

Jennifer L. Gebelein, PhD

Director for AI Integration and Faculty Success, Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT)
Florida International University

Visionary academic leader with deep expertise at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence, pedagogy, and institutional transformation. As Director for AI Integration and Faculty Success, I lead cross-functional initiatives that embed AI into curriculum design, teaching practices, and strategic planning. Skilled in cultivating faculty engagement, managing large-scale change, and aligning innovation with institutional priorities and compliance requirements.

Proven strengths include academic program development, instructional design, faculty and staff training, and interdisciplinary collaboration. I bring a people-centered, future-ready leadership approach that empowers educators, administrators, and students to thrive in an AI-driven world. Adept at forging partnerships, managing high-impact projects, and guiding institutions through evolving technological and educational landscapes with clarity, confidence, and agility.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Geography

The University of California, Santa Barbara

M.A., Marine Affairs

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), Miami, FL

B.A., Biology

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

EMPLOYMENT

2024-Present **Director of AI Integration and Faculty Success**, Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT), FIU

2018 – 2024 **Director for Academic Initiatives**, Division of Academic & Student Affairs, FIU

2009 – 2018 **Director for Online Learning & Web Management**, College of Arts, Sciences and Education

2009 – Present **Affiliated Research Professor**, Department of Earth and Environment, FIU

2001 – 2008 - **Assistant Professor**, Department International Relations, FIU

EXPERIENCE AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

1. Integration of AI into FIU Ecosystem. 2024-Present:

- Appointed as part of Executive Committee for AI Integration
- Leads AI Training Efforts for Faculty
- Increased AI Faculty training by more than 50%
- Led AI curriculum integration pilot projects
- Established AI Fellows Program
- Provides strategic leadership in the exploration and adoption of AI technologies
- Oversees Hybrid Program in the Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT)
- Oversees Fundamentals of Online Teaching Program for Faculty

2. Lead for Student Success Courses: 2017-2024:

- Content development leader for the FIU student success courses including *First Year Experience* (4000+ students per year), *Post Graduate* (400-500 students per year), *Major and Career Exploration* (100 students per year), and *Discover Your Major* (100 students per year).
- Leads a team that created interactive and hands-on exercises for both face to face and online courses.
- Incorporates 21st Century Skills to better support students' personal/professional/academic growth and success mindset within student success courses to better enable students to succeed in our ever-changing global technological society and become lifelong learners.
- Leads the instructor training for over 200 instructors every year for success course content at FIU.

3. Learning Innovator. 2001-2024:

- Employed innovative approaches with active learning simulations (FBI "Person of Interest" surveillance activity in person and on campus), gamification of learning, augmented and virtual reality techniques extending 21st Century Skill development, the four C's (creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication), and innovation.
- Co-led virtual reality student development team to gamify 21st Century Skills in a collaborative, everglades environment. [Link here.](#)
- Collaborated with multiple units on and off campus including but not limited to: the F.B.I., Information Technology units, Human Resources, College of Architecture, and College of Engineering and Computer Science.

4. Data analysis. 2009-2024:

- Co-led team focused on data analysis for online growth, comparison of student success (such as grade distribution) between online and face to face classes, and online growth. Also conducted data analyses regarding long term growth of online courses and how to best meet projected student growth goals (set by Dean and President).
- Led team to conduct data analysis to continually monitor student success metrics for better use of academic technologies to establish a more high-touch approach to make every student feel like an individual not simply a number.
- Utilized data visualization and analysis of student content preferences in our success courses to better identify student interest and engagement with materials using canvas course data.

5. Online Teaching & Course Development. 2002-2024:

- Six years' experience with Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) teaching strategies and course creation including student success and other courses. Sixteen+ years' experience in Blackboard course development for fully online and web-assisted courses including: introduction to geography, introduction to GIS, physical geography, sustainability, surveillance intelligence & international relations, and remote sensing analysis courses. Five years' experience with Moodle-based teaching and 2nd Life course module development.

6. Super Administrator. 2009-2018:

- Led a team of programmers and web admins to create, deploy and maintain over 150 websites on a custom content management system internally designed at FIU.
- Responsible for training admins in each unit to maintain their own content and web graphics.

7. Workshop leader. 2009-2017:

- Directed and led many workshops related to online teaching and learning, as well as virtual tool use for student success. This includes but is not limited to: "Online collaborative tools", "Using games and simulations to engage and activate student learning" and "Helping Students Learn about Critical Earth Issues Using Large Online Datasets".

8. Budgetary approver. 2009-2018:

- Assisted department chairs and faculty with justification (and approval of) spending online funding for the development and delivery of online content to students and assisted College of Arts Sciences & Education budget director with spending justifications for online funds.

9. Expanded number of online programs in College of Arts Sciences & Education. 2009-2018:

- Played a number of key roles in growing the number of fully online programs from 2 in 2009 to 9 programs in 2018.

10. Beta tester. 2005-2020:

- Beta tested a wide variety of software for online teaching using both instructor and student perspectives to give feedback to designers and assess applicability to FIU's teaching programs and pedagogic approach at FIU.

11: Faculty Mentor. 2005-2021:

- Mentored several hundred faculty in multiple colleges at FIU plus digital instructors to ensure pedagogical application of content is consistent and meets a high level of pedagogic standards (Quality Matters or setting the stage for Quality Matters). Also worked closely with professors to assist those new to online in teaching tips, tools and methods for getting their content across to students in a successful and appropriate manner.

12. Lead for Pedagogic Gamification Project. 2014-2016:

- Named the "Garage Scholar" in creating Technology-assisted learning in simulated gaming environment. Led a team of programmers, graphic artists and students to design immersive learning experience for students in several topic areas. Radius – Covert Surveillance Simulator. This was FIU's first serious game as a pilot demonstration of utilizing an analytics engine, data integration and interactivity in gaming environment.

13: Faculty Café. 2009-2016:

- Management of faculty café: a virtual space for online faculty to discuss, hold meetings, consult our team, see peer reviewed journal articles related to their academic area, and subscribe to an RSS feed for each subject area.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Gebelein, J., Ortiz, P., Urra, A. 2026. "Thriving in College: Mastering Skills for Student Success", Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Gebelein, J. 2022. "A Geographic Perspective of Cuban Landscapes", Landscape Series, 2nd Edition, Springer Press, Hardcover, ISBN 978-94-007-2283-5.

Gebelein, J. 2012. "A Geographic Perspective of Cuban Landscapes", Landscape Series, Vol 15, Springer Press, Hardcover, ISBN 978-94-007-2283-5.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Oleas, N.H.; Feeley, K.J.; Fajardo, J.; Meerow, A.W.; **Gebelein, J.**; Francisco-Ortega, J. Muddy Boots Beget Wisdom: Implications for Rare or Endangered Plant Species Distribution Models. *Diversity* **2019**, *11*, 10.

Ramos, P., Funderburk, P., **Gebelein, J.** 2018. "Social Media and Online Gaming: A Masquerading Funding Source." *International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism (IJCWT)* 8(1): DOI: 10.4018/IJCWT.2018010103.

Eisman, E., **Gebelein, J.**, Breslin, T. 2017. "Developing a geographically-weighted complex systems model using open-source data to highlight locations vulnerable to becoming terrorist safe-havens". *Annals of GIS*. Pages 251-267 | Volume 23, 2017 - Issue 4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19475683.2017.1368705>

Oleas, N., Meerow A., Feeley K., **Gebelein J.**, Francisco-Ortega, J. 2014. "Using species distribution models as a tool to discover new populations of *Phaedranassa brevifolia* Meerow, 1987 (Liliopsida: Amaryllidaceae) in Northern Ecuador." *Check List, Volume 10, Issue 3, pp. 689-691*.

Gebelein J.: Cuban Agriculture. In: Thompson P., Kaplan D. (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Food and Agricultural Ethics*: Springer Reference (www.springerreference.com). Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2013. DOI: 10.1007/SpringerReference_307583 2013-09-04 14:05:19 UTC

Gebelein, J. 2009. "Blending History with Geographic Information System Technology: Using USS Arizona GIS Data to Engage Students in Technology and History of the Pearl Harbor Attack." *Geography Compass*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8198.2009.00269.x US: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-8198.2009.00269.x>.

Maynard, N.G., Oskal, A., Turi, J.M., Mathiesen, S.D., Eira, I.M.G., Yurchak, B., Etylin, V., **Gebelein, J.**, 2009. "Impacts of Arctic Climate and Land Use Changes on Reindeer Pastoralism: Indigenous Knowledge

& Remote Sensing". In *Eurasian Reindeer Pastoralism in a Changing Climate: Indigenous Knowledge & NASA Remote Sensing*, part of the NASA IPY edited by Dr. Garik Gutman.

Shrivastava, R., and **Gebelein, J.** 2007. "Land cover classification and economic assessment of citrus groves using remote sensing imagery." *Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, Volume 61, Issue 5, pp. 341-353.

Gebelein, J. and Eppler, D. 2006. "How earth remote sensing from the international space station complements current satellite-based sensors." *International Journal of Remote Sensing*, Volume 27, Number 13, 10 July 2006, pp. 2613-2629(17)

Gebelein, J., 2005. "Integration of New Data Types with Historical Archives to Provide Insight into Ecosystem Change and Variability". Solicited peer-reviewed book chapter published in the Kluwer book series, volume titled *Remote Sensing of Aquatic Coastal Ecosystem Processes – Science and Management Applications*.

Gebelein, J., 2004. "Using Geographic Information Systems Software for Teaching and Learning". Solicited peer-reviewed book chapter published in the book titled *Integrating Technology in Higher Education*.

Gebelein, J. 2003. "Astronaut-Acquired Photography of Earth: Its History and Continued Applicability in Quantitative Analyses," *Journal of Space Communications*, Issue 3:
<http://satjournal.tcom.ohiou.edu/pdf/gebelein.pdf>.

SELECT RESEARCH FUNDING

2021-2022 Project Title: *Developing a comprehensive literature review and host a first-of-its-kind conference that explores best practices in the introduction of VR and AR along with the 21st-century skills known as the 4C's (Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication) in ways that support and enhance all University diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, especially in majority-minority schools.*

Amount: \$50,000. Role: Co-PI. Funding Agency: Sloan Foundation

2015-2016 Project Title: *Establishing a Serious Educational Gaming Platform*

Amount: \$150,000. Role: PI. Funding Source: FIU College of Business

2013-2016 Project Title: *Disease, Dogs and Drones: Early detection of the laurel wilt pathogen.*

Amount: \$148,218.58. Role: Co-PI. Funding Agency: USDA.

2012-2014 Project Title: *Growing Community Roots for the Geosciences in Miami, Florida.* Amount: \$254,871. Role: Co-PI. Funding Agency: National Science Foundation.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Adriana Premat, *Sowing Change: The Making of Havana's Urban Agriculture*, New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids, 347-349, 2015

Review of Sinan Koont, *Sustainable Urban Agriculture in Cuba*, New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids, 140-142, 2015, Brill

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Geography (in person and online)
Geography of North America (in person only)
Physical Geography (in person only)
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) (in person and online)
Introduction to Remote Sensing (in person and online)
Surveillance, Intelligence and International Relations (in person and online due to COVID)
Sustainability in Action (online only)
First Year Experience (Hybrid-in person)
Discover Your Major (Hybrid)

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Students Supervised as committee member:

Sara Schoen (PhD in Biology) completed Spring 2025
Caroline Comerford (PhD International Crime and Justice) completed Spring 2022
David Toohey (Phd International Relations) completed Spring 2017
Pierre Funderburk (MA in Global Affairs) completed Spring 2017
Pedro Ramos (MA in Global Affairs) completed Spring 2017
Brian Machovina (Phd Biology) completed May 2015
Natalie Damaso (Phd Biology) completed Fall 2016
Elyktra Eisman (Phd International Relations) completed Fall 2016
Nora Oleas (Phd Biology) completed august 2011
Adriana Potra (Phd Geosciences) completed 2011
Seiichi Murasaki (MS Biology) completed 2010
Danetzy Vargas (MA in International Relations) completed 2008
Patricia Houle (MS Environmental Studies) completed 2006
Lindsey Waggoner (MS Environmental Studies) completed 2006
Sonia Hernandez-Cordon (MS Geosciences) completed 2005
David Velez (MS Geosciences) completed 2004
Alejandro Rosselli (MS Environmental Studies) completed 2002

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member: Educause
Member: Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD)
Member: American Association of Geographers

Member: GIS Technology Committee
Associate: LTER Associate