

RESEARCH @ FSW

Research @ FSW has been created to update Florida SouthWestern faculty and staff on exciting new developments in faculty research, creative expressions, research publications, and other highlights. This quarterly publication is the primary tool for faculty to share research successes with colleagues. If you have items for a future newsletter, contact Jennifer Young, Public Relations and Marketing Associate for Academic Affairs, at Jennifer.Young@fsw.edu or x-11101 (Thomas Edison Campus).

Faculty Research Profile

June Davis, Nursing

Project: The Transition to an Innovative, Evidence-Based Curriculum and Its Effects



Concept-Based learning has been demonstrated, through evidence-based research, to promote critical thinking and clinical reasoning in students. With this in mind, the Associate in Science Nursing (ASN) program at Florida SouthWestern State College is transitioning from a traditional (or legacy) curriculum to a concept-based curriculum. The first level of the Concept-Based curriculum will be offered beginning in the fall semester of 2016. The teach out process for the traditional program will continue through December 2017.

The intent of this project is to evaluate the impact of a concept-based curriculum on FSW ASN student learning outcomes. Comparison will be made from four student cohorts: two from the traditional curriculum and two from the concept-based curriculum. Evaluating and analyzing similar outcomes between the two curricula will allow our program to determine if revisions are necessary as we implement the new curriculum. A Concept-Based Curriculum in nursing is innovative and not widely used in Florida. This project may also be useful to other nursing programs as they consider a similar change. Evaluation methods include course grade averages, clinical evaluations, simulation surveys, ATI critical thinking exam, ATI comprehensive predictor, on time graduation rate, retention rate, NCLEX pass rate, employer surveys, job placement, and new graduate surveys.

The ARC grant has allowed three faculty members, one from each campus, to attend the Concept-Based Learning Institute in order to gain knowledge of the implementation process of the new curriculum. These faculty members serve as resources to other faculty as the curriculum is implemented and evaluated.

Faculty News

Dr. Robert Furler, Professor, Biology/Microbiology, received a scholarship to attend the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) 17th National Conference, "Advancing Undergraduate Research: Collaboration and Innovation in a Global Society," and a REIL-Biology workshop held June 25-28, at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Jodi Gootkin, Director, Physical Therapist Assistant Program, authored this article:

Gootkin, J. (2015, October). Mysterious aches and pains? Our smart phones may be the culprit. *Health & Wellness Magazine*, 29.

Dr. Henry Hermann, Professor, Biology, published this book:

Hermann, H. (2016). *The great game of life, dominance and aggression in humans and other animals*. California: Elsevier.

Dr. Scott Ortolano, Professor, English, authored these recent publications:

Ortolano, S. "Liberation, Degeneration, and Transcendence(?): The Promise and Paradox of the 'New Woman' in Edna Ferber's Dawn O'Hara, The Girl Who Laughed and Dorothy Parker's 'Big Blonde.'" *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 45.3 (2016): 230-50.

Ortolano, S. "In Plain Sight: Strictly Dynamite, Modern Comedy, and the Hidden Legacy of Henri Bergson." *The Explicator*, 73.4 (2015): 320-4.

Dr. Deborah Selman, Professor, Nursing, authored this article:

Selman, D. (2016, March). Hook, line, and thinker: Therapeutic fishing to reduce stress. *Health & Wellness Magazine*. <http://www.swflhealthandwellness.com/hook-line-thinker-therapeutic-fishing-reduce-stress/>

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HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS, 2016

Honors Scholar Program Student Thesis Presentations

The Honors Scholar Program held the annual Honors Thesis presentations this month. The thesis option allows Honors Scholars to design a project on a subject of their choice under the mentorship of an FSW faculty member. This year, six students presented a thesis to an audience of faculty, administrators, family, and friends in the Rush Auditorium on the Thomas Edison Campus. The names of the students are listed below followed by the title of the thesis and the name of the faculty mentor.

Raymond Blaha: "Evolutionary Economics"
(Dr. Harold VanBoven)

Leslie Hidalgo: "PTSD and STS: A Military Plague"
(Dr. Ihasha Horn)

Brianne Jeske: "Electrochemical Detection of Cu(II)"
(Professor Di Xue)

Lorena Larraburre-Weinberg: "Making the D.R.E.A.M.
Act More Than Just a Dream" (Dr. Scott Ortolano)

Eduardo Santana: "Bosnian and Rwandan Genocide"
(Dr. Bruno Baltodano)

Sierra Williams: "Unspinning Fate: An Author's
Exploration of Genre, Voice, and Theme in Re-imagining
Fairytales" (Professor Marty Ambrose)



Leslie Hidalgo and
Dr. Ihasha Horn



Brianne Jeske

This term, the Honors Scholar program created a combined focus in which students enrolled in linked sections of Marine Biology (OCB 2010, 2010L), and Statistics (STA 2023) with faculty members Dr. Rozalind Jester and Dr. Rona Axelrod. Students completed a research project that employed statistical methods to study the connection between human activity and marine ecosystems. Nine students led poster presentations summarizing their research. The names of the students are listed below followed by the title of the poster presentation.



Dr. Rozalind Jester and Dr. Rona Axelrod's
marine science/statistics class.



Kelly Chase presents his poster during the
Honors Thesis presentations.

Knoah A. Blake: "Detection of Microplastic in Shoreline Fish
of Southwest Florida"

Rachel Carr: "Water-Front Service Establishments are
Polluting our Beaches"

Kelly Chase: "Detecting the Presence of Microplastics in
Bivalve Crassostrea Virginica"

Ethan Littlestone: "Ecological Significance of Fish Biodiversity"

Marina Morningstar: "Effect of Human Contact on Southwest
Florida's Seagrass Population"

Samantha Percifield: "The Quantification of Marine Debris on
Fort Myers beach, Bunche Beach and Lover's Key Beach"

Silvia Plata: "Does Human Disturbances Influence the
Biodiversity of Macro-Invertebrates"

Natasha Prenestil: "Microplastics: The Concentration and
Size in relations to Zooplankton"

Jacob Skull: "A Plastic Footprint in the Sand: Micro Plastic
Presence in Sediment"

Dr. Bruno Baltodano's Honors Comparative Politics (CPO 2001) class led presentations about the politics and history of Nicaragua following an eight day trip supported by FSW's Center for International Education. Eight students took part in the trip.

Stephanie Bravo
Lovisa Carlson
Emily Casey
Owen Dyches
Ragnar Lothbrook
Eduardo Santana
London Taylor
Val Velaquez



Dr. Bruno Baltodano's class with the Vice
President of Nicaragua, Omar Halleslevens.



Students with the leaders of a women's
coffee cooperative and families.