

2013 Florida Collegiate
Honors Council
Annual Conference

February 22-24, 2013

Westin Ft. Lauderdale



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Welcome

Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the FCHC Executive Board and our host, The Robert “Bob” Elmore Honors Institute of Broward College, I would like to welcome you to the 2013 Florida Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference!

The theme for the conference is “Empowering Honors: How Will We Shape the Future?” Through this conference we hope to create an academic community that is as vibrant as the South Florida sunshine. Students and faculty from throughout the state have taken this opportunity to contribute to this discussion by sharing their classroom research projects. In doing so, they have helped us to build a dynamic conference program that includes presentations from various academic disciplines. In addition, there are many panels that focus on the future role of Honors students in a global society as well as the future of Honors studies in undergraduate education.

It is with great excitement that I welcome you here to the Fort Lauderdale area. I look forward to another great FCHC conference and the opportunity for all of us to engage with one another throughout the weekend. I hope you enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,



Sheila Jones, PhD
FCHC Vice President & 2013 Conference Chair
Assistant Professor of History
Broward College - Central Campus

Schedule at a Glance ²

Friday, February 22, 2013

- 5:00-6:30pm Registration and Drop-off of Silent Auction Items, First Floor Lobby
- 6:30-7:15pm Welcome and Dinner in Florida Ballroom
Dr. Linda Howdysshell, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Broward College
- 7:15-8:15pm Recognition Ceremony: Announcement of Writing Contest Award Winners &
Mary Jo Henderson and Dr. Richard Piper Scholarship Winners
- FCHC Executive Board Student Representative Welcome and Open Call for New
Nominations for the 2013-2014 Student Representatives
- 8:15-10:15pm Student Social with Entertainment, Poolside
- Honors Director/Faculty Social in Alfieri Private Room

Saturday, February 23, 2013

- 7:15-8:15am Continental Breakfast, Second Floor Lobby
- 8:00-10:00am Continued Registration, First Floor Lobby
- 8:00am-12:30pm Silent Auction, Proceeds benefitting No More Tears Project, First Floor
Lobby
- 9:00-9:50am Session 1
**All panel sessions will be held on the Second Floor, except those in Hospitality 306 and
310, which are located on the Third Floor
- 10:00-10:50am Session 2
- 11:00-11:50am Session 3

3 Schedule at a Glance (Cont.)

12:00-1:30pm Luncheon & Keynote Address in Florida Ballroom
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eileen Holden, President of Polk State College
Community Service Representative Speaker: Somy Ali, No More Tears Project

2:00-2:50pm Session 4

3:00-3:50pm Session 5

3:30-5:30pm Poster Session, Second Floor Lobby

4:00-4:50pm Session 6

5:00-6:00pm Honors Director/Faculty/Staff Roundtable in Venice

6:00-7:00pm Dinner on your own

8:00-10:00pm Student Activity, Brain Bowl Tournament in Executive

Sunday, February 24, 2013

7:15-8:15am Continental Breakfast, Second Floor Lobby

9:00-9:50am Session 7

10:00-10:50am Directors' Meeting & Election of 2013-2014 FCHC Executive Board in Venice

10:00-10:50am Students' Meeting & Election of 2013-2014 FCHC Student Representatives in Executive

11:15am-12:15pm Conference Wrap-up and Closing Session in Executive

FCHC Annual Business Meeting in Executive

12:30-1:30pm FCHC Executive Board Meeting in Venice

Rules & Regulations⁴

- **Be considerate of times when sessions begin. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early.**
- **Please respect presenters, turn OFF your cell phones or put them on vibrate.**
- **Wear your Conference Name Badge at all times.**
- **Respect other guests at the hotel.**
- **Dress appropriately to all events hosted by the Conference.**

**Need Information or Lost something?
Stop by the Boardroom on the
Second Floor.
We are here to help you!**

Mission

The mission of Florida Collegiate Honors Council is:

- To provide a forum for sharing information about and improving the quality of Honors programs;
- To provide students with greater opportunities for intercollegiate Honors program activities;
- To collaborate with the regional and national organizations which have similar goals;
- To encourage articulation and collaborative programming between Honors programs at associate and baccalaureate institutions;
- To increase the public and private awareness of and fiscal commitment to Honors programs and projects.

Member Institutions⁶

Brevard Community College
Broward College
The Burnett Honors College @ UCF
College of Central Florida
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Gulf Coast Community College
Hillsborough Community College
Jacksonville University
Miami Dade College
New College of Florida
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach State College
Polk State College Honors Program
Santa Fe College
Seminole State College
Tallahassee Community College
University of Tampa
University of Florida
University of Miami
University of North Florida
University of South Florida
University of West Florida
Valencia College

Executive Board

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Palm Beach State College

Sheila Jones
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2 Year Public Student Representative
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4 Year Private Student Representative
University of Tampa

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Jacksonville University

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Kathleen Lazarus
Scholarship Coordinator
Daytona State College

Patricia Jones
2 Year Public Representative
Polk State College

Raymond Papp
4 Year Private Representative
University of Tampa

Tamiekie Atkinson
4 Year Public Student Representative
Florida A&M University

James Rowland
Webmaster
Valencia College

Community Service ⁸

This year the Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 23rd, and all proceeds will benefit the No More Tears Project.



NO MORE TEARS

No More Tears is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization devoted to providing individualized assistance to victims of domestic violence in the U.S. We assist all victims who are scared to speak out and face tremendous barriers in leaving abusers and staying safe. No More Tears works with victims of domestic violence by providing them with legal counsel, financial assistance and psychotherapy. We help the abused in not only wiping away their tears, but also making sure that there are No More Tears!

⁹ Conference Sponsors

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Saturday-Session 1 ¹⁰

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel A: San Marco

“Urbino: An Empowering Experience,” Jean Anjos, Broward College-South Campus

This presentation offers an overview of a study trip to Urbino, Italy with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about this experience.

“Creating a Unique Summer Travel Experience,” Kaushal Vaddiraj, University of Tampa

In the Summer of 2011, Kaushal Vaddiraj took a six week long trip to the island nation of Sri Lanka. The presentation aims to highlight this trip and the challenges of undertaking a summer travel experience on your own to a relatively unknown country.

Panel B: Lido

“Mountain Lake Memories,” Rosemary Reynolds, Polk State College

“LOVE and LIVE! There is only one letter’s difference between the two. But we can, and some of us do, live a whole lifetime... Living is intuitive. For while we breathe, we live. Loving is, oddly enough, something we learn.” Mountain Lake Memories is a memoir of times spent with Grammy and Grandpa. Family history, nature elements, and passages from Grammy’s book, Over There... Over Here, are included. Hear accounts of my family trip to Europe spent visiting with Grammy and traveling throughout Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and France.

“My First Love,” Brandon Crotchett, Polk State College

This presentation is a reading of a memoir written about the account of my first true love. I will recount all the memories, good and bad about my experience with this young woman who I was in love with, as well as demonstrate how all the events that transpired made me who I am as a person today.

Saturday-Session 1

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel C: Hospitality 310

“Psychological and Social Disorders of High IQ,” Jennifer Carl, Valencia College

While it is easy to assume someone’s psychological well-being, it is often masked by a crucial factor: IQ. People outside of the normal IQ range often face unique psychological and psychosocial disorders. Individuals with higher IQs usually exhibit certain characteristics that are many times overlooked. Here we will discuss this side of the spectrum and the many adversities these individuals must overcome in society and within themselves.

“Substance Use among Intelligent Individuals,” Kira Geiger, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Previous research suggests that there is a link between high levels of intelligence and increased substance use among individuals, particularly adolescents. The objective of this study is to identify some of the examples of past research that suggest such a link and explore the relationship between intelligence and substance use that is proposed within them. By presenting this research and the subsequent analysis of the findings offered within past studies, it is my hope to attempt to characterize and describe the relationship between intelligence and substance use, which may then be applied to the research question addressing whether individuals who exhibit higher levels of intelligence are more likely to develop or display substance use habits.

Saturday-Session 1 ¹²

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel D: Hospitality 306

“Advocating School Choice in Palm Beach County,” Mirline Petit-Frere, Palm Beach State College

This presentation is based on my research paper about school choice within the Palm Beach County School system and the advantages/disadvantages of incorporating school choice. It will focus on the importance of providing quality education within the K-12 school system and the impact that school choice has in this ability to provide quality education. When quality education is provided to students in the K-12 school system, they will be better equipped for life after high school education. If students and parents are given the option to select the schools that they want to attend, schools will not only be compelled to increase their standards, but will also provide an environment that will enable students to engage in educational opportunities that will help them thrive once they graduate, helping create a new breed of College Honors students who are prepared for the challenge.

“Enhancing Minority Retention in College,” Jacquelyn Lewis, Seminole State College of Florida

As a student at Seminole State College of Florida, I have personally witnessed the great effort that my college has put into the retention of minority students. These efforts are bridging the academic success gap that exists between minority and non-minority students. This presentation will cover constructive steps that colleges may take to enhance minority student success rates. To this end, I will discuss specific minority groups, strategies for enhancing their retention, and the financial motives for succeeding in college. In the process, I will emphasize the significance of creating diverse learning environments at institutions of higher learning.

Saturday-Session 1

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel E: Forum

“Variation in *P.lapidosa* along the East Coast of Florida,” Tayler Massey, Jacksonville University

Phragmatopoma lapidosa are marine polychaete worms which construct sediment tubes into sand mounds which enhance nearshore hard bottom habitats along the east coast of Florida. This study aims to understand the variability in life history and abundance of populations along the eastern coast of Florida. Data was collected on percentage cover, fecundity, egg size, and density for five locations. We found that the percentage cover of *P. lapidosa* decreased with latitude from north to south. In contrast, the percentage cover of limestone, the most abundant overall, increased with latitude from north to south. The density of worm tubes was greater in the Northern locations. The southern locations had higher fecundity values than the northern locations, yet there was little difference between the mean sizes of the worms and the mean diameters of their eggs. This study contributes to the better understanding of this species in order to best manage their habitat and protect the species that depend on the reefs they live in.

“Development of a PMA-PCR Assay for Detection of Viable BMA,” Chelsea McCurry, University of West Florida

Benthic microalgae (BMA) are essential members of marine sediment communities and in sandy and mudflat systems tend to be most commonly represented by diatoms. These diatoms are vital primary producers, act as food sources to heterotrophs, and help stabilize the sediment. Numerous studies have focused on the diversity, richness, and changes to the diatom communities in various environments. Unfortunately, a common limitation in current community profiling methods is the inability to isolate a molecular signal from the living constituents alone. Our goal is to validate and optimize a technique, predominately associated with bacteria, which will provide an assay capable of eliminating the compromised DNA from the living fingerprint. Propidium monoazide (PMA) is a dye that selectively enters compromised membranes and intercalates with the DNA ultimately preventing the amplification of dead genetic material during the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Using a benthic diatom, *Cylindrotheca fusiformis*, we have optimized a PMA treatment. Results from DGGE runs showed that the use of 50 μM PMA two times, with a dark exposure of 30 minutes and light exposure of 12 minutes, was most effective. *Navicula perminata* and *Skeletonema marinoi* were isolated and kept in culture so that the effectiveness of the PCR-PMA assay could be verified on multiple diatoms through spiking experiments. Mixtures of the three diatoms showed that only the live signal was visible with the optimized PMA treatment. Additional work focusing on local environmental samples will be tested directly and in spiking experiments to validate the method's efficacy in more complex matrices.

Saturday-Session 1 ¹⁴

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel F: Exchange

“Freedom’s Role in a New China,” Andrew Faris and Kadeem Ricketts, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Many of America’s policy and military decisions have been made under the assumption that freedom is a desire of all people to attain. We will argue that countries vary in the level of importance given to national, political, and individual freedom and that valuing all three freedoms is not necessarily the universal approach to good governance. Our commentary will be based primarily on the arguments made by Dr. J. Rufus Fears in his article, “Freedom: The History of an Idea,” using China as an example of a nation developing its identity with respect to freedom. We will answer the question of whether achieving political freedom through democracy is inevitable for China by asking if our conception of freedom is a universal goal. In doing this we will focus on what effects this desire for freedom could have on the stability one of the most important actors of the 21st century. We believe that an honors education is meant to give the lifelong ability to adapt to a changing world. It is therefore important to understand what trends are shaping the world that we will inherit after graduation.

“Two Countries, One Vote: The Role of Online Communications in Voter Mobilization in the 2012 Venezuela Presidential Election,” Emily Bello-Pardo, Florida International University

In June of 2012, the Venezuelan government relocated 19,542 Venezuelan registered voters to cast their in-person ballot in New Orleans, Louisiana. These voters, residing in the states of FL, GA, SC and NC, previously casted their ballots in Miami, FL. Due to this measure, civil society organizations used online-communication-tools (OCTs) and social-networking-sites (SNS) to locate and inform the 19,542 registered voters about the alternatives to mobilize to Louisiana in order to vote. This study utilizes a Participatory-Action Research methodology in which the author, a Venezuelan voter, went to New Orleans and voted. It also utilizes qualitative and quantitative data to discover these tools’ influence on offline behavior. Analyzing the relationship between OCT/SNS and offline action will create novel knowledge in the fields of Political Science and Communications. This objective will be reached through the exploration of a larger question: whether virtual discourse turns online engagement into offline action.

Saturday-Session 1

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel G: Venice

Roundtable Session: Roundtable Session: “Discussing Mentor Programs,” Sean Kelly and Catherine Gorman, Florida Gulf Coast University; Robin Jones and Jini Curry, University of West Florida; and Lauren Furry, Hillsborough Community College

From 2010-2012, FGCU has been slowly building its first-year mentor program. In 2012, it was fully implemented. We would like to briefly share our experience (from a director, coordinator, and mentor perspective) and then open the floor for a discussion of others' experiences with mentor programs. We are especially interested in input from students from other institutions. What value did you find in a mentor? What would you like from one?

Panel H: Executive

“Honors Inside Out: Partners in the Parks,” Kathleen King, Hillsborough Community College

Honors students are well known for their engagement in a variety of disciplines, their focus in academics, and their interest in educational context. The Partners in the Parks program uses multidisciplinary pedagogy, experiential engagement, and personal development to provide Honors students from throughout the nation empowering connections to the national park system. Students are empowered intellectually and are transformed personally through this highly successful partnership between NPS and participating colleges and universities. From Maine’s Acadia to Alaska’s Denali to the Florida Everglades, PIP is an affordable, exciting adventure into a new learning paradigm which forever shapes honors students: who they know, how they learn, what to imagine, from throughout the nation. Join us in a discussion about, promotion of, and motivation to participate in a living and learning experience like no other.

“The Democratization of America’s National Parks,” Samantha Kusters, Broward College-Central Campus

My presentation will inform the audience on the introduction of the Ford automobile in national parks during the 1920s. I will go in detail about visitation prior to the creation of the National Park Service and before the automobile entered the park. In my PowerPoint I will also explain the arguments associated with allowing the automobiles into the parks, and the struggle the first director of the National Park Service, Stephen Mather, faced while trying to get a park to park highway that would make the national parks a place for the people.

Saturday-Session 2 ¹⁶

10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Panel A: San Marco

“Harnessing Digital Methods for Complex Reading Assignments,” Katherine Kellen, Seminole State College

Katherine Kellen, an English professor at Seminole State College, will share online strategies for improving student reading comprehension of complex, expository texts. The use of social bookmarking software, for group annotation of a shared text; hyper-linked reading assignments, for modeled reading strategies; and asynchronous discussion threads, for development of reading communities with ample wait time can help students slow down, break down, and probe readings without a narrative arc. Whether instructors teach online or would just like to experiment with online strategies, they could work these techniques into most any existing curriculum.

“Empowering Learning: Using ERPSim to Teach MIS,” Dr. Raymond Papp, University of Tampa

Using computer-based simulations to engage students in the classroom instead of simply discussing a topic such as business processes allows students to explore the roles of business functions and actually learn by doing. For example, the SAP University Alliances program provides the tools and resources necessary to teach students how technology can enable integrated business processes and strategic thinking. Using such hands-on experiences, students gain insight into how technology can empower a business to optimize key processes such as accounting and controlling, human capital management, project planning, plant and materials management, and sales and distribution; using enterprise resource planning (ERP) tools gives students the skills to add immediate value to the marketplace and prepare them for the job market. This presentation will explore the use of the ERMSim game to engage students and get them to work together to solve business problems they will encounter in the corporate world.

Panel B: Lido

Roundtable Session: “The Commonwealth,” Shane Brown, Agnieszka Jezierski, Cla'tiya Evans, and Noha Hassan, Broward College-South Campus

As a group, we were given the theme of "The Commonwealth" for an Economics display project. Together, we had to find a way to be creative and original in our presentation. Likewise, we had to find a way to incorporate currency and coins of some Commonwealth countries into our display. At the same time, we had to incorporate the currency and coins into the theme of the story of the Commonwealth.

Saturday-Session 2

10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Panel C: Hospitality 310

“Re-Viewing Florida’s History,” Lakeidra Baker, Kevin LaDue, and Brian Jimenez, South Florida State College

Three students from the Fall 2012 South Florida State College Honors Seminar, "A Sense of Place," present their research into Florida's history. Lakeidra Baker will describe Zora Neale Hurston's Florida, focusing on the collaboration between Zora Neale Hurston and Stetson Kennedy in the 1930s; Kevin LaDue will discuss George Sebring and the founding of Sebring, Florida, in a presentation honoring Sebring's centennial year, and Brian Jimenez will present a revisionist, thought-provoking view of Andrew Jackson's policy of Indian Removal.

“Racial Inequality & 14th Amendment Jurisprudence,” Hina Shaikh, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

The Fourteenth Amendment has been a critical tool for achieving racial equality through landmark cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Batson v. Kentucky*. However, the equality was only on a surface level. In reality, the racial structural inequalities require a more substantial and pervasive method of eradication because, although the "intent" of the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause in the aforementioned cases may have been racial equality, the actual "effect" has been subtle perpetuation of inequalities through inclusion without influence. In this paper I will argue that the Fourteenth Amendment provides only (what feminist philosopher Sarah Ahmed terms) a "new trick" or quick fix to the problem of African American structural racial inequalities embedded within the American education and judicial systems. Overall, I hope to establish why other solutions are required in addressing de facto racial discrimination even though Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause already addresses de jure discrimination.

Saturday-Session 2¹⁸

10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Panel D: Hospitality 306

“Traumatic Brain Injury-induced Learning Deficits are Rescued,” Rosmery Santos, Miami Dade College

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) causes learning and memory deficits that may be due to the hippocampal region’s susceptibility to brain injury. Damage to the hippocampus reduces its ability to maintain long-term potentiation, a mechanism important for memory formation. In the hippocampus, activation of the cAMP/protein kinase A (PKA)/cAMP response-element binding protein pathway is involved in long-term potentiation and memory formation. Our previous study found that cAMP levels are decreased after TBI, and that treatment with a phosphodiesterase (PDE) 4 inhibitor rescues this decrease in cAMP levels. We hypothesized that treatment with rolipram, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor (PDE4 inhibitor), may reverse deficits in learning and memory after TBI. The current study examined the effect of a PDE4 inhibitor, rolipram, on cognitive impairments and hippocampal atrophy following TBI. Our study demonstrated that treatment with rolipram rescued cognitive impairments following TBI and it could be the potential therapeutic approach to treat TBI-induced memory dysfunction.

“Therapeutic Hypothermia Post-Cardiac Arrest,” Stacy Hartsinck, Seminole State College of Florida

Claiming over 17 million lives a year, heart disease is the most common cause of death in the world. Fortunately, continued advancements in medicine are decreasing the mortality rates of people who suffer from heart disease. One promising treatment is therapeutically-induced hypothermia post cardiac arrest. To understand the benefits of this treatment, it is imperative to understand the anatomical and physiological elements of the cardiovascular system, the events of cardiac arrest, and the components of therapeutically-induced hypothermia.

Panel E: Forum

Roundtable Session: “Utopias for the Twenty-first Century,” Janet M. Haavisto, Tayler Massey, and Meagan Balding, Jacksonville University

Utopias are responses to the envisioners’ frames of reference regardless of the times, locations, or ages of the envisioners. Creating a utopia is an experiential learning assignment that allows a student to examine his or her frame of reference. In order to write a utopia, the student must examine as many facets of society and of his or her beliefs as possible in the time allotted for the exercise. Indeed, most importantly, students learn about themselves and others’ points of view in the process of creating and sharing utopian visions.

Saturday-Session 2

10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Panel G: Venice

Workshop Session: “Student Development: Recruitment to Graduation,” Daniel Anzueto and Rachele Galindo, Florida International University

Student success at the Honors College at FIU is a focal point from first contact during recruitment to success after graduation. Utilizing specific practices during recruitment sessions and throughout the student's academic career and involvement in student programming, we are able to develop strong leaders and academic scholars that will be successful in their fields of study. During this session we will present some of these practices. Topics Covered will Include: Tailoring Recruitment Techniques to Audience, Strengthening Student Programs for Student Learning, and Developing a Holistic Student.

Panel H: Executive

“Mulvey’s ‘Male Gaze’ in Ridley Scott’s *Thelma & Louise* (1991),” Fernando Varela, Palm Beach State College

In her essay, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema,” Mulvey alleges that in cinema, women are utilized as sexual objects in order to sexually satisfy the audience’s “male gaze” and to empower the male leading role. I utilize this theory as an application to the portrayal of women in road movies and how Ridley’s Scott movie, *Thelma and Louise*(1991), revolutionized the portrayal of women as stated by Mulvey within the road movie genre in order to find a new identity for women in American culture. *Thelma and Louise* narrates the story of a frustrated waitress and a mistreated housewife and how they rebelled against their dependence towards different male figures. This rebellion emphasizes the search for independence and the portrayal of women as serious characters rather than as sexual objects whose only function is to enhance the power of the male protagonist.

“How Has ‘Nigger’ Changed in Music since the Civil Rights Era,” Nucleus Shelton, Broward College-Central Campus

From a product of American racism to a popularized term within the black community, my paper investigates postmodern artists’ use of “nigger” over a span of four decades. The objective of the presentation is to provide an examination of the most censored word in US history in relation to contemporary music. In order to keep the originality of the presentation, I will openly be using “nigger” instead of the euphemism, “the N word.”

“Voter Identification in America’s Political Theater,” Katie Widner, Polk State College

This presentation examines the issue of requiring government- issued photo identification for voting. It is research-based and contains various statistics.

Saturday-Session 3²⁰

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel A: San Marco

Workshop Session: “Leading the Leaders: Building a Culture of Respect,” Leslie G. Kaplan and UNF Honors Students, University of North Florida

The Honors Program at UNF envisions itself as a place to train future community leaders. Our required Honors Freshman Colloquium works to instill the seeds of leadership among the freshmen and give the upperclassmen the opportunity to test their skills as student facilitators. By building a culture of respect among faculty, facilitators, and freshmen, and deliberately teaching discrete skills of leadership, the class is changed on a yearly basis through open dialogue and robust student input. In this full panel presentation we will discuss our model of student leadership, the ways we deliberately build leadership skills among freshmen and of the facilitators, and how our culture of respect and open participation works.

Panel B: Lido

“Small Figure-Eight Knots, Interesting Unknots, and a Program to Distinguish the Two,” Eric Smith, Jacksonville University

Our work investigates finding the minimal number of edges in various lattices to create a figure-eight knot. We modified existing computer programs used to solve the analogous problem for the trefoil. While our research is not complete (computer programs are still running), investigation of initial data has revealed some interesting unknots. In particular, we found unknots that need to be lengthened before they can be reduced to a very small number of edges. Such unknots have been found for the simple cubic lattice but they contain a large number of edges; our unknots are relatively small in length. In order to distinguish knot types from our data in the future, we wrote a computer program which inputs a lattice knot and outputs the colorability of that knot.

“Galileo Galilei for a Day,” Genesis Barrios and Katryna Santa-Cruz, Miami Dade College

How do objects fall? Is there a way to mathematically describe the motion of objects as they fall? Our presentation answers these questions by providing a mathematical analysis of data we gathered during our modern version of Galileo's free-fall experiment, where a motion detector was used to record the position of the free falling all over time. Through our analysis, we proved Galileo's theory that objects fall with a changing velocity and constant acceleration rate by using mathematical concepts such as average rates of change to calculate velocity and acceleration, and quadratic equations to model the position of the ball over time. Our presentation also includes obstacles we faced, our personal reflections, and our experience in teaching this lesson to another college algebra class.

Saturday-Session 3

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel C: Hospitality 310

“The Objectification of Women in the 2012 Election,” Alexa Robinson, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

In this presentation I analyze the rhetoric surrounding the healthcare debate during the past election, specifically women’s reproductive rights. Since the recent health care bill passed there has been significant inflammatory rhetoric about the law itself and the role it plays for women. Women and their reproductive rights have been particularly abused and much of the rhetoric can be analyzed through the lens of war rhetoric and reification (objectification) of women. I intend to analyze the rhetoric and discourse surrounding this controversy in terms of media philosophy with authors such as Adorno, Fuller, Habermas, and Benjamin.

“Gender Differences in Learning Styles in STEM Fields,” Austin MacFarland, University of Tampa

A detailed look into why men seem to dominate the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics over women in America and why different teaching methods can be the source of equality in these fields. This presentation also considers the Educational and Sociological factors affecting the specific fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, with an emphasis on women and these fields.

Thank You to our Conference Host



THE ROBERT “BOB” ELMORE HONORS INSTITUTE

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Saturday-Session 3²²

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel D: Hospitality 306

“How ‘Pseudoscience’ Whitewashes the History of Science,” Zoe Lewycky, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

In my presentation, I will be examining some articles and a book, “Why People Believe Weird Things,” (1997) by skeptic and science writer Michael Shermer for his usage of the term “pseudoscience” to problematically edit the history of science. I will problematize Shermer’s definition of science and his usage of “pseudoscience” as its counterpart for disregarding past experiments. Then, I will examine how the dualism between science and “pseudoscience” works to reinforce the dogma of objectivity. Lastly, I will examine how the label “pseudoscience” allows recent problematic scientific experiments and theories to be ignored and uncritically examined. This subject is important because of the political and corporate influences deeply intertwined with science that relies on it to advance dangerous goals to the detriment of people who are vulnerable.

“Roles and Implications of Race, Gender, Class and Sexuality in *Johnson v. Calvert* (1993),” SriGita Madiraju, Parker McDonald, and Mumbi Ngugi, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

In the modern age of technological innovation, surrogacy and other reproductive technologies offer a new realm of possibilities of having biologically related children, for those who could not have them otherwise. Gestational surrogacy allows a woman to have her own genetic children through the help of a gestational carrier, a surrogate mother into whom a couple’s IVF embryo is implanted. The practice has generated conflicting claims. In the case of *Johnson v. Calvert* (1993) Anna Johnson, a poor Black single mother, the gestational surrogate for the Calverts, a white middle class heterosexual couple, petitioned for custody of the baby she birthed. The plaintiff, Johnson, was denied custody. Our paper analyzes the constitutional and legal implications of the case by carefully examining the concurring and dissenting opinions of the court case and studies the underlying race, gender and class assumptions behind the Court’s ruling.

Saturday-Session 3

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel E: Forum

“History and Contributions of HeLa Cells,” Madiha Ahmed, Ann Mathew, and Farzana Yassin, Broward College-Central Campus

HeLa cells are the first line of human cells to survive in a test tube and have been revolutionary in terms of their contribution to science. The cells come from a tissue sample of a cancer patient, Henrietta Lacks, and were grown by a researcher Dr. George Gey. It was soon realized that HeLa cells were different from normal cells, because they kept growing even outside the human body. After more than 60 years, there are now billions of HeLa cells in laboratories all over the world. It's the most commonly used cell line, and it's known to be extremely resilient. HeLa cells are responsible for some of the most important innovations in modern science, from the vaccines for polio, to ground breaking discoveries in cancer and AIDS. They have been used to study the effects of the atomic bomb on humans and have been taken to space to study the effects of zero gravity.

“GABA-B Receptor Ligands: Implications for Drug Screening,” Maria Lourdes Aitken, Emmanuel Sturchler, and Patricia McDonald, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Dysfunction of GABA B receptor (GABAB-R)-mediated synaptic transmission underlies various nervous system disorders including epilepsy, depression, schizophrenia, and addiction. Currently, only one GABAB-R orthosteric ligand is in clinical use. However, side effects such as sedation, tolerance, and motor impairment limit its use. A dissociation of the therapeutic effects from the side effects may be achievable with drugs enhancing the endogenous physiological cellular response. The development of GABAB-R allosteric modulators has provided new modes of efficacy that may facilitate the development of novel therapeutic agents. In the present study, we investigated the effects of newly identified GABAB-R allosteric ligands using cell lines expressing either human/rat or human/human subunits using distinct functional assays. Together, our results indicate that the phenomena of functional and orthologue selectivity at the GABAB-R allosteric site are operative and highlight the importance of assay design and screening strategy in the development of therapeutic drugs targeting the GABAB-R.

Saturday-Session 3²⁴

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel F: Exchange

“Maslow,” Slade Fernandez, Polk State College

A presentation on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. I will be informing the audience of its abilities to help set priorities, and how it is used to appeal to people through commercials.

“Pascal,” Peter Licari, University of Tampa

This presentation seeks to articulate Pascal’s Wager and the infamous “Many-Gods Objection” while analyzing their implications. It will illustrate how the nature of God Himself severely inhibits the objection. God’s omnipotence provides an objective view as to what beliefs we ought to hold and gamble with. I will not aim to prove the existence of God; I will instead frame the argument to say that, if a God exists, there is positive evidence in favor of Him being omnibenevolent instead of being imperfect or malevolent. In addition, the refutation I extend to the Many-Gods objection does not look to perfectly fortify Pascal’s Wager from its implications. Instead, it provides stronger ground for the wager to stand on and an avenue for future thought and contribution.

Panel G: Venice

Writing Contest Winners I: Freshman/Sophomore Documented Research or Critical Thinking

“Determining Characteristics of Unknown Solar Planets,” Daniel Siebert, Valencia College

“The Evolution of Masculinity and the New Queer Cinema,” Michael Clark, Broward College-Central Campus

“The Legacy of the Occupation of Alcatraz,” Katherine Burnett, Santa Fe College

“Romantic Views of Science and Barbauld,” Alyssa Stubs, Jacksonville University

Saturday-Session 3

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Panel H: Executive

“The Cardio Side of Drumming,” Phillip Martin, Seminole State College of Florida

Drums: They are a great instrument and the center of any musical piece. In addition, it is fun to watch drummers perform. However, there is another side to drumming that most people do not consider: the cardiovascular workout. In this report, I will cover the exercise that is inherent in drumming, the development of specific muscle groups, and the multitasking that is involved with playing the drums. In the process, I will show that there is more to drumming than meets the eye.

“The Art of Kung Fu,” Nicholas Tran, University of Tampa

Everyone has their own perception on what is or isn't art, but in veracity, opinions cannot determine a meaning. Art can be broken down into two things: form and content. In my informative presentation, I hope to shed light on the true meaning of Kung Fu and prove that it is, indeed, an art form. Kung fu is not just a way of combat; it is about expressing, improving, and mastering oneself.

Thank You to our Conference Committee from:



Saturday-Session 4²⁶

2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Panel A: San Marco

“Creating ‘Themed’ Courses—an Approach to Honors Curricula,” Dr. Gary S. Luter, University of Tampa

Created in 1982, the guiding concept and objective for the University of Tampa’s Honors Program is “changing mindsets.” To foster this aim, the UT Honors Program offers special courses centered around a theme each year. There are four themes, which are repeated every four years: “Roots and Contexts of Ideas,” “Revolutions and Revolutionary Thinkers,” “Conflicting Perspectives: the Clash of Ideas” and “The Cutting Edge of Academics.” Examples of courses designed to fit these themes will be given and the process used for developing these unique Honors courses will be explained.

“Peer Mentors: Engaging Freshmen from the Start,” Kati Andrews, Jini Curry, Paul Lascuna, and Libby Lirette, University of West Florida

This presentation will discuss the peer mentor program that is within our university's Honors Program. There will be two mentors, each with one of their mentees, presenting firsthand account of their experiences with the program thus far. Our goal is to outline the structure of the program and the responsibilities that go along with being a mentor. Specifically, we will be speaking about how the program is being used as a way to engage freshmen from the beginning through honors and campus wide involvement, friendships, academics, and service. Finally, we will address the pros and cons from the fall semester and how we are using the feedback from the students to move forward in the spring in order to increase the effectiveness of the program.

Panel B: Lido

“Australia, An Economic History,” Rodrigo A. Guerrero Cabrera, Oliffer Blandino, Samira Hackshaw, and Ashley Persaud, Broward College-South Campus

This research presentation includes an economic view about Australia featuring its history as well as current issues.

“Political Activism: Finding a Voice for America’s Youth,” Sarah Massey, Polk State College

The issue of voter apathy is addressed by finding contemporary outlets for political activism, particularly for college-aged students of voting age. In this presentation, I create a solution to this problem through three straightforward steps: staying informed, being heard, and involving others. In order to promote modern means of activism that appeal to youth, I utilize technology, social media, and success stories.

Saturday-Session 4

2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Panel C: Hospitality 310

“A Long Hard Look at the American Political Party System,” Jacob Wilson, Polk State College

America has had a two-party system since its inception. However, why do we have political parties? Have the parties always been the same or have they adapted over time? We are continually hearing about how our respective parties rarely take part in bipartisanship. Wouldn't it be better if we were to just do away with our political parties? Lastly, what did our founding fathers think about political parties? These questions and many more will be answered as I present the psychological, sociological, political, and historical aspects of political parties.

“Special Interest Groups in American Political Life,” Christina Shaffer, Seminole State College of Florida

Although they often carry a negative connotation, special interest groups are an integral part of the American political system. In this presentation, I will discuss the different types of interest groups, the financial element of political engagement, and the manner in which special interest groups lobby governments and influence public policy. In the process, I will shed light on some of the problems and shortcomings of the American political system.

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Saturday-Session 4²⁸

2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Panel D: Hospitality 306

“R15 Neuron of *Aplysia Californica* and Implications on Aging,” Alexandra Kaye, Florida Atlantic University
Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Human brain aging is a complex, little-understood process. Functional aging correlates with declined cognition, motor skills and memory storage. To gain molecular and mechanistic insights into brain aging, we explored simple nervous system of snail *Aplysia californica*, focusing on R15 neurons involved in regulating reproduction, heart, and osmotic balance. We hypothesized that aging correlates with declined or increased expression of specific genes leading to specific changes in brain function. Microarray analysis using RNAs prepared from R15 neurons isolated from mature and old *Aplysia* identified 300 differentially regulated genes. Genomic data using DAVID bioinformatics programming identified signaling pathways and verified results using quantitative PCR. Significant decreases appeared in gene expression such as protein kinases and growth factors. Increases appeared in gene expression of other specific genes. Thus, single neuron microarray results demonstrated that aging does not cause global decrease in gene expression. Rather, changes lead to either up or down regulation.

“The Notch Transcriptional Complex,” Eduardo Diaz, Miami Dade College

Cancer has had a detrimental effect on the lives of millions of people worldwide. Over the years, combinations of surgery and radiation have been shown to be effective forms of treatment against some cancers. Although effective, there is still a high rate of cancer regression and resistance to the innovative treatments. A potential therapeutic target involves Notch inhibition which would increase the survival rate and alleviate the stress of cancer patients. Malignant cells have been found to over-express the notch intracellular domain, aiding the spread of the tumor. In this study, the proteins that form the notch transcriptional complex were grown by bacmid transfection. The purified proteins were developed into an in vitro fluorescence assay to measure the inhibitory activity of the CADD compounds towards Notch complex assembly. Data suggest that the presence of the notch transcriptional complex inhibitor has resulted in high OE33 cell death rate, thus providing evidence that the NTC can be inhibited.

Saturday-Session 4

2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Panel E: Forum

Roundtable Session: “Using Technology to Better Engage Our Community,” Austen Stewart, Briana LeTourneau, and Shannon Payne, University of Central Florida

In recent years, the primary ways in which people have communicated have changed drastically, rapidly shifting towards a more digital society than ever before. This means to remain effective at engaging others, new media more suitable to emerging forms of communication must be embraced. Such platforms range from a standard website to social media like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, to directly communicating with students through mobile apps. In this presentation, we will display some of the steps the UCF Honors Congress has already taken along with its new digital initiatives currently being developed to increase its digital presence.

Panel F: Exchange

“Classical Methods for Memory Enhancement,” Meghan Marc, Seminole State College of Florida

As an Honors student, I wanted to study the manner in which ancient techniques for recalling information could be used to enhance my ability to retain and memorization data. In that light, I discovered that a student’s ability to memorize information can be enhanced by engaging in cognitive thinking at the information processing stage, by creating mental images, and by using mnemonics to link new information together. In the process, these classical techniques can significantly enhance and improve academic achievement in contemporary academic settings.

“STEM-Powered Change,” Ryan Darley, Polk State College

This informational presentation offers a review of a STEM course-based, Honors Program student led initiative to restore a Florida inland water habitat to its natural state.

Panel G: Venice

Workshop Session: “Taming the Time Tiger,” Tammy Peebles and Sebastien Z. Antoine, Palm Beach State College

DO you ever feel overwhelmed by the ticking of the clock, or find yourself rushing to get things done at the last minute? Do you ever feel like there is not enough time in the day to get everything done? In this interactive workshop you will learn how to recognize and tame the time tiger and develop time management skills that will help you on your road to success.

Saturday-Session 4³⁰

2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Panel H: Executive

“Human Sex Determination: A Biological Analysis,” C. Robin Savage, Polk State College

This presentation explores the various biological mechanisms involved in human sex determination. Genetics, epigenetics, hormones, environment and evolution exert heavy influences, making for a highly varied and complex picture of sex and gender. Through numerous examples, I will demonstrate the importance of each developmental mechanism and discuss how the interactions between them yield varying results. I will also discuss how modern environments impact the mechanisms of sex determination and how these modern environments shape the evolution of human reproductive processes. With this presentation, I hope to illustrate the complexity of biological sex and its many implications for the individual and the future of human reproduction.

“Oral Bacteria of Humans, Cats, and Dogs,” Lynn Allyssa Désiré, Angelica Garcia, Carolina Torres, and Tatiana Torres, Broward College-North Campus

The purpose of this honors project was to compare quantitatively and qualitatively the oral bacteria of humans, cats and dogs. The qualitative analysis includes the bacteria count found in the Mueller Hinton (general purpose) agar. However, in the qualitative analysis report, the presenters will categorize the different colonies counted by their morphology. The presenters will also explain the techniques and instruments used during the research that they have done for their chemistry project. In the end, the organism with the most bacteria is revealed.

Saturday-Session 5

3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

Panel A: San Marco

“Honors Colleges: What They Should Be,” Melisa Berthiaume, Palm Beach State College

I will discuss four things an honors college should have: open class discussion, informal gatherings for the purpose of networking, a solution to over and under supply of classes, and internships. I will explain why all honors colleges should have these four features and explain how they can be applied. I hope to improve honors colleges for current and future members with my ideas.

“The UWF Honors Newsletter: The Return of Infinite Wisdom,” Jini Curry and Craig Lockhart, University of West Florida

The focus of our presentation is to highlight the return of Infinite Wisdom after a year of nonexistence. Infinite Wisdom, the Honors newsletter at the University of West Florida has been the voice of the honors students since 1990. Through its twenty-two years of existence, Infinite Wisdom has gone through many changes and has become a showcase of the Honors Program and Council highlighting the achievements of the students, staff and faculty. However, along the way it became absent as its writers and staff members graduated and moved on from the program. Despite the gap for a few years, Infinite Wisdom was brought back during the fall 2012 semester and has been an overwhelmingly huge success. As a result, our presentation will not only highlight the return of Infinite Wisdom but also focus on creative ways to strengthen and maintain Infinite Wisdom for years to come.

Panel B: Lido

“An Analysis of German National Attitudes toward the Holocaust,” Philip Olsen and Kristina Kohuth, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Since the end of the Second World War, the German state has erected numerous monuments and memorials intended to pay tribute to the six million European Jews who died in the Holocaust. These memorials, while sharing the common purpose of acting as visual reminders of a historical event, depart from one another in the ways in which they choose to visually present themselves. A careful analysis of the visual symbolism employed by these various memorializing structures may lead to a better understanding of how German national attitudes toward the Holocaust have changed or remained static in the last seventy years.

“Deconstructing Whiteness,” Lauren A. Martin, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

In order to stop the social, political and physical genocide of minorities in the United States, Critical White Studies demands white people to situate and reject their privilege in a system from which they benefit. Although this seems like a progressive step forward in abolishing whiteness, I argue that rejecting whiteness on the behalf of "Others," not only maintains white power by giving whites the choice, but also, reinforces white paternalism to decide what's best for "Others." I will destabilize benevolent whiteness as an answer to abolish racism, by demonstrating how whiteness hurts white people too. I will explore how race has been constructed and exploited through the study of science, and apply this knowledge to current systems, which pathologize individuals who are not able to cope with the limiting and oppressive structures of whiteness.

Saturday-Session 5³²

3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

Panel C: Hospitality 310

“Reduce, Reuse, Rethink Recycling,” Rachel Rohan, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

It is common knowledge that recycling helps the Earth: it is how we prevent landfills from certain overflow, it reduces our use of limited resources, and is, overall, a way we can save the environment for ourselves and our posterity. But, is this common knowledge no more than a collection of myths? Recycling factories and trucks dump additional pollution into the air. Also, the products we most often recycle are indeed plentiful, as is our landfill space. Finally, the economic benefit of repurposing most resources through recycling is little to none because it costs less to create new plastic products than to recycle them. Conducting a survey of articles from such sources as *Discovery News* and *The New York Times*, I will explain why people recycle, and why sometimes it is better to simply throw your waste out and rethink recycling.

“Reagan-Era Environmentalism,” Dominic Homac, Seminole State College of Florida

Following the flood of landmark federal environmental legislation from the sixties and seventies, the eighties was a decade of “conservative backlash” in the United States. Under the auspices of the pro-industry Reagan Presidency, environmental regulation became subject to minimization and budget cuts. Scandals in top regulatory offices drew a harsh public response and motivated a resurgence of the environmental movement. This presentation will cover the environmental legacy of President Reagan’s first term in office by discussing the roots of anti-environmentalism, the strategies and policies of this framework, and the public response to this radical policy shift.

Panel D: Hospitality 306

“Is Time on Death Row Equivalent to Psychological Torture?” Logan Cummings, University of Tampa

The length of time inmates have spent on death row has more than doubled over the last two decades. Many leading experts (including the American Psychiatric Association and professors from Harvard Medical School) contend that this experience constitutes a form of psychological torture due to conditions on death row. Experts refer to the experience as the death row phenomenon and the psychological disorder that results is known as the death row syndrome. Although this disorder has yet to be recognized by the APA, research is starting to indicate the authenticity of such a disorder. In addition, several Supreme Court justices have cited the death row phenomenon in dissenting opinions toward sentencing an offender to death. This presentation will examine the validity of the claims made by both the APA and the legal community. This new information will empower honors students to make informed decisions about our nation’s penitentiary system in the future.

“The American Presence in Afghanistan,” Fatema Hassanali, Jonathan Stevens, Sonia Diaz, and Rayan Chaaban, Seminole State College of Florida

After a ten-year presence in Afghanistan, the United States is planning to withdraw from the war-torn nation in the next few years. While the American public has clearly grown tired of the war, instability in Afghanistan could create a power vacuum that poses a threat to our security. This presentation will discuss the problem of instability in Afghanistan, the causes of that instability, potential solutions, and need for a continued America presence in the region.

Saturday-Session 5

3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

Panel E: Forum

“Environmental Viability of Artificial Reefs,” David Friedman, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

I will be doing a presentation on artificial reefs. I will first begin with a brief history of the practice to provide context. I will then examine several specific examples of artificial reefs, taking into account environmental impacts, economic effects, various philosophical standpoints, and any other necessary considerations in order to determine whether the practice is environmentally viable overall.

“Association Analysis of p53, Cox-2, and RB1,” Amanda Duke, University of Tampa

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the most common cancer of the equine eye and the second most prevalent tumor of the horse overall. One of the most common ocular locations for squamous cell carcinoma to originate is the limbus (LSCC), which has the potential to invade the cornea and lead to visual impairment and destruction of the eye. Prevalence in the Haflinger breed is estimated to be between 25-69%. Despite this high occurrence, little is known about the etiopathogenesis of the disease or its mode of inheritance. Preliminary pedigree analysis shows that all affected horses can be traced back to a single predominant sire, thus supporting the role of genetics in this disease. It is hypothesized that SCC is caused by a single Mendelian gene. Thus this study seeks to investigate three candidate genes as the cause namely, tumor protein 53 (p53), cyclooxygenase-2 (Cox-2), and (retinoblastoma protein) RB1.

Panel F: Exchange

“Two Futures: Innovation vs. Enhancement,” Lukas Termini, University of Tampa

This presentation will be informative in nature and will outline the two diverging roads game design is taking as a creative medium: innovative gameplay vs. enhanced design. The presentation will seek to illustrate the benefits and risks of both design techniques in the modern world of game design.

“Robert Schumann’s Illness and Its Effect on His Music,” Patricia Izbicki, University of West Florida

Robert Schumann is one of the most famous Romantic composers of the nineteenth century. He is known for the great lyricism and virtuosity contained in his musical compositions. However, behind the beauty, artistry, and passion of his music, Schumann was an extremely complex and troubled human being. As a young man, Schumann suffered from two major physical ailments: a hand injury and syphilis. These afflictions heavily impacted the course of his life. The hand injury ended his dream of becoming a concert pianist when he was in his early twenties. The syphilis caused increasing physical and mental pain throughout Schumann’s life. In his later years, Schumann had a complete nervous breakdown likely caused by the late stages of syphilis. He attempted suicide and later admitted himself to the sanitarium in Enderich till his death. The research will examine how Schumann’s physical illnesses affected his mental well-being, how his medical ailments affected his style of musical composition, and the type of medical care used in the nineteenth century to treat Schumann’s mental and physical conditions.

Saturday-Session 5

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3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

Panel G: Venice

Roundtable Session: “Short-term Education Program Models: Best Ideas and Practices,” Eugene J. Alpert, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars

The roundtable is designed to solicit a discussion of ideas and feedback from honors directors and faculty interested in utilizing short-term experiential education activities (other than internships) for various educational purposes, such as career or professional development, retention, undergraduate research, fulfillment of core requirements, civic engagement, and the like. A representative from The Washington Center will moderate the discussion and describe some of the resources available to honors program students and faculty in DC and will invite participants to share their own ideas and experiences as well as their interests and needs in terms of how to develop the best quality experiences in order to achieve the desired effects. The topic of best practices and standards for such experiences will also be discussed.

Panel H: Executive

“Diana Tregarde, The Opposite of Normal: A Look at Gender Roles,” Ann Dowdell, Valencia College

The name Diana carries history; the roman goddess of the hunt was Diana thus infusing the name with a feeling of power. Literature often explores gender and society. As other science fiction authors before her, Mercedes Lackey, (1950-) in Diana Tregarde, explores the gender roles that are sociologically imposed on people by reversing the standard perceived roles and exploring the effects.

“Searching for the Sunken Hero: Tristan of Lyonesse,” Dawn Klos, Valencia College

This research overview will introduce the hero, Tristan of Lyonesse. The Celtic origins of the legend and the French tradition prior to his meeting Isolde will be explored. The presentation will also consider the ongoing search in literature and archeology for the lost country of Lyonesse.

Saturday-Poster Session

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Second Floor Lobby

“Neomillennial Learning Styles and Differentiated Teaching,” Shelley Jackson, PhD and Elizabeth Ruggiero, PhD, Texas Woman’s University

Immediate accessibility to information, ubiquitous ownership and multiple uses of mobile devices have created a new learning style. Neomillennial learning styles have emerged as a result of recent technological innovations. In the wake of 2.0 technologies offering information at your fingertips, and a growing generation of digital natives, the culture of education is shifting in a way that challenges traditional modes of teaching and learning. This workshop will present information on how to differentiate teaching to meet the needs of the neomillennial learner. Specifically, we will discuss using mobile learning devices and their associated applications to enhance differentiated instruction.

“An Examination of Immediate Outcomes Following a Single Session of Mindfulness Meditation,” Melissa Stikma, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Mindfulness involves a strong cognitive focus on the present moment. Higher levels of mindfulness are positively associated with adaptive psychological outcomes, such as emotion regulation (Hill & Updegraff, 2012), and negatively associated with maladaptive outcomes, such as reduction of stress through mindfulness-based techniques (Chiesa & Seretti, 2009). The effects of a single 40-minute mindfulness meditation session comprised of psychoeducation and meditation were examined in an undergraduate population. Questionnaires to measure participants’ levels of mindfulness, emotion regulation, perceived stress, and social relationships were administered pre-session, post-session, and at a one week follow-up. It is hypothesized that mindfulness reported during the session is expected to be positively correlated with reappraising emotion regulation and perceived quality of social relationships and negatively correlated with suppression emotion regulation and state anxiety at one-week follow-up. Statistical results and implications for mindfulness-based treatment will be discussed.

Saturday-Poster Session

36

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

“Factors Affecting the Experience of Mindfulness,” Morgan Levy, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Mindfulness refers to the ability to think in the present moment and to be cognizant of one's own thoughts and physical state. I examined whether openness to experience and religiosity affected the experience of mindfulness. Undergraduate college students underwent a 40-minute psychoeducation and meditation session learning about mindfulness techniques and participating in a body relaxation meditation, a nature meditation, a guided imagery meditation, and a mindfulness meditation. After completing the session, participants completed several post-treatment questionnaires and one week later, they completed several follow-up questionnaires. I expect that mindfulness will increase immediately following the session and will be maintained one week later. In addition, openness to experience and religiosity are expected to be positively correlated with dispositional mindfulness, mindfulness experienced during the session, and mindfulness experienced one week later. The findings and their implications for college student mental health will be discussed.

“Influence of Mitochondrial Signaling on Cancer Metabolism,” Richard Barrios, Florida International University

One hallmark of cancer is a specialized type of metabolism featuring aerobic glycolysis and increased production of lactate. To facilitate the transport of lactate, cancer cells over-express specific monocarboxylate transporters (MCT). This is a crucial component of cancer cell physiology, as lactate is an essential component of cancer cell anabolism and maintaining a pH conducive to glycolysis is essential to cancer cell proliferation. MCT1 and MCT4 are two such transporters; moreover, the over-expression of these two proteins can be associated with poor prognosis in a variety of cancers. We have identified a unique phosphorylation site near the C-terminus of MCT1. This site is modulated by signaling on the mitochondrial scaffold Sab. Inhibition of Sab mediated signaling resulted in a five-fold increase in phosphorylation of this phosphorylation motif on MCT1. Additionally, we found blocking Sab-mediated signaling also increased lactate transport and decreased intracellular pH in human neuroblastoma cells. These results may indicate a unique pathway regulating lactate transport may exist between the mitochondria and plasma membrane. A bioinformatics search for kinases capable of phosphorylating MCT1 at this motif revealed twenty candidate enzymes. Current studies in our lab are concerned with verifying the contributions of these proposed components to the regulation of MCT1. Based on our current data, we propose the existence of a novel signaling mechanism between the mitochondria and MCT1 for the purpose of regulating intracellular pH and metabolism in cancer cells.

Saturday-Poster Session

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Second Floor Lobby

“The Synthesis, Purification, and Characterization of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ and $K[Co_3Fe(CO)_{12}]$ and Their Potential Applications,” Joshua Utter, Jacksonville University

The extended crystal structures of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ and $K[Co_3Fe(CO)_{12}]$ are potentially useful as catalyst precursors for Fischer-Tropsch and hydroformylation reactions. The reported IR spectrum of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ contains suspicious peaks that are suspected to be impurities. Therefore, the synthesis of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ was modified from the literature procedure to remove the impurities. The modified synthesis of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ was characterized by IR, which demonstrated that the impurity peaks were removed. Single crystal X-ray diffraction was used to determine the crystal structure of $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ and determine if structure matches the known 1D zigzag chain extended structure of $[Na(THF)_4][Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$. Due to the prohibitive cost of Ru, a second synthesis was carried out in which Ru was replaced with Fe, which is significantly cheaper. IR spectra were taken to determine similarities between $K[Co_3Ru(CO)_{12}]$ and $K[Co_3Fe(CO)_{12}]$.

“Practicing and Celebrating the Nigerian Yoruban Culture,” Lisa Walker, Santa Fe College

Baba Onabamiero Ogunleye and Omito Salewa Ajamu identify with the Nigerian Yoruban culture. Both Baba Ona and Omitu are American born and were part of a New Yoruba community in South Carolina during the 1970s. Now forty years later by mysterious chance, both have found Gainesville (FL) as their home. Here they practice and celebrate the Yoruba culture as artists and priests.

“Voluntary Active Euthanasia,” Juan Vivas and Amy Nguyen, Santa Fe College

Our poster explores the ethical arguments supporting and opposing voluntary active euthanasia, also known as physician-assisted suicide. We conclude the practice should be legalized as an option for terminally ill patients.

Saturday-Poster Session

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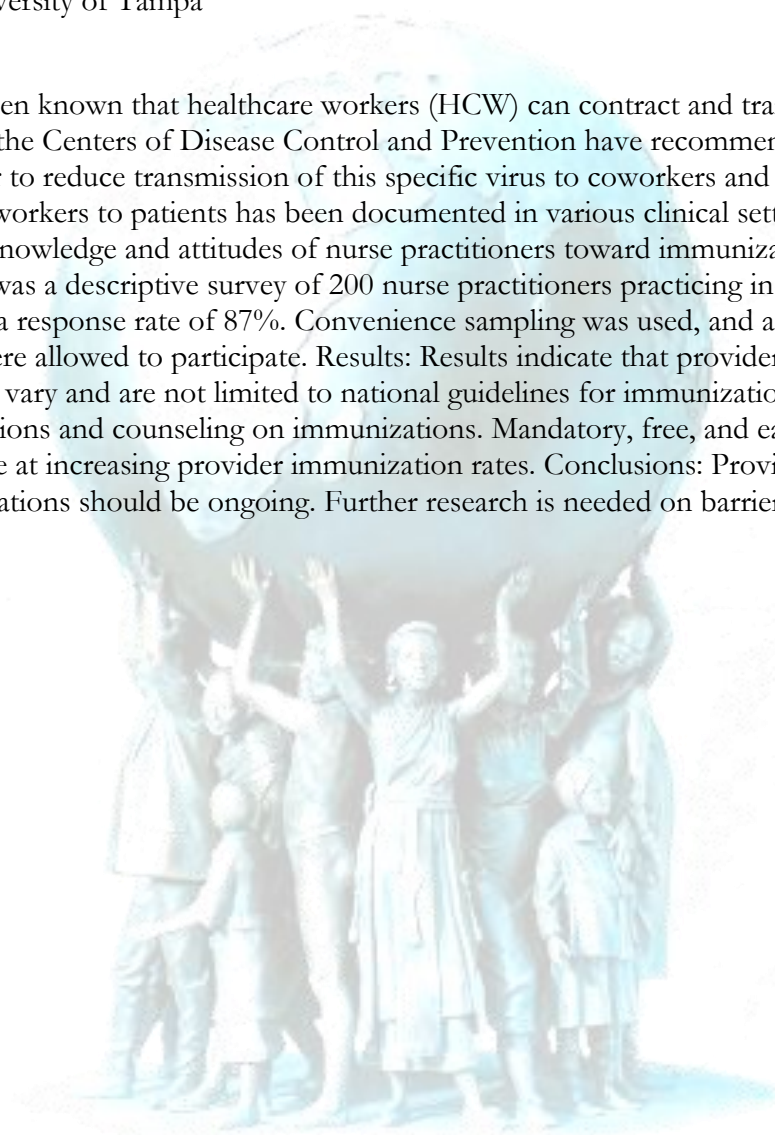
3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

“Comparison of Nurse Practitioners’ Influenza Vaccine Rates and Knowledge of Vaccine in Orlando, Florida,”
Christina Humphreys, University of Tampa

Background: It has long been known that healthcare workers (HCW) can contract and transmit infectious disease from patients. Since 1981, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention have recommended annual influenza vaccines for HCW in order to reduce transmission of this specific virus to coworkers and patients. Contraction of influenza from healthcare workers to patients has been documented in various clinical settings. (Sullivan, 2009)

Purpose: To measure the knowledge and attitudes of nurse practitioners toward immunization for influenza.

Methodology: The design was a descriptive survey of 200 nurse practitioners practicing in Florida. 174 valid responses were returned for a response rate of 87%. Convenience sampling was used, and all participants who volunteered and consented were allowed to participate. **Results:** Results indicate that provider attitudes toward recommended immunizations vary and are not limited to national guidelines for immunizations. Provider attitudes influence patient care decisions and counseling on immunizations. Mandatory, free, and easily accessed workplace immunizations are effective at increasing provider immunization rates. **Conclusions:** Provider education on changing guidelines for immunizations should be ongoing. Further research is needed on barriers to receiving recommended immunizations.



Saturday-Session 6

4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

Panel A: San Marco

Writing Contest Winners II: Junior/Senior Documented Research or Critical Thinking

“Consanguineous Marriages and Genetic Diseases; A Cultural Debate Among Emirati,” Taylor Kurkechian, University of Tampa

“Imaginary Artwork: The Beatles' Extraordinary Legacy,” Ciaran Sontag, Jacksonville University

“Terror Management Theory versus Evolutionary Theory,” Nicholas Fuller, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

“Domesticity at All Costs: *Lady Audley's Secret* and the Insurmountable Feminine Idea,” Jeanessa Gantt, University of West Florida

Panel B: Lido

Roundtable Session: “Evolving Leadership through Technology and Communication,” Lukas Termini, Kristine Zambito, Logan Cummings, Rebecca Vaclav, and Hannah Gordon, University of Tampa

This discussion will investigate the ever-changing role leadership plays in our organizations, work groups and classrooms and seek to understand how the use of technology and other novel forms of communication can enhance leadership at both the individual and group level.

Saturday-Session 6⁴⁰

4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

Panel E: Forum

“That Used to Be Us: Why We Must Shape the Future of America,” Sarah Zaki, University of Tampa

America is in trouble. The job market remains sparse, the national deficit remains plentiful, and Americans remain unsatisfied. In their text, *That Used to Be Us*, Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum address the fact that these are just some of the issues that must be corrected to rejuvenate a declining America. The authors offer a formula for shaping America’s future by re-implementing the very strategies and policies that made America great before. This presentation focuses on creating awareness about the current issues that America faces because the first step in becoming empowered to shape the future is to understand the present.

“The Comics British Invasion (1982-Present Day), Jihye Shin, Valencia College

Presenting an examination of modern comics history in Britain and America, studying the effects of the graphic novel as art and literature in Modern Age comics, i.e. how Alan Moore changed the world through ink and spandex.

Panel F: Exchange

“What’s in your water?” Nicole Cooper, Broward College-North Campus

By measuring 4 elements of water chemistry, trophic state can be determined. This information can be used to build databases to monitor pollution in an area’s water bodies. This presentation is focused on one student’s individual research and the research of the Florida Lakewatch program.

“Get Fracked!” Francisco De La Cruz, Dianet Flores, and Luana Ochoa, Miami Dade College

Hydraulic Fracturing is a process taking place throughout the United States. It involves heavy machinery and destructive equipment to extract natural gas from land. Even though hydraulic fracturing provides plentiful resources to our communities, some of its drawbacks hinder the process a questionable one. Should we continue to drill resources out of the land we have and potentially pollute our water? Are there any alternatives? Our presentation will shed insight into this hefty process and clarify the questions behind it.

Saturday-Session 6

4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

Panel G: Venice

Workshop Session: "Student-centered Teaching to Promote Critical Thinking," Elaine Sayre, University of Central Florida

Traditional teacher-centered methods of lectures and PowerPoint presentations are commonly used when teaching secondary social studies, yet these methods continually prove to be boring for most high school students and lack teaching critical thinking skills. The objective of my honors research was to explore the effectiveness of integrating student-centered methods in high school social studies classrooms as a means of promoting critical thinking skills. This hands-on workshop will demonstrate student-centered methods that can be used in any classroom to empower our students to be engaged critical thinkers.

Panel H: Executive

"The Return of the Red Wolf," Hannah Gordon, University of Tampa

This presentation offers a description of my research concerning the biology of the red wolf and the restoration efforts of the past several decades. This includes the ecological impacts that have occurred since the red wolf was declared "extinct in the wild" and what has been learned since then.

"Fire, Stem Cells, Boom and Bust," Paul Cribbs, Caryn McQueen, Jake Jordan, South Florida State College

Three students from the Fall 2012 Honors Seminar at South Florida State College, "A Sense of Place," present their research on issues in the biological sciences affecting South Central Florida. Paul Cribbs will present on the need for controlled burns to maintain scrub habitat and the problems created by "dead developments"; Caryn McQueen on advances in biotechnology which can make artificial organs from the body's own stem cells, and Jake Jordan on the recurrent boom and bust cycles in Florida's economic history.

Sunday-Session 7

42

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel A: San Marco

Roundtable Session: “Having a Face on Campus,” Shannon Payne, Briana LeTourneau, and Austen Stewart, Honors Congress, Burnett Honors College, University of Central Florida

The purpose of our round-table discussion is to share best practices in maintaining a visible and active Honors student presence on campus. Most Honors student groups have a limited recruitment pool, so many face the challenges of being visible among the greater campus student body. Our program has overcome the size disadvantage, and experienced great success in these events, largely through Honors Congress and its highly engaged members. Examples of ways in which our Honors student organization has reached out include involvement in Homecoming Week, Relay for Life, and major philanthropic activities on campus. A myriad of benefits occur when we participate in campus events. These include: an increased sense of community and pride within the Honors program, and recognition of Honors students campus-wide.

Panel B: Lido

“Swarm Epistemology – An Undergraduate Application,” Orlando Crespo, Florida International University

This project will examine the use and success of swarm epistemology as a method of research and its application as a learning tool in the undergraduate university environment. Swarm scholarship can be defined as a method in which researchers of different disciplines agree to study and analyze a specific phenomenon or topic from their perspective of their field, followed by combining their research into one body of scholarship in order to obtain a more accurate and comprehensive analysis. It is intended to analyze a topic that is too large or complex for a single researcher. To study its application, the swarm will be conducted in a new FIU Honors College course titled “The Middle Circle: Integrating Knowledge and Ideas.” This technique is different from typical group research projects in that no two researchers are examining the same aspect of the shared topic. The first phase consists of conducting their own research in isolation from one another. The second phase is the group convening and synthesizing their research into one inclusive body of work.

“Creating an Undergraduate Research Community,” Angela Bardwell-Owens and Jacob Whitney, Valencia College

Research activities across the globe help to create ideas and solutions for the common good. Students of the James M. and Dale L. Seneff Honors College at Valencia College have developed the successful East Campus Student Research Community (“SRC”). We will explore our model as a case study for developing a student research community, what responsibilities are included to make this new community, and most importantly, how other colleges can do the same. The SRC allows students, faculty, and staff from all of Valencia’s campuses to participate in research presentations and networking opportunities. Through the utilization of Valencia College’s resources along with neighboring research institutions, the SRC is poised to create innovative beginnings for the next generation of researchers in our global society.

Sunday-Session 7

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

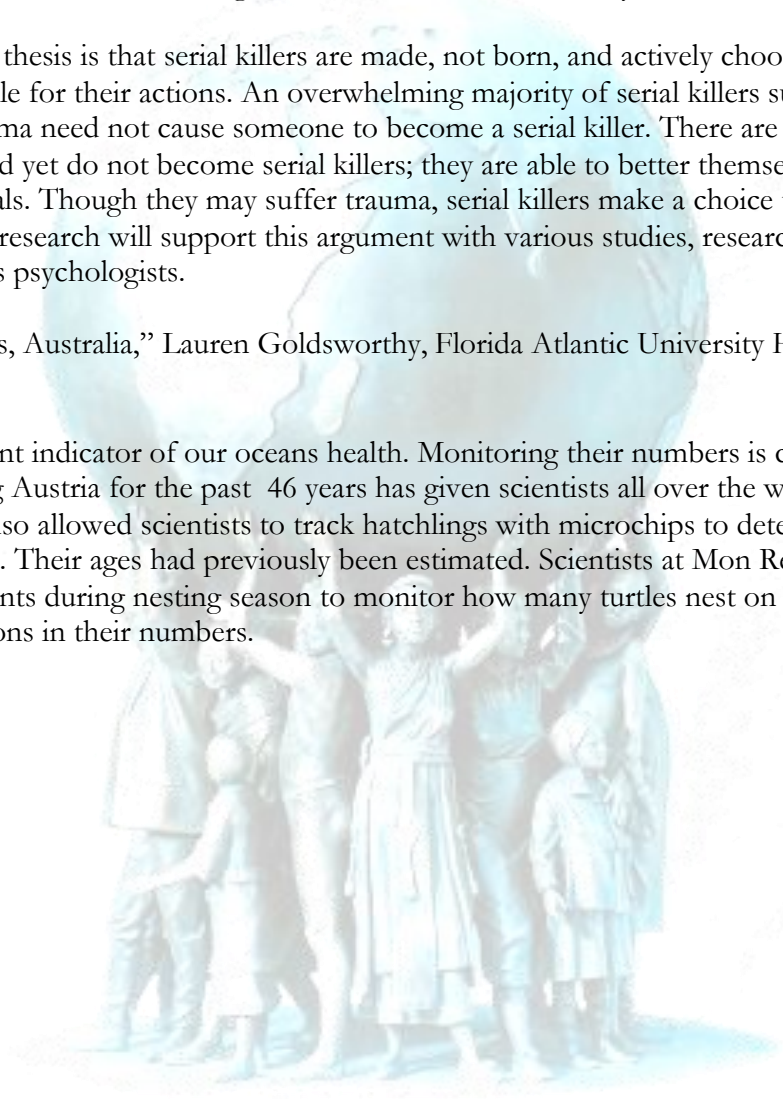
Panel C: Hospitality 310

“The Making of a Serial Killer,” Tania Rodriguez, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

My research presentation thesis is that serial killers are made, not born, and actively choose to kill, and therefore should be held accountable for their actions. An overwhelming majority of serial killers suffered childhood trauma. However, childhood trauma need not cause someone to become a serial killer. There are countless children who face childhood trauma and yet do not become serial killers; they are able to better themselves and go on to become successful individuals. Though they may suffer trauma, serial killers make a choice to kill, and know exactly what they are doing. My research will support this argument with various studies, research, and statistics conducted by the FBI and various psychologists.

“Sea turtles at Mon Repos, Australia,” Lauren Goldsworthy, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

Sea turtles are an important indicator of our oceans health. Monitoring their numbers is crucial. The work done at Mon Repos in Bundaberg Australia for the past 46 years has given scientists all over the world data on sea turtle nesting numbers. It has also allowed scientists to track hatchlings with microchips to determine a range of reproductive ages of sea turtles. Their ages had previously been estimated. Scientists at Mon Repos have also conducted nightly sea turtle nest counts during nesting season to monitor how many turtles nest on the beach. They have been able to see fluctuations in their numbers.



Sunday-Session 7

44

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel E: Forum

“Right to Special Education: Juvenile Correctional Facilities,” Shelby Santos and Eve Haydt, University of Tampa

How do we face a problem that society doesn't even see? In proposing our presentation, we would like to research the right to special education in juvenile correctional facilities. Although we know that there is a right to education, we would like to go further and see whether juveniles with learning disabilities also receive this right; with the accommodations that must be made, is it a realistic expectation to believe juvenile correctional facilities are providing this? As juveniles' rights have grown, so have the amount of youth with learning disabilities – which allows us to wonder: does the right to special education actually exist? How many young adults does it affect? And ... If this is a right, is it actually exercised within the juvenile correctional facilities?

“This is Us, This Is Now: EcoFeminism, Sustainability, and You,” Britni M. Hiatt, Florida Atlantic University Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

We are in a global crisis, and that means you. When we talk about environmentalism, we neglect implicating ourselves; our bodies, our decisions, and the imperialist consumer-capitalist system that drives our needs, desires, and allocation of resources. This presentation problematizes United States culture of consumption and exploitation and the long-term ineffectiveness of green technologies if we fail to relinquish our industrial-consumer comforts. I focus on three pillars of US cultural identity and practice demanding reform. First, consumer-capitalism is a violent system maintained by exploiting people based on race, gender, sexuality, class, creed, and bioregional location. Second, human, non-human, and plant life is not ours to experiment on and manipulate for our ‘progress’, production, profits, or pleasure. Lastly, everyone is responsible for dismantling these systems of oppression. We must foster a culture of accountability and sustainability so we may all thrive equally on our one Earth.

Sunday-Session 7

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

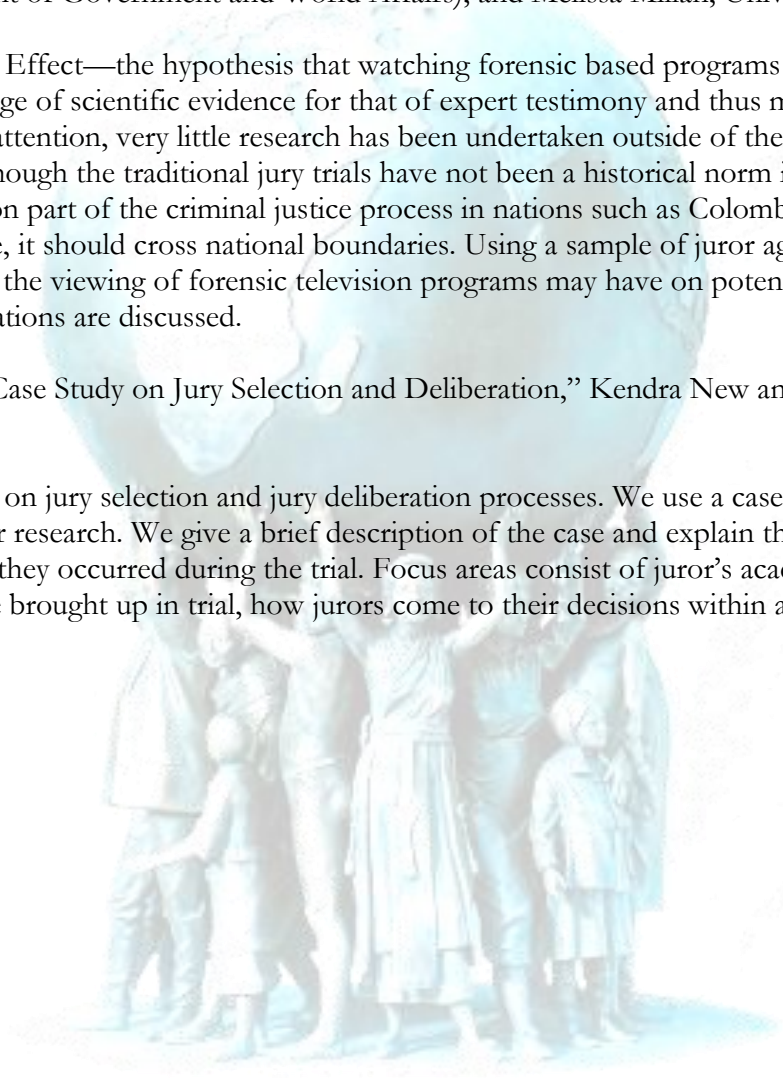
Panel F: Exchange

“CSI Colombia: Testing the Concept of the CSI Effect in Latin America,” Danny Santamaria, Dr. Anthony LaRose, PhD (Department of Government and World Affairs), and Melissa Millan, University of Tampa

While the idea of the CSI Effect—the hypothesis that watching forensic based programs influences jurors to substitute their own knowledge of scientific evidence for that of expert testimony and thus make conviction less likely—is receiving growing attention, very little research has been undertaken outside of the United States and none in Latin America. Even though the traditional jury trials have not been a historical norm in Latin America, they are becoming a more common part of the criminal justice process in nations such as Colombia and Mexico. If, the CSI hypothesis holds true, it should cross national boundaries. Using a sample of juror age adults, this paper explores what, if any, effect the viewing of forensic television programs may have on potential jurors in Colombia. Results and policy implications are discussed.

“One Angry Woman: A Case Study on Jury Selection and Deliberation,” Kendra New and Dr. Anthony LaRose, University of Tampa

Our presentation focuses on jury selection and jury deliberation processes. We use a case study, the Tampa Tow Truck Trial, as part of our research. We give a brief description of the case and explain the jury selection and jury deliberation processes as they occurred during the trial. Focus areas consist of juror’s academic background, attorney questioning, evidence brought up in trial, how jurors come to their decisions within a deliberation room, and apathetic jurors.



Sunday-Session 7

46

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Panel G: Venice

Writing Contest Winners III: Freshman through Senior Creative Poetry Writing & Freshman through Senior Fiction Writing

Creative Poetry Writing:

“Nostalgic Wardrobe,” Anadaniela Garcia, Miami Dade College-Wolfson Campus

“The Return,” Nazeer Bacchus, Valencia College

“Semele,” Misty Roper, Polk State College

“She,” Taylor Fabrega, Tallahassee Community College

Fiction Writing:

“Anchovies and Pineapples,” Jeanessa Gantt, University of West Florida

“Sugar Cookies and Milk,” Taylor Fabrega, Tallahassee Community College

“The Taste of Love,” Alexa Baiano, University of Tampa

“Violet Eyes,” Allison Nading, Broward College-South Campus

Sunday-Session 7

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM

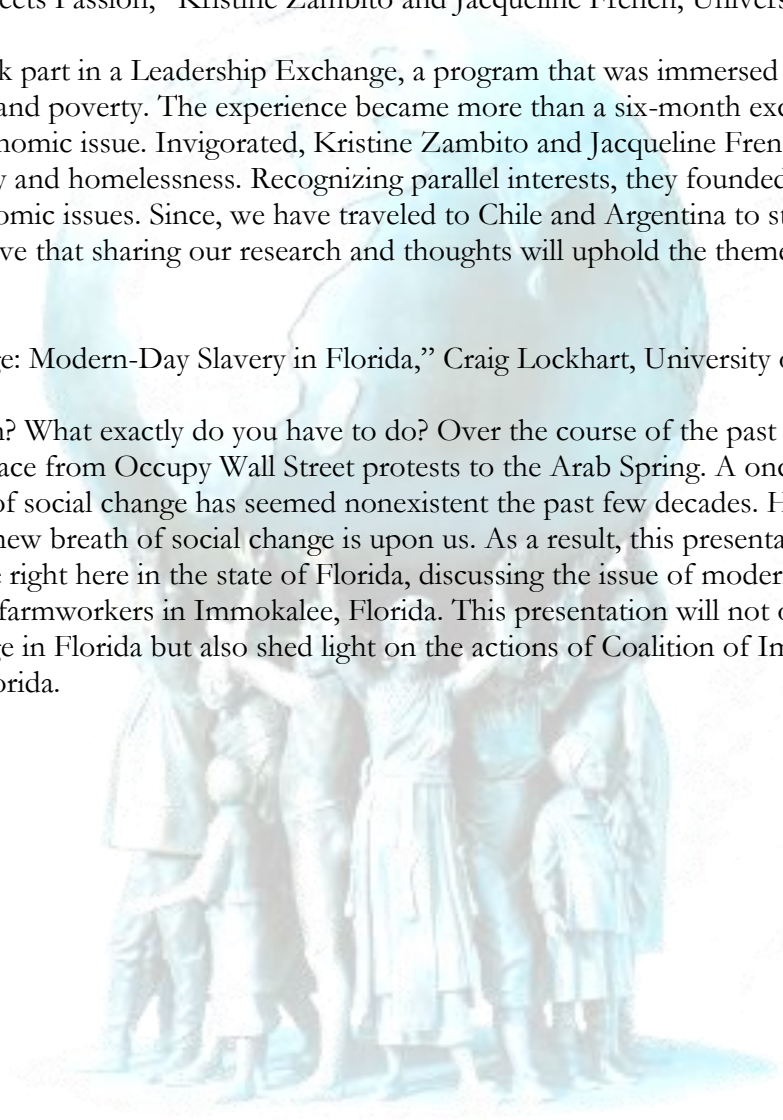
Panel H: Executive

“Leadership Exchange Meets Passion,” Kristine Zambito and Jacqueline French, University of Tampa

Two honors students took part in a Leadership Exchange, a program that was immersed in the problems and realities of homelessness and poverty. The experience became more than a six-month exchange: we solidified a passion for the socio-economic issue. Invigorated, Kristine Zambito and Jacqueline French continued to research the root causes of poverty and homelessness. Recognizing parallel interests, they founded their friendship on a drive to solve socio-economic issues. Since, we have traveled to Chile and Argentina to study poverty, and pursued related research. We believe that sharing our research and thoughts will uphold the theme of empowering honors students.

“The Art of Social Change: Modern-Day Slavery in Florida,” Craig Lockhart, University of West Florida

How does change happen? What exactly do you have to do? Over the course of the past year we have seen a wave of social change taking place from Occupy Wall Street protests to the Arab Spring. A once common sight during the 20th century, the art of social change has seemed nonexistent the past few decades. However, with the recent protests and uprisings, a new breath of social change is upon us. As a result, this presentation will focus on the social change taking place right here in the state of Florida, discussing the issue of modern-day slavery, particularly in regards to the migrant farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida. This presentation will not only focus on the awareness of social change in Florida but also shed light on the actions of Coalition of Immokalee Workers to end modern-day slavery in Florida.



Thank You!

A Special Thank You to:

Broward College Honors Coordinators

Broward College Honors Faculty Moderators

Broward College Honors Student Committee Volunteers

Dr. Tai Houser, Director, Robert "Bob" Elmore Honors Institute, Broward College

Dr. William Senior, Chair, Broward College College-wide Honors Committee

Dr. Mercedes Quiroga, Broward College Central Campus President

Dr. Roy Pocknee, Broward College Central Campus Dean of Academic Affairs

John Thornton, Broward College Central Campus Dean of Business Affairs

Jessica Figueroa & Mariah Martinez, Broward College Central Campus Honors Assistants

Karen Rodriguez, Executive Assistant to the Central Campus Dean of Academic Affairs

Monika Chowdhury, Executive Assistant, Robert "Bob" Elmore Honors Institute, Broward College

*Dr. Lulrick Balzora, Phillipa Vassell, & Magyury Gomez, Broward College
Central Campus Social Sciences Department*

*George Masforroll, Associate Vice President, Auxiliary Services, Broward College &
Debbie Rosier, Assistant Director, Central Campus Bookstore, Broward College*

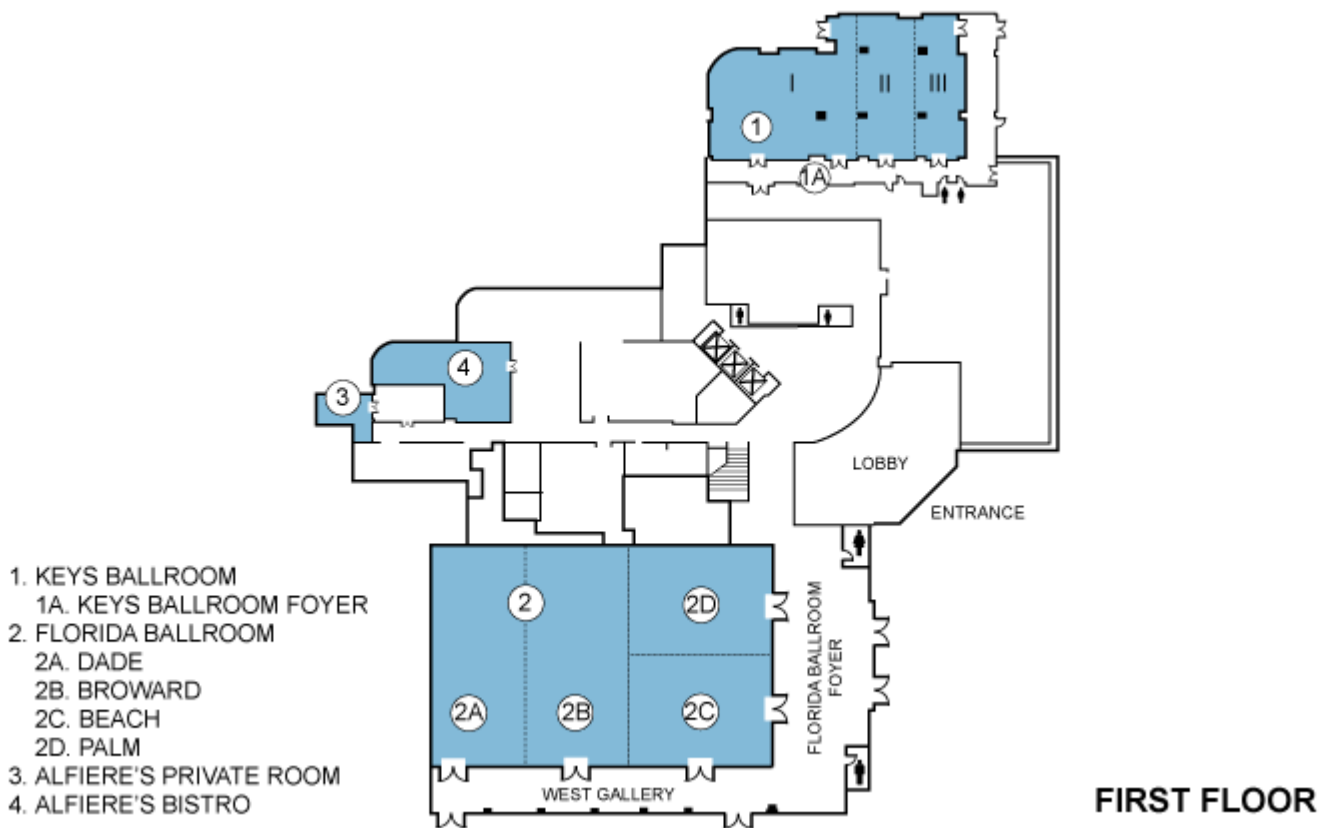
James Rowland, FCHC Webmaster

Tabsin Nabid, Doug Ryan Consulting

*Thank
You*

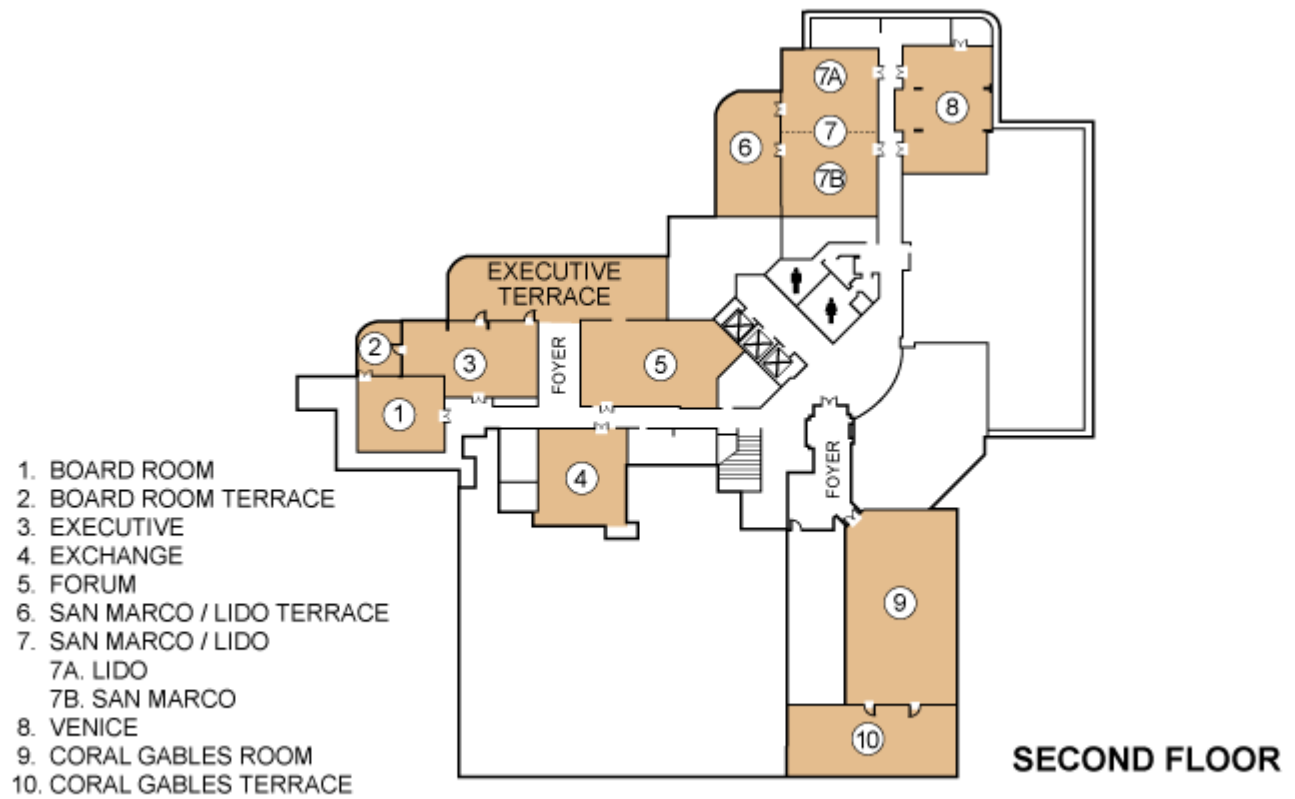
Hotel Map

First Floor



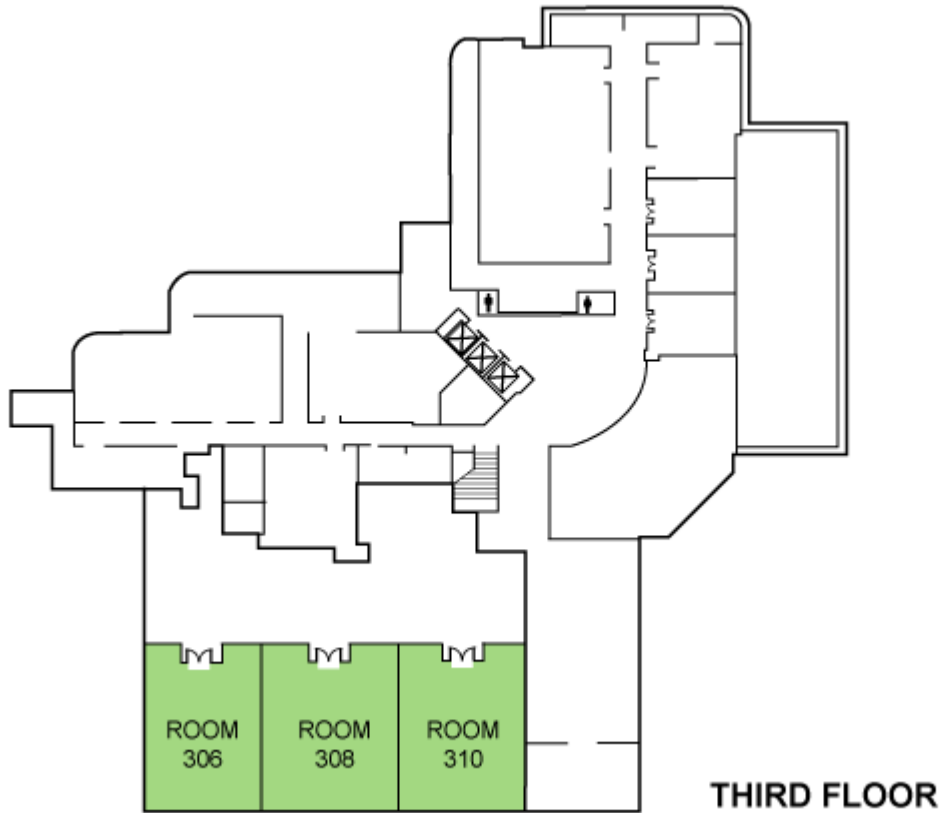
Hotel Map

Second Floor



Hotel Map

Third Floor



Conference Host:



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