

best *in class*

After 21 years at FIU, Dr. Ophelia Weeks says, “What I liked in 1986 about this university is what I like about it today: The opportunity to make a difference.”



Faculty

My passion:

I am a neuro-anatomist – I study the nervous system. Most recently, I've been investigating how lithium can play a role in learning and memory and also neuroprotection. For me, it's not so much about the research as it is engaging the students to the point where they begin asking their own questions.

On starting the QBIC program – Quantifying Biology In the Classroom:

Biologists usually work across disciplines – chemistry, statistics, biomedical engineering – but that's not how we teach in this country. QBIC, which began this fall, weaves this interdisciplinarity throughout its curriculum. Data generated in the biology lab will be taken to the calculus class and so on. We're hopeful that this interrelationship between disciplines will become the norm.

On being a good teacher:

The students must have no doubt that you care about them. This has an enormous impact on their capacity to learn. FIU has enthusiastic students from many, many cultures. Those students bring with them promise and expectation and responsibility, both from within themselves and from their families. I see that in the classroom.

My dream:

I'm from Liberia, which has been in turmoil for the last 25 years. I went back last year for the first time in 18 years. The devastation was overwhelming. I visited the medical school and delivered several lectures. What an exhilarating experience to see the resiliency and determination of these students. My dream is that the country will rebound and become productive once again.

Ophelia Inez Weeks, Ph.D.

FIU Associate Professor in Biological Sciences

A “regular jock” growing up, today Dr. Weeks plays tennis in two leagues and also plays golf.

“The diversity of our faculty and student population makes for a fertile educational environment.”



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