From research to athletics, partnerships to community outreach, the students and faculty at Florida Atlantic University had a phenomenal 2019.

The accomplishments outlined in this book are just a snapshot of the incredible people, events and opportunities taking place at FAU.

Your philanthropy supports these triumphs year after year. Thank you for unleashing possibilities for our people — and our purpose.

With gratitude,

Danita D. Nias
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and CEO of the FAU Foundation, Inc.
Researchers from Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute received an award of up to $5 million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as part of the Persistent Aquatic Living Sensors (PALS) program. This new bio-centric technology will augment the U.S. Department of Defense’s existing, hardware-based maritime monitoring systems, and greatly extend the range, sensitivity and lifetime of the military’s undersea surveillance capabilities.

Janet Robishaw, Ph.D., chair of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine Department of Biomedical Sciences, is investigating a genetic connection to opioid addiction. Armed with a $4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, she is working with a large patient cohort being treated for chronic pain with opioid medications.

Dimitris Pados, Ph.D., joined the Institute for Sensing and Embedded Network Systems Engineering, where he will continue his cutting-edge research in autonomous communication systems, robust data analytics and localization. His research is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense.

Research fellows from the FAU Brain Institute received a total of $1.1 million from the Florida Department of Health’s Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer’s Disease Research Program, which supports research leading to the prevention and possible cure for Alzheimer’s disease, as well as better prevention, diagnosis and treatment.
COMMUNITY COMMITMENT.

>> A national model of exemplary lifelong learning programs, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FAU debuted its presence in Fort Lauderdale, amplifying its commitment to the South Florida community.

>> The FAU Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Community Health Center, a nurse-led practice that provides comprehensive and culturally sensitive primary care services to the community, via its partnership with Florida Community Health Centers, expanded its telehealth services. Through live video conferencing, patients are able to stay on track with needed care which increases the opportunity for better health outcomes.

>> FAU’s Brain Institute, in partnership with the Palm Health Foundation, celebrated neuroscience during the month of March with Brainy Days. The month-long event also engaged, empowered and educated the public about brain disease, promoted brain wellness and worked to reduce the stigma associated with brain disorders.

>> The Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center is expanding its programming and infrastructure to include specialized Parkinson’s therapies, education and care, which will transform the quality of life for adults living with this disease along with the lives of their families and caregivers.

>> Managed by the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, FAU opened its first University-operated primary care physician practice. FAU Medicine is dedicated to offering adult primary care and preventive health services for the community, and is located in a 5,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art medical facility in the Galen Medical Building in Boca Raton.
First-generation college students make up one-third of FAU’s enrollment. To support these students, FAU set up the Office of First-Generation Student Success, which connects students to resources and support to help them thrive.

FAU is the most diverse institution in Florida’s State University System. More than 50 percent of our 30,000 students are classified as minority or international.

In fiscal year 2019, $5,200,851 was distributed to FAU students through Foundation scholarships and tuition waiver funds.

OwlThon, a student-run group, raised $247,870 in 2019 for the Children’s Miracle Network at UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital. In its six-year history, OwlThon has raised more than $1 million.

The Leon Charney Diplomacy Program competed in the National Model United Nations competition in Washington, D.C., and finished first overall out of 60 competing universities.

FAU welcomed nine National Merit Scholars to the newly implemented Scholars Program within the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management last fall. Each student received $3,000 to put toward research or other scholarly activities.
>> Florida Atlantic University’s Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, College of Business and College of Education are listed in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report national rankings for several programs, including “Best Online Graduate Programs.”

>> The A.D. Henderson University School was awarded National Blue Ribbon distinction by the U.S. Department of Education.

>> Twelve FAU High School students were named finalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

>> The Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College received a top rating in the fall 2018 edition of Inside Honors. Of the 50 public university honors programs reviewed, the WHC was one of seven to receive the top rating.

>> Ten faculty members representing a wide range of disciplines in the College of Engineering and Computer Science took home 22 percent of the 2019 awards from the Engineers’ Council, a professional society that advances education in engineering and the sciences.
LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP.

>> This spring, FAU was accepted as an official chapter of the Association for Women in Science, a global network inspiring bold leadership, research and solutions that advance women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

>> Jeffrey Morton, Ph.D., professor of political science and founder and director of the Leon Charney Diplomacy Program, was honored with the Distinguished Teacher of the Year award.

>> James Sullivan, Ph.D., executive director of FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, was named by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to the statewide Blue-Green Algae Task Force. He was also appointed to the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative Advisory Council.

>> Michael Zager, Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts, professor of music, and founder of FAU’s commercial music program and Hoot/Wisdom Recordings, was inducted into the Legends of Vinyl Artists Hall of Fame in New York.

>> Aaron Hackman, associate director of Civic Engagement and Service Learning at the Weppner Center for LEAD and Service Learning, was the only staff member in Florida selected as a pilot program participant with National Campus Compact.

>> Evangelos Kaisar, associate professor and director of FAU’s Freight Mobility Research Institute and department of civil, environmental and geomatics engineering, was the recipient of the 2019 Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance World Class Faculty award for his work in transportation and logistics.
Opening in early 2020, the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence will transform FAU’s three key priorities: student success, executive education and athletic superiority. The cutting-edge, 166,000-square foot complex is the ultimate student recruitment and success center.

The FAU Max Planck Academy on the John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter will redefine approaches to STEM education next year. This unprecedented program will open the laboratories of the Max Planck Institute for Neuroscience to high school students, allowing them to participate in world-class research and scientific discoveries.

Thanks to a generous gift, the Rubin and Cindy Gruber Sandbox within the FAU S.E. Wimberly Library will be used by the Machine Perception and Cognitive Robotics Lab; it’s a place where students can engage with the fast-advancing field of artificial intelligence study.

Another philanthropic gift has created the Lata and Shiva Gangal Global Innovation Hall, located on the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s first-floor in the Engineering East building; it will be home to commencement ceremonies, speaker series, student activities and more.
Thanks to a gift from The Marcus Foundation, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine will launch a first-of-its-kind integrative health enterprise in Boca Raton. The new FAU enterprise will include expanded opportunities to collaborate with FAU Medicine, the college’s university-operated primary care practice, in addition to increased opportunities for community outreach and interaction.

FAU has a reciprocity agreement with Scripps Florida whereby FAU faculty can access the Institute’s core facilities.

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>> The FAU Max Planck Honors Program provides honors students with exclusive enrichment opportunities, including courses taught or co-taught with Max Planck scientists. Cutting-edge neuroscience training courses include technologies such as 2-photon imaging, super resolution microscopy, electron microscopy, electrophysiology and optogenetic technology.
>> **Arthur C. Brooks, Ph.D., M.A.’94**, a graduate of the College of Business, was introduced as the 2019 inductee into the Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association Hall of Fame. Brooks was the president of the American Enterprise Institute until he began a faculty position at Harvard University this year.

>> **Fabiola Brumley, B.S., MBA**, was honored with the College of Business’ Business Leader of the Year award in January; she is Bank of America’s market president in Palm Beach County.

>> **Jane Goodall, Ph.D.**, the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees and a devoted conservationist, spoke to a sold-out crowd of 2,500 people at FAU. She shared her reasons for hope for our world and belief that every person can make a difference in slowing the effects of climate change.

>> **Steve Swanson, Ph.D.**, former NASA Astronaut and FAU alumnus, joined the College of Engineering and Computer Science when it made direct contact with astronaut Anne McClain, who currently is working and living on the International Space Station.

>> **Abby Wambach**, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who competed on the United States Women’s National Soccer Team, was part of the “Be the Change” event. She also is a New York Times best-selling author who was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2015. Her book “WOLFPACK” came out in 2019.
Winning in Paradise

FAU baseball reached the 40-win plateau for the second consecutive season and earned a spot in the NCAA Regionals for the fourth time in the last five years. Head coach John McCormack picked up his 400th career win in the C-USA semifinals in a win over UTSA.

FAU celebrated Joan Joyce, the Owls’ head softball coach for 25 years. During her tenure, the team garnered eight consecutive conference championships, 12 total conference championships, eight straight NCAA tournament appearances, 11 total NCAA tournament appearances, and an average team GPA of 3.2.

FAU earned two regular-season C-USA championships as the women’s soccer team and the baseball team took home league crowns.

The Owls had two players drafted to the NFL: Devin Singletary in the third round to the Buffalo Bills, and Kerrith Whyte in the seventh round to the Chicago Bears. In total, the Owls have had nine players drafted since the program’s inception in 2001, and 42 players have signed contracts with NFL teams.

For the first time in program history, the Owls sent a runner to the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, as Natalliah Whyte qualified in the 100-meter dash. Whyte placed 16th and earned second-team All-America honors — the first FAU track and field All-American.

The men’s tennis team was C-USA runner-up and placed seventh on the All-C-USA list with Mehdi Laalej earning Newcomer of the Year.

For the third consecutive year, FAU student athletes posted a yearly GPA of over a 3.0 and had a streak of seven consecutive semesters of over a 3.0 collective GPA.

FAU student athletes continued to be involved in the greater FAU and Boca Raton communities, logging 4,798 community service hours.
>> The FAU Foundation raised $38 million in fiscal year 2019 in support of students, faculty and programs.

>> The FAU Athletic Department received a $3 million gift from the Rocco and Mary Abessinio Foundation to name Abessinio Court at FAU Arena, home of FAU men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball teams. In addition to this gift, the Abessinios, through their company Applied Card Systems, are one of the original FAU Football Founders.

>> A donation of artwork valued at more than $3.7 million was given by Rick and Lesley Stone. The 17 paintings, including works by Henri Matisse, Edward Willis Redfield, David Park and John Henry Twachtman, make up the Rick and Lesley Stone Art Collection, and will be housed in the Ritter Art Gallery.

>> Donald and Elaine Singer gifted to FAU their Frank Lloyd Wright collection of artwork, books and other collectibles, totaling nearly 200 items. It will be housed at the Higher Education Complex, a building designed by Donald Singer, and home to FAU’s Fort Lauderdale campus.

>> Former Kansas City Royals part-owner Avron B. Fogelman donated his 562-piece sports memorabilia collection to FAU, where it will be housed at the Fogelman Sports Museum in the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence. Valued at more than $10 million, the gift includes historically significant memorabilia such as Joe DiMaggio’s 1936 rookie uniform and the 1969 Ryder Cup trophy.
ABOUT THE FAU FOUNDATION

The Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc. unleashes access to excellence for thousands of the University’s promising people and programs. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation connects private philanthropy with giving opportunities that advance the University’s mission and strategic plan. Operating under the auspices of the Division of Institutional Advancement, the Foundation also serves as a fiduciary, caring for and distributing gift assets in accordance with our donors’ wishes.