

HEAVY HITTERS IN EDUCATION

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DR. J. DENNIS COATES

Dean, College of Business,
Florida Atlantic University
■ **Web site:** www.fau.edu
■ **Address:** 777 Glades Road,
Boca Raton 33431-0991
■ **Phone:** (561) 297-3635
■ **E-mail:** coates@fau.edu



Coates has built a solid career at FAU since he started as an assistant professor of accounting at the College of Business in 1989. In 1996, he became the college's senior associate dean for operations and administration. In February, he was appointed dean after serving two years as the interim dean.

The position has widespread responsibilities including staffing, compensation, annual performance reviews and oversight of the college's promotion and tenure process.

His list of awards and accolades is extensive and includes selection to Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1998; FAU Accounting Professor of the Year (four times); and \$5,000 university teaching incentive awards in 1993-94 and 1996-97.

Coates' activity encompassed more than being a respected professor and administrator. He authored the book "A Training Intervention for Control of SBA Loan Defaults" in 1992 and has authored or co-authored more than 55 refereed journal articles, abstracts, speeches and conference presentations in accounting, finance, ethics and teaching.

LOURDES COWGILL

President, Pine Crest School
■ **Web site:** www.pinecrest.edu
■ **Address:** 1501 N.E. 62nd St.,
Fort Lauderdale, 33334
■ **Phone:** (954) 492-4194
■ **E-mail:** lourdes.cowgill@pinecrest.edu



Having made a profound impact on this prestigious private school, Cowgill has quadrupled its endowment to more than \$40 million during her 11-year tenure as president and transformed its campuses in Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton. Although new buildings and renovations have been completed for the school's nearly 2,600 students, it is Pine Crest's academic and programmatic growth that Cowgill says she takes the greatest personal satisfaction.

Over the past decade, six of the school's students have won the coveted Presidential Scholar Award and Pine Crest has received national recognition for its number of National Merit Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars and a First Intel Talent Award winner (2000). Cowgill helped create Pine Crest's Jump Start and Science Research

Nominations for Heavy Hitters in Education were invited from the public and selected by the editor. Inclusion is based on the applicant's prominence, achievements and community involvement. This is the third year of recognition for Heavy Hitters in Education. Those selected previously

Programs, led the school to national prominence for its programs in technology, and established Breakthrough Fort Lauderdale - in conjunction with the National Breakthrough Program - providing summer programs and year-round tutoring and mentoring to underserved students in area public schools.

She says her biggest professional challenge was following in the footsteps of Pine Crest founder Dr. Mae McMillan and her son, while her biggest personal challenge was fighting cancer five years ago and undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, while never missing a day of work.

Cowgill's inspiration and role model is Mae McMillan - with whom she shares a birthday. Like McMillan, Cowgill strives to be a strong woman, a visionary and a charismatic school head.

JANE HENZERLING

Executive Director, Teach For America - Miami-Dade
■ **Web site:** www.teachforamerica.org
■ **Address:** 1541 Sunset Drive, Suite 201,
South Miami 33143
■ **Phone:** (305) 661-2993
■ **E-mail:** jane.henzerling@teachforamerica.org



As a one-time ballet dancer, Henzerling has learned how to dance a number of new steps since she took over Teach For America in 2004 as executive director in Miami-Dade County. The nonprofit organization is developing a national

corps of top college graduates to teach for at least two years in low-income public school communities.

Henzerling's timing and skills speak for themselves, as she has increased the number of corps member teachers from 38 to 105; expanded service to 38 partner schools from Carol City to Homestead; and tripled the number of K-12 students served by the program from 3,000 to more than 9,000.

The summa cum laude graduate of Skidmore College with a degree in Spanish literature, and a master's in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University was a hands-on recruit herself. She taught for five years in the Roosevelt School District in Phoenix, where she designed bilingual programming for three elementary schools before joining Teach For America as a staffer.

were not repeated.

To obtain a Heavy Hitters nomination form or be put on the e-mail list for other industries, e-mail Jennifer Denk at jdenk@bizjournals.com.

The publication date for the remaining 2006 Heavy Hitters section is:
■ **Commercial real estate:** July 21

Her next goal is to increase the local funding for the work from the additional four foundations, eight corporations and 50-plus individuals she has recruited.

The dance continues.

GAYLE IACONO

Principal, The Sagemont Upper School
■ **Web site:** www.sagemont.com
■ **Address:** 2585 Glades Circle, Weston
33327
■ **Phone:** (954) 389-2454 Ext. 311
■ **E-mail:** giacono@sagemont.com



Responsible for all aspects of the Sagemont Upper School, Iacono supervises the curriculum, teacher training, student progress, communication with parents, buildings and grounds for the institution. She has created a "learning

community" for the upper school's 400 students who come from 41 countries. They are supported by 65 staff in 60,000 square feet of building space on 5.5 acres.

Under Iacono's leadership, Sagemont was one of the first high schools in the nation to create a wireless, laptop environment. She selected cutting-edge online course content, which enables students to take learning with them - both inside and outside of the school on a 24/7/365 basis.

After discovering about 5 percent of the school's students were held back in their progress due to learning disabilities, Iacono also created Sagemont's Mountain Peak Academy, a personalized instructional program combined with students' inclusion with mainstream classes. The graduates of the program are expected to attend quality colleges and universities.

Inspired by her father, a well-known judge in South Florida, Iacono has adopted his philosophy that one can improve society by helping individuals to improve their behavior and goals.

ARTHUR KEISER

Chancellor, Keiser College
■ **Web site:** www.keisercollege.edu
■ **Address:** 1500 N.W. 49th St.,
Fort Lauderdale 33309
■ **Phone:** (954) 776-4456



Keiser co-founded Keiser College in 1977 and built an institution from one student and five employees into a statewide college system with more than 9,200 students and more than 1,300 employees. The fifth-largest private col-

lege in Florida, it offers 42 majors on 21 campuses in 18 communities statewide.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings appointed Keiser to the National Advisory Committee of Institutional Quality and Integrity, which advises the secretary on matters regarding establishing and enforcing the standards of accrediting agencies and associations.

He is chairman of the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology, and serves to the Florida Council of Student Financial Aid Advisors and the Higher Education Funding Advisory Council.

Keiser is past president of the Fort Lauderdale Jaycees and past director of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Tulane University and doctorate in higher education at the Union Institute in Cincinnati.

Keiser, a die-hard Miami Dolphins fan and long-time season ticket holder, says he can be a little cranky following a bad game.

DR. JOSEPH KLOBA

Provost, Palm Beach Atlantic University
■ **Web site:** www.pba.edu
■ **Address:** 901 S. Flagler Drive,
West Palm Beach 33401
■ **Phone:** (561) 803-2050
■ **E-mail:** joe_kloba@pba.edu



Kloba is an education achiever with a varied academic and work background. He joined Palm Beach Atlantic in August 1995 to provide leadership to the newly designated graduate counseling psychology program. After three

years in that role, he was appointed to associate provost, a role where he was responsible for graduate studies, online learning and faculty monitoring. In 2003, he was tapped to be the university's provost and chief academic officer, the position he currently fills.

Immediately prior to joining Palm Beach Atlantic, Kloba was the full-time VP of professional development for the 50,000-member American Association of Christian Counselors.

He started on the lowest rungs and quickly climbed the career-path ladder. He was a teacher, coach, counselor and administrator in both Pennsylvania and New York public schools. Later, he was dean of the School of LifeLong Learning at Liberty University, founding administrator of the School of Counseling at Regent University, and director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and tenured professor at Redford University, where he was selected as Professor of the Year in 1980.

DR. ELAINE LIFTIN

Executive Director, Council for Educational Change
■ **Web site:** www.changeeducation.org

See HEAVY HITTERS, next page

DR. KARL K. STEVENS

Dean, College of Engineering
Florida Atlantic University

■ **Web site:** www.fau.edu

■ **Address:** 777 Glades Road, Boca
Raton 33431-0991

■ **Phone:** (561) 297-3426

■ **E-mail:** stevens@fau.edu



Stevens is a hands-on registered professional engineer who has held numerous national and regional offices in professional societies and is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Mechanical engineering has turned out to be superb training for his 28 years as a member of the South Florida business, education and research communities. He has a full academic plate, as well.

As dean of the College of Engineering, he has management responsibility for programs with 2,200 students and 165 faculty and staff in five academic departments offering degrees in six engineering and computer science disciplines through Ph.D.

Stevens also oversees externally funded research expenditure in excess of \$8 million annually.

Practical blends with the academic: He is the author of two textbooks and more than 100 technical articles, as well as the recipient of the FAU Presidential Leadership Award, FAU Teacher of the Year, FAU Researcher of the Year, as well as 12 other major awards for excellence in teaching and research.

He has previously held positions at Ohio State University, Sandia Corp., Bell Telephone Laboratories and the U.S. Army Ballistic Research Laboratories.

TONY STROMBERG

CEO/Founder, Crossinggate

■ **Web site:** www.crossinggate.com

■ **Address:** 23047 L'Ermitage Circle,
Boca Raton 33433

■ **Phone:** (561) 391-3067

■ **E-mail:** tstromberg@crossinggate.com



Stromberg is founder and CEO of Crossinggate, a company that facilitates the change for students leaving academia and entering the business world. Through Crossinggate, Stromberg has guided and directed hundreds of students

about to move into the next phase of their lives, serving as a portal to the real world with emphasis on the importance of passion and developing an entrepreneurial mindset in all that they do.

He has worked with students at FAU, Palm Beach Community College, Broward Community College and other schools.

A dedicated member of the community, Stromberg has served on the board of directors of various organizations, including the Toyota Gator Bowl, the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, The Haven, the Police Athletic League of Boca Raton, the Garcia Stromberg Architecture firm and Deliver the