to 3:00pm.

All Education students (Graduate and Undergraduate) are welcome!

UCF Graduate Dean’s Fellowship

The University of Central Florida offers the Graduate Dean’s Fellowship to superior graduate students who are newly enrolling in one of UCF’s master’s, specialist or doctoral programs. These awards provide one year of support to the most qualified applicants to the institution. Stipend payments begin in the Fall semester.

Duration of Award: One year of support for doctoral and master’s students, provided that academic progress is maintained.

Fellowship Stipend: $5,000 stipend.

Tuition Support: Tuition support is provided by the accompanying qualifying assistantship or fellowship if awarded as part of the funding package.

Criteria for Fellowship Selection:
- Submission of a completed admission application and all test scores (including TOEFL for international students) by January 15.
- Admission to a UCF master’s, specialist, or doctoral program.
- Programs may nominate their most qualified applicants together with the offer details of the qualifying assistantship or fellowship. The College of Graduate Studies will make awards
OSC Needs Assistance with Science Challenge

The Science Challenge is held each year as a follow-on to the county science fairs. The winners in each category are invited to take part in the Science Challenge. The event is held at the Orlando Science Center on **Saturday, March 11th from 7:30 AM till 2 PM**. A lunch is provided for the judges. The awards are presented on Saturday at 2 PM.

If you are interested please contact Marty Galassini. Provide your name and an e-mail address so he can contact you. A data package will be e-mailed to you mid-February detailing all information for the Science Challenge.

**Marty Galassini**, Judging Coordinator for the OSC Science Challenge.

E-mail: [Martin8367@aol.com](mailto:Martin8367@aol.com) or **407-349-9715**

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Fellowship Description: The College of Graduate Studies provides a $5,000 fellowship stipend ($2,500 Fall and $2,500 Spring).

Fellowship Obligations:

- Maintain good academic standing and acceptable progress to degree.
- Participate in UCF graduate fellowship community activities.
- Must be enrolled full-time in a graduate program (9 hours of course work during the Fall and Spring semesters).
- See the Graduate Catalog for a complete description of graduate fellowships and student obligations.

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Based on the documented quality of the nominee.

**OSC Needs Assistance with Science Challenge**
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<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Nominations for Graduate Awards due to College Associate Dean for Graduate Studies; 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 12-14</td>
<td>Annual International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Education, Des Moines, IA</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>SOURCES Annual Conference; 8:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Florida Association of Professors of Educational Leadership (FAPEL) Spring meeting; Tallahassee</td>
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<td>January 24-25</td>
<td>FLDOE Continued Program Approval Site Visit</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Applications for UCF Reach for the Stars and Pegasus Professor Awards due; Office of Faculty Excellence</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>KnightEd Talks Student Showcase; 9am-3pm</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>CEDHP Faculty and Staff Meeting with President Hitt and Provost Whittaker, 1:30—3:00pm, Student Union, Key West Room 218AB</td>
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<td>February 3</td>
<td>Nominations for Graduate Awards due to Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies; 5:00pm</td>
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<td>February 9-11</td>
<td>Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators 21st Annual Conference</td>
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<td>February 10-14</td>
<td>Association of Teacher Educators, Orlando Caribe Royal</td>
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<td>February 23-24</td>
<td>International Society for the Social Studies Conference, Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<td>March 2-4</td>
<td>AACTE Annual Meeting: Acting As One, Tampa, FL</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>12th Annual Conference of the Social Sciences Paper Submission Deadline</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>★ The Science Challenge, Orlando Science Center; 7:30am-2:00pm</td>
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<td>March 16-18</td>
<td>Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT), Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside, Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>March 21-23</td>
<td>International Conference on Doctoral Education Organizational Leadership and Impact, UCF Main Campus</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>★ Literacy Symposium, UCF</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>★ Volusia County Schools Job Fair, Ocean Center, Daytona Beach</td>
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