

FCHC 2007 ~ Conference Schedule

Friday, February 23rd

Session One

1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Poverty & Child Labor

~ **Ballroom No. 4**

Tabeel Nisbeth ~ Florida Memorial University

The reason for the existence of child labor is in response to individuals who find intolerable circumstances. Poverty and child labor are mutually reinforcing: because their parents are poor, children must work and not attend school and then grow up poor. This session will focus on some special issues surrounding child labor and review targeted subsidies for school to help reduce child labor.

Global Warming and It's Alleviation through Hybrid Buses in Miami-Dade

~ **Ballroom No. 3**

Michael Riobueno, Hilda Fouladi, Samantha Banal, Melissa Villar ~ Florida International University

Global Warming is a significant environmental problem. Automobiles are one of the most prevalent pollutants. In Miami, decrepit public transit leaves no chances for environmentally-conscious travel. Buses are frequently late and constantly idle, emitting more Co2 than necessary causing global warning. Public transportation is very beneficial to those without cars. Miami-Dade currently has only 2 hybrid buses in its Metrobus fleet, and the phase in of new ones will last until 2012. With improvements in public transit, Miami residents will have reason to ride buses and ultimately protect the environment. Speedy implementation of more hybrid buses is integral.

Spirituals and Resistance

~ **Room GC 278A**

Diego Moreno ~ Florida Memorial University

Slaves endured the hardships of bondage. To alleviate their pain, they sang spirituals, which contained words of hope and promises of a better life. Yes, they were of religious nature but they served as a vehicle for the slaves to protest and advance the cause of abolition. This presentation will crack the "slave code" and reveal one of their higher purposes.

Today's Medical Malpractice Insurance Crisis

~ **Room GC 278B**

Kimberley Lee, Nadia Lima, Gema Pino, Dayanna Pirez ~ Florida International University

Medical malpractice insurance covers expenses accrued by physicians and hospitals relating to medical malpractice claims. These policies provide coverage for payment to claimants and legal expenses. The purpose of the study is to analyze factors contributing to increased medical malpractice insurance rates as well as assessing ways to lower these rates by drawing on government and other reports. Inflated medical malpractice insurance rates decrease the quality of healthcare. This paper indicates that a significant reduction in medical malpractice insurance rates would increase the quality of healthcare available to patients. Medical malpractice insurance rates have been on the rise since 2000. This rise was caused by the growing size of claims filed by consumers. Research has found that the only way to bring down insurance rates is to limit people's ability to file suit.

Café con Compensation

Travis Murphy ~ Florida International University

~ ***Ballroom No. 1***

First discovered by a goat herder in the Ethiopian highlands, coffee has become one of the strongest cross-cultural ties. Many nations have risen to their zenith under the influence of the world's most popular beverage but on the backs of oft exploited laborers. Now grown on five continents, coffee production is more lucrative than ever but the condition of the workers has improved little. Many steps have been taken towards fair worker compensation in the coffee industry but there is still a long way to go. This presentation focuses on the progress of the labor force in the coffee trade.

Global Engagements Anticipate World Class Scholars and Citizens

Michael Lenaghan, Cindy Borja, Liz Ortega, Sebastian Velasquez, Glenn Yang ~ Miami-Dade College

~ ***Ballroom No. 2***

Academic, experiential, simulation and service learning connect the content, applications and implications in multiple disciplines to multiple global professions and career paths when Miami Dade College Honors College scholars rigorously invest six months to represent and advance the priorities of an assigned country within the National Model United Nations held annually in New York City. Research, position paper and resolution writing, speaking, negotiating and mini-sustainable development service learning (Service For Peace) projects combine to help scholars to anticipate the global problems and promises within majors.

Session Two**2:00 – 2:40 p.m.*****Population Growth: The Impacts of Population in the Environment***

Felipe Matos & Camilla Ingegneri ~ Miami-Dade College

~ ***Ballroom No. 3***

Do you know the effects of transmigration in the environment? Find out about the history of the occupancy of the Brazilian Amazon forest and how progress has destroyed its precious resources. Moreover, you will learn about the effects of AIDS in Africa and the reasons for such rapid spreading. To conclude, you will learn different Voluntary National Strategies to overcome the problem of over population. Hence, this presentation will change your attitude about population control and it will also display ways for governments to peacefully control its population growth.

Good Decisions Now Means a Better Tomorrow

Shaunte Johnson ~ Florida A&M University

~ ***Ballroom No. 2***

As college students, being bombarded by credit card companies seem as if it just comes with the territory. As students we should be able to make the distinction between good credit, bad credit, and no credit. Having credit cards is not a bad thing, having too many and not knowing what to do with them is what can get you into trouble. Establishing a good credit report is vital for future purchases such as homes, cars, and future loans. That is why this presentation will focus on how to establish good credit now.

Global Feminism: The Importance of Postcolonial Theorization

~ Ballroom No. 4

Lauren Charlton, Samantha Montgomery, Tara Sycz ~ Florida Atlantic University

Although Feminist movement is often understood to be a largely Western development, feminism has evolved in various forms throughout the world. Rather than privilege a single definition of feminism, we wish to highlight the works of non-Western feminist as highly sophisticated and culturally-specific forms of resistance. By acknowledging the contributions of non-Western feminist, our embrace of multiplicity in both theories and practices of feminism worldwide will significantly advance our understanding of issues of women's rights, freedom, and social justice.

Identifying Instances of Chaos Theory in the Humanities

~ Room GC 278A

Alex Stehr ~ Santa Fe Community College

The proposed paper identifies instances in the humanities that represent enactments of chaos theory. The examples presented in the paper are largely drawn from the theater (e.g., /Marat Sade/ and /Hamlet/), as well as general humanistic trends actually exhibited in the contemporary era (i.e. the war in Iraq and the social consensus about it in America). I conclude with a consideration of Chaos Theory and its implications for mankind's existence as a whole.

Iran's Impact on the Middle East

~ Ballroom No. 1

Talib Pirmohamed ~ Seminole Community College

The Middle East is clearly one of the most volatile regions of the world, primarily due to the recent upsurge of Islamic extremism. The government of Iran plays a huge role in extremism in the Middle East today, oppressing secularists and secularism, funding terrorist groups and embarking on a dangerous nuclear program. The Iranian theocracy that was established after the Iranian revolution in 1969 has replaced secularism with radicalism within the government and throughout the nation. The Iranian regime's radical stances must be confronted in order to ensure peace and stability not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world.

International Baccalaureate Reading Program

~ Room GC 278B

Alejandra Maururi, Adriana Hernandez, Patricia Brooks, Glenn Goodwin ~ Florida International University

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Reading Program was devised so Gamma Epsilon Phi (GEP) members could mentor and read to IB students from Frank C. Martin elementary school. This program provides the IB students with the knowledge they will need for future endeavors. The IB students will have the privilege of being read to in various languages in order to create a foundation of different cultural perspectives. This program addresses child literacy and allows GEP members to further embrace concepts in leadership and civic responsibility. The ultimate goal of the program is to enlighten the future leaders of tomorrow.

Session Three

2:50 – 3:30 p.m.

Einstein's Dreams as Background for Personal Reflections on Time

~ Ballroom No. 1

Alison Unger, Melanie Fernandez, Justin Cajero, Lindsey Jackson ~ Florida International University

In physicist Alan Lightman's beguiling novel, *Einstein's Dreams*, he imaginatively recreates time in a series of provocative chapters that explore time's illusive nature. Charmed, and captivated, by Lightman's clever and poetic ruminations on human folly and desire, our panel applies various time worlds of the novel to our own lives. Living in the moment, time as a certainty, never wasting time and time as memory are several of the elements of time we will explore. The novel may be said to suggest that we do not really know the essence of time, yet we are all caught in time's mechanisms.

Blaxploitation: Black Director's Portrayal of African Americans in Film

~ Room GC 278B

Danielle Bradford ~ Florida Memorial University

Entertainment is a very big industry in society today, and black directors are making African Americans the laughing stock of Hollywood. Why should we continue to support and value some of today's black directors when a number of their films exploit us and imply the question of our purpose and existence?

Muslims and Terrorism

~ Room GC 278A

Krysteina Beck & Regina Beck ~ Florida Memorial University

This presentation will focus on terrorism in the United States. The life of a Muslim and the process of how some Muslims practice terrorism will be examined. Are all Muslims the same? Are their lifestyles all the same?

Manatee Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Parker Manatee Aquarium

~ Ballroom No. 2

Amanda Stansbury, Marc Silpa ~ New College of Florida

Students at New College of Florida currently have the unique opportunity of assisting in research with manatees at Mote Marine Laboratory and Parker Manatee Aquarium. With guidance from Dr. Gordon Bauer of New College and Mote researchers under the direction of Joe Gaspard, students are helping investigate manatee sensory processes including hearing, touch, and taste. This presentation will introduce manatees as a species, but will focus on student participation in the manatee research, which includes the student training program, aiding in data collection for ongoing research, and assisting in manatee training. Independent student projects with the manatees will be discussed.

Mediterranean Objects from The Wolfsonian-FIU: A Research and Publishing Project

~ Ballroom No. 3

Gerardo Gomez, Montserrat De Para, Elie Ahto ~ Florida International University

Through The Honors College course titled *Aesthetics, Values & Authority in the Mediterranean*, students completed extensive research projects using objects from the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum. The Wolfsonian was founded in 1986 to exhibit, document and preserve an assemblage of 100,000 objects including furniture and other decorative arts, paintings, books, prints and ephemera. The focus of interpretation is the critically important role of design at the height of the industrial age in the context of social, political and technological issues. Objects are stored in a 1927 Mediterranean Revival building in Miami Beach. These projects are then combined into a publication to be included into collections of the major libraries around the state. Proceeds from the sale of the publication go towards Honors College scholarships.

Petroleum: What It is and How It Impacts the Environment

Grace Castro ~ Miami-Dade College

~ Ballroom No. 4

Discover the facts on petroleum and how it affects our environment. Find out about how we get our different uses for oil and learn about the advantages and disadvantages of its function. In this presentation, you will be able to better determine whether or not the benefits outweigh the cost of using this fossil fuel. Predictions concerning oil peaks are being made once again and this presentation will explain the current perspectives on the anticipated oil crisis. As you become educated about this nonrenewable resource, you will be more capable of comparing the beneficial aspects of petroleum with the potential danger it poses to the planet.

Session Four

3:40 – 4:20 p.m.

What the Antarctic has to teach us about the environment in Florida

Daniel Hauck ~ New College of Florida

~ Ballroom No.1

One New College student used his 2006 January Independent Study Period to take a 10-day excursion to Antarctica aboard the research vessel Akademik Ioffe. While there he attended classes on board, hiked glaciers, visited research stations, and observed whales, penguins, and other wildlife. He will share these experiences through a PowerPoint presentation, and discuss how they changed his world view and inspired the focus of his future senior thesis research -- the development of new communities that are both environmentally and socially sustainable.

Modernization versus Development

Adam Andrews ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Room GC 278A

The theory of development, as it applies to nation states, has been inadequate in helping developing nations in their struggle to achieve real goals. In fact, today's development is more modernization and is not development in the true sense of the word. This presentation seeks to differentiate between the two; the theory and the reality.

Self Mutilation

Taiwo Ademola & Gareece Roberts ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Room GC 278B

According to the encyclopedia, self-harm or self-injury is deliberate injury inflicted by a person upon his own body. This definition is a broad term for a complex group of behaviors resulting in destruction of one's own tissue. This session will examine the meaning and causes of self-mutilation.

Planning a Multicultural Fair

Jihan Ruano, Vianka Santana ~ Seminole Community College

~ Ballroom No. 2

In the Fall of 2006, Seminole Community College (SCC) hosted a Multicultural Fair. Two SCC Honors students helped organize the fair. By encouraging students of diverse heritages to act as representatives of their culture in various ways, the event fostered an appreciation of different cultures within our campus community, embodying the theme of an International Celebration. Our PowerPoint presentation describes the history and planning of the event and demonstrates the impact of the event on our campus. Handouts and visual aids are part of our presentation, which will show you how to implement a similar event on your campus.

Are Boundaries to Freedom of Speech Ethical-Or Are they Just Plain Unconstitutional? ~ ***Ballroom No. 3***

A. Lopez, Y. Cordova, G. Puechavy ~ Florida International University

The first amendment protects the freedom, both oral and written, to express oneself. In wartime, however, freedom of speech must be monitored for the safety of the public. Sedition, bribery, slander, obscenity, and perjury are never allowed. Beside these explicit legal margins, are there boundaries to our freedom of speech? Which begs the question: which are really more unethical-bruised feelings due to hateful words or infringements on our prized civil liberties? Topics to be investigated are the *Vamos A Cuba* book banning scandal, Holocaust denouncing, and all around racist and prejudice speech and its repercussions.

High School to College

Sarah Martin ~ University of Florida

~ ***Ballroom No. 4***

The transition from high school to college can be an overwhelming experience for honors students. Specializing in recruitment and offering one-on-one interaction at a large university, the student-run Honors Ambassadors (HA) organization eases this transition. HA provides a friendly and valuable resource for both prospective and current honors students.

The John V. Lombardi Scholar Program

Sarah Martin ~ University of Florida

~ ***Ballroom No. 4***

Valedictorians. Gifted musicians. Science Fair winners. By sending its recipients across the globe before stepping foot on campus as undergraduates, the John V. Lombardi Scholar Program attracts students of the highest caliber to the UF Honors Program. This session focuses on this unique scholarship and how a similar program can be implemented.

Saturday, February 24th

Session Five

8:30am – 9:10 am

Egypt in the Cold War: Roots, Contexts, and Legacies

Preston Coleman ~ University of Tampa

~ Room GC275A

This presentation is based on a paper presented in a Government and World Affairs Honors class called the Cold War: Roots, Contexts, and Legacies. The subject of this paper was Egypt during the Cold War. The paper examines the nation of Egypt and at the major historical figures involved in its Cold War role and how its role played out in the global Cold War picture.

Creativity: The Depth of Human Imagination

Dasney Joseph ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Ballroom No. 1

This session will focus on personal exploration of the arts as medium of self-transformation, how creativity and ingenuity document our individual human experience, and the importance of Liberal Arts to the preservation of multiculturalism.

The Metabolism of Naked Mole Rats Heterocephalus

Kelly Long ~ Jacksonville University

~ Ballroom No. 2

Naked mole rats, *Heterocephalus glaber*, are ectothermic mammals therefore an increase in temperature should increase their metabolic rate and therefore oxygen consumption. To test this hypothesis, respiration rate was measured at 28°C, 30°C, and 34°C with a modified Scholander respirometer that was read over a period of three hours after an initial three hour adjustment period. Carbon dioxide was removed from the system via a KOH solution to ensure pressure change was caused by a drop in the pressure of oxygen due to consumption. The naked mole rats do show an increased respiration rate at increased temperatures, as expected.

Remaking a World:

Trauma and Recovery Among Argentina's Relatives of the Disappeared

Timothy Murray ~ New College of Florida

~ Room GC 275B

Based upon interviews conducted thirty years after Argentina's last military dictatorship, this presentation is an ethnographic interpretation of political violence, State terror, cultural trauma and recovery. The project centers on stories of family members of Argentina's infamous 'disappeared,' and how Argentines are reconstituting their personal and social worlds in the face of such loss--an issue of importance not only in Argentina, but also in other countries where governments commit or permit similar acts of violence on their citizens.

Does Religion Belong in School?~ ***Ballroom No. 4***

Ivan Vega, Sergio Garrido, Mario Consuegra, Ahad Bhimla ~ Florida International University

Religion in public institutions has long been a controversy. This work presents the effects of trying to take religion out of public schools and the constant dispute between the states, schools, and public over defending the right to freedom of religion. Religious demographics, Supreme Court decisions, and the public belief have been the bases of this study. The United States, a nation founded upon religious freedom, has been abating religious beliefs in the school systems. Religion should not be completely taken out of public schools; a time for the perception of individual beliefs should be created.

A Minimum Covering with Fish (From Department of Mathematics)~ ***Ballroom No. 3***

Megan Logue ~ Jacksonville University

A fish is a graph consisting of a four cycle and a three cycle joined at a single vertex. A fish system of order n is the pair (S, F) where F is a collection of edge disjoint fish that partition the edge set of the complete graph K_n with vertex set S . The spectrum for fish systems is known to be $n \equiv 1$ or $7 \pmod{14}$. The question then arises, "For $n \equiv 1$ or $7 \pmod{14}$, how close can we come to constructing a fish system?" We will define close in terms of a minimum covering with fish. A minimum covering with fish of order n is the pair (S, F) where F is a minimum collection of fish from the complete graph K_n , with vertex set S , with the property that each edge of K_n belongs to at least one fish in F . (For the purposes of this presentation, it will be assumed that no edge of K_n will belong to more than two fish.) For each $n \equiv 1$ or $7 \pmod{14}$, we will determine the minimum number of fish in a minimum covering with fish of order n as well as constructions used to create them. We will also distinguish between minimum coverings of the same order by the collection of edges that are used in more than one fish in " F ".

Session Six**9:20am – 10:00am*****Nursing: Past, Present, Future***~ ***Room 275A***

Mayra Cini ~ Florida Memorial University

Nursing is a profession focused on assisting individuals, families, and communities in attaining, re-attaining, and maintaining optimal health and functioning. In the past, nurses were mainly nuns and military nurses. Nowadays, there are over 200 specialties within nursing in the United States. In the future, nursing may dominate other health professions and might even make doctors obsolete.

Collaboration for Student Transfer Success~ ***Room 275B***

Lauren Grinstead, Elizabeth Barrero, Justine Naylor ~ Hillsborough Community College

Each fall, the students of the Honors Institute complete an educational trip to one of our state universities. These overnight excursions provide the HCC students with the opportunity to hear presentations from the different deans or directors of the colleges, to interact with Honors students, and to experience the universities cultural life. The host university has the opportunity to showcase its various programs and activities. The organizer will share nuts and bolts of successful tours, and students will give their perspectives of the experience.

Learning Outcomes Assessment Through Portfolios

~ Ballroom No. 1

Annie Lorenzana, Megan Logue, Truth Oladapo, T.J. Urbanek, Martin Persson,
Aaron Joshua, Amelia Clay, and Kelly Long ~ Jacksonville University

Assessment involves so much more than instructors evaluating students for grades. Assessing the degree to which a student has mastered established learning outcomes is critical. Even more important is growth in the students' ability to assess how well they have accomplished learning outcomes established by the instructor and, far more importantly, by themselves. These sets of learning outcomes may differ, but a certain number should be agreed upon by both parties. In this way, the instructor can help students learn to identify and assess learning objectives. In the Jacksonville University Honors Program, the mechanism for learning techniques to assess learning outcomes is the Personal and Professional Development Portfolio.

Can We Ever Be Safe Again?

~ Ballroom No. 2

Francesca Yabraian ~ University of Tampa

Safeguarding, deactivating, and destroying the world's most poorly secured nuclear, chemical, and biological arsenals should be America's number one national security priority in the age of terrorism. In my lecture, I will be discussing how in 1991, Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), presently chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, authored the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative threat reduction Act (CTR), a program under which the United States has paid for the securing of all vulnerable nuclear, chemical, and biological arsenals in the former Soviet Union, and the deactivation of that nation's oldest weapons of mass destruction. In addition I will talk about why it is important to increase the funding for the CTR instead of cutting the funding for the CTR, and how CTR is an important part of fighting the War on Terror. I will also be showing a film that I made Can We Ever Be Safe Again? That discusses how actions by the governments and citizens must be taken to safeguard America's homeland in the age of Global Terrorism.

A Celebration of International Progression in the Field of Science

~ Ballroom No. 3

Makyba Charles and Ayana Mathews ~ Florida A&M University

Internationally there have been great advancements in the field of science. Many things on which we rely would not exist if it honor qualities such as discipline, perseverance, and scholastic excellence were not put into practice. This presentation will take a trip to the seven continents to explore the recent activities of great minds. We will venture into Africa to look at rainforest studies, Antarctica; global warming, Asia; video games, Australia; the chemical barcode, Europe; osteosarcoma studies, North America; stem cell research and finally South America ethanol as fuel in hybrid cars.

The Role of Ethics in the Conduction of Medicine and Scientific Research

~ Ballroom No. 4

Nisaha Nagarsheth, Brendon Parsons, Don Pham ~ Florida Atlantic University

Often times the moral objections set forth against science and medicine are singly dimensional in nature. Though they hold some validity, they fail to acknowledge the complexity of living and the equality of life. We will explore the purpose of ethics in relation to science and medicine by examining case studies of morally controversial situations, focusing on such issues as the permissibility of abortion, validity of medical autonomy and proxy, embryonic stem-cell research, and informed consent. As a result, we hope to bring forth an interdisciplinary outlook on the balance of progress and principle.

Session Seven

10:10am – 10:50am

Poster Session occurs at this time (participants listed at the end of this document)

Everglades National Park: An International Destination

~ Ballroom No. 1

Kaitlyn Fuller, Jonathan Cameron, Tanya Karina Donadel, and Wai Tsang ~ Florida International University

As an internationally known travel destination, the Everglades has a lot to offer. This panel explores the hidden attractions and lessons of the Everglades, examines how to interpret the natural environment with a well designed and ecologically-friendly visitor center, and also looks at how tourism and business (tourism-related or not) can negatively impact, or be of positive benefit to the Everglades. If a little is good, more is not always better! How do we NOT love the Everglades to death, and yet use them for public enjoyment and education?

Women's Leadership Roles in the Business World

~ Ballroom No. 4

Adela Poudratchi, Andrea Narino ~ Florida International University

Traditional societal views toward women have historically excluded them from the field of business. However, due to a variety of socioeconomic factors, this view has been gradually diminishing, as more women have entered the workforce in record numbers and are now reaching high leadership positions within corporations. This project will examine the increasing importance of women in leadership roles in the international business arena, and with a particular focus on businesses operating in Miami.

Where have all the flowers gone?: Threats to a World Heritage Site

~ Ballroom No. 2

Olga Santiago, Kristin Barnes, Rossana Gomez, Junjie Hu ~ Florida International University

This presentation by US and international students focuses on several threats to the Everglades National Park, a World Heritage Site. These threats range from the voracious Burmese pythons to the thirsty and fire-prone invasive melaleuca tree. These non-native species directly impact native plants and animals of the everglades, including the threatened wood stork, an important Indicator Species. Public misperceptions also threaten support for the Everglades, and one student will focus on the often overlooked but numerous and diverse flowers of the Everglades, helping to show that it is so much more than "just a river of grass"!

New Era, New College:

~ Room 275A

Community Building and the Increasing Importance of a Liberal Arts Education

Elsie Morales, Sonia Wu, Anita Tambay ~ New College of Florida

Liberal arts education is sometimes criticized as impractical--a luxury for the aristocrats of an earlier age, but not useful for those who must work in an ever-changing modern world. This presentation will demonstrate how Florida's public liberal arts honors college provides students with opportunities to develop leadership, communication, and analytical skills necessary for career success. Two New College students will discuss the importance of service learning in a post-9/11 era, how they have incorporated work/volunteer experience into their academic lives through their affiliation with the Hispanic/Latino Coalition, and their consequent decision to pursue family medicine in underserved communities.

Darwinism: The Effects of Society on Man

Derek Shepard ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Ballroom No. 3

This presentation will focus on the overall concept of Darwinism. It will address how man's society plays a dominant role in man's view of life. This presentation will seek to understand why the male gender has always been considered the dominant gender.

True Facts: The Life of Homosexuals

Demetrius Snell, Keila Mendoza ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Room 275B

Morals, principles, and beliefs are serious to each individual; violation of any can cause controversy. A homosexual's way of living is considered immoral and sinful by many. Although many views about homosexuals are changing, there are many individuals who reject homosexual's lifestyles, even to the point of them marrying and adopting.

Session Eight

11:00am – 11:40am

Principles of Macroeconomics Honors Seminar

Ana Corrales, Alexis Morfa, Ailed Gonzalez ~ Miami-Dade College

~ Ballroom No. 1

Students from Principles of Macroeconomics Honors Seminar share their lessons learned from Case Study comparing the Chinese and U.S. economies. Should we learn Chinese? Will we lose our jobs to China? Why is everything labeled "Made in China"? Find out how students answered these and other thought-provoking questions.

Discrimination: Are You Sure You Are in the Right Country?

Michelle Mota ~ Florida Memorial University

~ Room 275A

It seems that everyone wants to be recognized by their background. However, these cultural/racial backgrounds seem to be so similar that they are indistinguishable. This session will explore issues of racial and cultural identity and how individuals need to choose their own identity.

Turkey and the European Union

Adam Labonte ~ University of Tampa

~ Ballroom No. 2

In October 2005, the European Union began talks with Turkey on membership into the organization. Turkey is a predominately Muslim developing nation that is located in both Europe and Asia Minor. This presentation will discuss the background of Turkey's relationship with the European Union, what actions Turkey must take in order to achieve the Copenhagen Criteria for membership, the current status of talks, and the debate among current European Union members regarding Turkey's joining the European Union. This research has been completed under an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship awarded from the University of Tampa for 2006-2007.

Policy is Greener on the Other Side:

~ Ballroom No. 3

Why the United States is Behind in Implementing Solutions to Environmental Issues

Sarah Fannin, Anna Leech, Natalie Stetson, Nathan Von Zee ~ Florida Atlantic University

Recently, environmental issues have caught the attention of countries around the world. The United States is on the forefront of technology, science, and popular culture, but we lag in the worldwide effort to combat environmental problems. We have the means for solving many environmental issues, so why are we behind on implementing environmental policy while other countries are well on their way to creating a sustainable way of life? What needs to happen to break the barriers that are keeping the U.S. from saving the environment?

Giving the Honors Seminar Theme Life

~ Room 275B

Jordan Alva, Thomas Garvey ~ Santa Fe Community College

From reading John Stuart Mill's essay "On Liberty" to discussing the impact of academic domain on creativity to developing a survey addressing faculty perceptions of honors, honors seminar students will discuss how the honors seminar integrated the theme of liberty in their readings, discussions, and conference preparation.

Social Injustice: Themes in Fiction of Different Cultures and Eras

~ Ballroom No. 4

Grace Altamirano, Yolanne Almanzar, Nillybeth Zorilla ~ Florida International University

We read fiction, in all its myriad forms and themes, for entertainment and enlightenment. This panel presents three very different novels to read patterns of social injustice. Ostensibly, a children's book, *Harry Potter*, by J.K.Rowling may be read as a study in class and gender inequity. *In Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier, a fictional account of the artist Vermeer's household, the roots of modern sexual abuse in 17th century Holland are revealed. Dai Sijie's novel, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, set in the Mao era, exposes social deviance as an outcome of repressive regimes.

Session Nine

11:50am – 12:30am

Pros and Cons of Stem Cell Research

~ Ballroom No.1

Genelle Howell ~ Florida Memorial University

In Washington, as well as the rest of the wider national community, or even the global community, the heated stem-cell debate has caused immense controversy and is responsible for dividing the world into two types: "Pro-Lifers" and stem cell advocates. This discussion will articulate the issues surrounding stem cell research in a balanced and impartial manner.

Biological Terrorism

~ Ballroom No. 2

Jay Young ~ Seminole Community College

My presentation includes a discussion of the history and biology of Variola virus (the causative agent of smallpox) and Bacillus anthracis (the causative agent in anthrax) in the context of bioterrorism. Graphic pictorial images demonstrate the horrifying effects of biological agents on humans and animals. Transmission and potential defense mechanisms are considered. Although their effects are horrifying, biological agents of terror are often difficult to use and knowledge and international cooperation can represent powerful weapons against them.

Multiple Intelligences: Strategies Offer Multiple Pathways to Success

~ Ballroom No. 3

Michael Lenaghan, Maria Garavitos, Constaza Lombardi, Osvaldo Perez-Vasquez, Jose Ruiz ~
Miami-Dade College

Presuming that each scholar has at least NINE (not just the usual two intelligences attributed to IQ Tests) measurable intelligences, encourages, equips and empowers Honors College members to assure aspirations and exceed expectations as each negotiates specific courses disciplines, professions and careers. Applying Howard Gardner's "multiple intelligences" philosophy and theories permits each scholar multiple pathways to achieve the highest mastery and grade levels each is willing to rigorously pursue. Opening multiple avenues to advancement, the method opens multiple demonstration, evaluation and promotion challenges.

Comedy and Politics

~ Ballroom No. 4

Loretta Adoghe, Nicole Cabrera, Bruno Giambruno ~ Miami-Dade College

Comedy and Politics will show how our culture is influenced by Television shows and will discuss to what extent teenagers and college students use them to learn about their political environment. The main shows to be discussed include a parody of comedic news shows such as the Daily Show with John Stewart and The Colbert Report. They will be used to depict our generation and its apathy toward the news and politics, choosing television shows such as the Daily Show to get their information over actual news programs. It will make fun of common stereotypes, modern politics, current and international events. The presentation in itself is an elaborate skit which assumes the setting of a newsroom and included "guests" and "speakers" played by us, the students.

Writing Center Strategies for Guiding Conversations About Writing

~ Room 275A

Salome Blignaut ~ New College of Florida

Most students, and writers of all ages, resist the idea that writing can or should be a collaborative process. As a Student Writing Assistant at New College's Writing Resource Center, Salome Blignaut has discovered that talking about writing is a powerful educational tool. Success at the WRC stems from the philosophy that writing should develop a student's grasp of the material. Blignaut will outline techniques they use to get students talking about their writing, which in turn allows them to have stimulating conversations about any and all writing projects, from a student's first two-page paper to the senior thesis.

Scientific Process as a Form of Group Collaboration

~ Room 275B

Raul Briceno ~ New College of Florida

New College senior thesis student Raul Briceno is studying symmetries in particle physics, in close collaboration with a student partner and a faculty member. He has also organized two large community art events, providing a venue for creative and constructive expression, and bringing together the campus and larger community. In both scientific research and in community development programming, he has come to evaluate his work in terms of the process, and to view himself as a member of a greater community. His presentation will demonstrate how active engagement in diverse interests can bring energy and creativity to all endeavors.

Income, Sex, and Happiness

Armando Gali ~ Florida International University

A presentation on the link between income, amount of sexual activity and reported happiness. It is not an original idea but rather a continuation of a study researched on earlier in the semester.

Lowering America's Drinking Age

David Saperstein, Shaun Harkin, Patrizia Salani ~ Florida International University

The drinking age varies between countries, law proves to be ineffective and has no real requirement of the U.S. other means are available to inform the adolescent public about issues and risks that accompany drinking, such as role modeling and educational programs. The 21 yrs and over law creates a "forbidden fruit" phenomenon, making alcohol consumption more enticing. The rationale for this illogical and ineffective law needs to be rethought. The session will provide evidence and argue that the legal drinking age should be lowered in the United States.

Introduction of Complex Microhabitats on the Reef: A Pilot Study in Cochin Grande, Honduras

Mariah C. Arnold ~ New College of Florida

Two types of shells were introduced to a coral reef in Honduras, in order to observe interactions between reef organisms and the shells. Four fish species were observed consistently interacting with the shells, each displaying different colonization patterns. For example, one species were transient shell residents, whereas another used shells as more permanent shelters. The shells were colonized by a variety of plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate species. Immediate use of the shells by reef inhabitants indicates that microenvironments are an important part of the reef structure.

Festivals of Trinidad and Tobago

Rika Paul ~ Florida A&M University

Trinidad and Tobago is a land made up of people of many different ethnic origins, except for a very few, we all live in peace and harmony many times side by side, it is not uncommon to find a Hindu temple next to a Muslim Mosque with the people of different religions worshipping in their own way in peace. As a result of our multi-ethnic culture, we have many religions festivals and more recently some that celebrate the music and culture of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Creating a Carnival Production

Rohini Mankee ~ Florida A&M University

In order to put a carnival band together, it takes many weeks of welding; sewing; gluing; applying feathers, sequins, foil papers, glitter and lots of creativity, energy, patience. The first step is to come up with a theme or overall concept for the band and to develop costume illustrations for each section of dancers. All this creative activity takes place in what are referred to in the Caribbean as "mas camps," where teamwork and organization are crucial to creating an award-winning production. All these ideals - creativity, determination, teamwork, management and discipline are all characteristics that are evident in an honors student.

The History of Dance

Shari Rhyner ~ Florida A&M University

The history of dance dates as far back as the history of mankind. In both primitive and modern cultures dance is a form of expression. Celebrations of birth, changes in the seasons and the display of one's creativity are just a few of the many reasons that people dance. There are many different forms of dance across the globe that are unique to a country, culture or lifestyle. Some dances are free and open while others such as ballet are structured. In both forms it is important to be disciplined and determined in order to get the message across effectively through the movements of the body.

Plants in Celebration Around the World

Ruben Gomez Jr. ~ Florida A&M University

All around the world people celebrate for many different reasons and occasions. No celebration goes without food and drink, and even decoration. Most food and drink, and some or most decorations come from plants. Different nations around the world celebrate with different food and drink using the plants of their nation. These celebrations show the importance of plants, but yet and still, forests all around the world are being cut down. Deforestation is a problem that we need to deal with. Dealing with this problem will require the same attributes that define honor students, such as leadership, discipline, knowledge, and other such characteristics.

Designing Pb-on Oxide Nanoparticles for the Dechlorination of TCE in Groundwater

Celine Dozier ~ Florida A&M University

Organohalides, such as trichloroethylene (TCE), are hazardous and have been shown to have carcinogenic effects on humans and animals. However, presence of TCE has been pervasive in groundwater. Recent technologies have focused on in-situ remediation of groundwater. Our research investigates a novel approach to synthesizing nanoparticles which can act as catalysts to reduce TCE in groundwater. Chemical reaction kinetics and the result of this work up to date are presented.

The American Dream: Learning from International Honor Systems

Camille Washington ~ Florida A&M University

Nowadays, it is not unlikely for the valedictorian of a typical high school in the United States to be an international or transfer student not native to America. Subsequently, this, among other top honorable positions, is being held by international students due to their effort to live "The American Dream." It is a known fact that America is the land of opportunity; yet many native born citizens do not take advantage of the programs offered to them. In turn, many International students are foregoing the American school system with a high advantage spawning from previous standards set in their homeland.

The History of the Olympics

Lyndon Knight ~ Florida A&M University

The Olympic Games were one of the Pan-Hellenic games held in ancient Greece. The origin of the Olympics is questionable; however, the event's values have not changed. The Olympics is a philosophy of life, exalting the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, the Olympics seeks to create a way of life rooted in the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal ethical principles. In this presentation, you will travel on a historical tour through time, around the globe, over political barriers and to the pinnacle of International Celebrations.

Healthcare: A Declined Interest Among African American Students

Jenese Fuller ~ Florida A&M University

Maintaining good quality healthcare in the United States can be very strenuous sometimes for the average working family. So imagine the struggles that arise for college students in the black community to have adequate healthcare and maintain good grades. Through this study I will provide insight as to why maintaining good health has taken a backseat to other non-important aspects of life in college students. Through my research and analysis, I will also shine a light as to what is needed to get these students more involved in their health.

International Strides

LeAundra Murray ~ Florida A&M University

When great achievements are made, there is reason for celebration. Those who have achieved international recognition should be acknowledged for their accomplishments. This presentation will highlight strides made international, be it diplomatically or academically.

Purification and Identification of a Bacterial Siderophore

Toni-Ann R. Hylton ~ Florida A&M University

Siderophore are metal chelators that are found in virtually all environments and function to mediate the uptake of metal by the cells. For this project, the purification and identification of this siderophore has unique qualities that indicate that this may be a novel structure, which include, it's *Streptomyces aureofaciens* NR-3 source, it's negative test for trihydroximate and the Chrome-Azurol-S colorimetric guided assay used to identify the presence of the siderophore. Through the use of High Performance Liquid Chromatography with specific columns to purify and Mass Spectrometry, and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance to determine the structure, a glycoside has been determined.