



Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office



Dr. Eileen DeLuca,
Provost

And the beat goes on...

The Dr. Talbot Spivak Holocaust Memorial Week events never fail to put the human experience into perspective. Listening to the survivors share their stories and hearing lectures about the brave acts of resistance and triumph is humbling, and reminds us all that we must not be silent in the face of injustice. This year's presentations also resonated with me in a different way than ever, as we have passed more than one year in semi-isolation due to the dangers of the current global pandemic.

For example, in her survivor talk, Carla Benninga described how her

adolescence was interrupted as she and her family were forced to separate and go into hiding for more than a year in Holland to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. During this time Carla stayed with roughly a dozen different families and had limited contact with her own family through letters transmitted by underground resistance workers.

Despite having to be constantly on the move and forced to constantly look over her shoulder, she found a way to access books and other curricular material so that she could continue her studies while in hiding. After the war,

she was able to attend University, in part due to her vigilance with her studies under nearly impossible conditions.

While the current global pandemic is a much different struggle than what Ms. Benninga faced in the 1940's, the very human need to continue to connect to all which feeds our minds and spirits, no matter what the obstacle, is most certainly resonant. I know many of you can relate in the ways you have discovered to keep your mind active and your spirits high during these trying times.

Also, in their presentation, "*Music of the Holocaust*" Professors Rachel Cox and Mary Seal combined stunning musical performances with an informative lecture about the role of music in the the concentration camps. They described how songs could help prisoners connect with their pre-war lives and provide an escape from their present reality. Through music, these noble souls could engage in narratives of optimism and solidarity. We humans prove again and again that we are resilient, even through the creative expression that shines a light through the dark. *And the beat goes on...*

Many thanks to all of the presenters and to the Holocaust Memorial Week Committee Co-Chairs: Steven Bianco, Sara Gottwalles, and Rob Manauis and to the committee members: Ingrid J. Fernandez, Rona Axelrod, Jennifer Baker, Bruno Baltodano, Stuart Brown, Steven Chase, Jill De Valk, Chloe Kolman, Alisha Lavender, JoAnn Lewin, Nathan Lewis, Lauren Madak, Jillian S. Patch, Dana Roes, Sandi Towers-Romero, Jennifer Young, Rebecca Fahrner, and Mark

Herman. Also, thanks to the participating organizations including the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, and to the Sponsors: Kenneth and Mary Ruth Stegman Endowed Chair, Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, and FSW Student Engagement.



If you were not able to attend any of the lectures, or survivor talks, they are still available for viewing on YouTube Live: www.fsw.edu/holocaust/spring2021

Heart of a Warrior

On March 11, FSW hosted the *Dr. Jim Langlas Gazebo Tribute Ceremony*. For those who didn't know Jim, he was a beloved English Faculty on the Collier Campus before he passed away in 2018. In addition to being a favorite instructor to many students, Jim was a poet, biographer and taekwondo instructor and

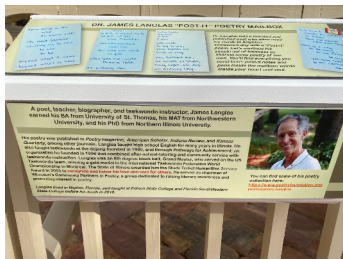
champion. His poetry was published in *Poetry* magazine, *American Scholar*, *Indiana Review*, and *Kansas Quarterly* among other notable journals. He also published a book that has inspired many, "*Heart of a Warrior: 7 Ancient Secrets to a Great Life.*"

While Dr. Langlas has an impressive resume, listening to his colleagues, former students, and family speak at the tribute ceremony provided a more complete picture of how his positive spirit impacted the lives of so many. The "heart of a warrior" as shared by those who knew him, is indeed filled with hope and love, and makes the world a better place.



Dr. Jim Langlas Memorial Gazebo, FSW Collier Campus

Two other "warriors," Dr. Tina Ottman and Dr. Katie Paschall, with support from donors from the community and from PBS Contractors, have ensured that Dr. Langlas' legacy would not be forgotten. Because of their "can do" spirit, a beautiful gazebo now stands in a prominent location so that students, faculty and staff have a place of contemplation or to connect with nature within the busy day. The gazebo includes museum quality panels summarizing the "Heart of a Warrior" principles along with an invitation to visitors to write and share a post-it note poem; in this way Dr. Langlas continues to teach us how to use words to make positive change. I hope you will visit the gazebo to help ensure Jim's warrior heartbeat goes on.



Harvard National Model United Nations

Despite the challenge of the Global Pandemic, seven FSW students led by faculty advisor, and Model UN course instructor, Dr. Bruno Baltodano were able to participate as delegates in the sixty-seventh session of the Harvard National Model United Nations this past February 11-14. All sessions were virtual, but with the support of the Honors Scholar Program, our students were able to work collaboratively to successfully engage in the work sessions as well as the social networking activities.



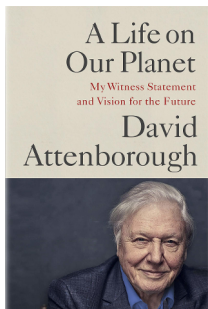
Dr. Baltodano and students attend the Welcome Ceremony for Harvard National Model United Nations

Congratulations to Dr. Baltodano and our amazing student delegates, Mallory Valentine, Kendra MacGeorge, Catherine Dominquez, Coralie Lamour, Gail Gahon, Sarah Wilson and Nora Vertus. Also thanks to Dr. Wendy Chase, Victoria Frisina, and Whitney Rhyne for the administrative support to provide enriching "live" social networking to complement the virtual conference.

One Book, One College, One Planet

On February 26, the OBOC Committee announced the 2021 One Book, One College text adoption, "A Life on Our Planet" by David Attenborough. In today's TLC session, Professor Don Ransford and Professor Mary Ellen Schultz led faculty, staff and administrators in a discussion on how we can spark interest in the book and its topic among the students, the college as a whole, and the surrounding communities. Participants came up with ways to connect the book to curriculum, college events, research, activism, and local projects. I was inspired by the discussion and excited by the idea that this book could galvanize a movement for FSW to engage in more sustainable practices as informed by research. Now

more than ever we need to think globally and act locally.



Thanks to the OBOC committee for leading the text selection process:

Mary Ellen Schultz, Don Ransford, Timothy Bishop, Brandon Jett, Juan Ginarte, Sabine Maetzke, Monica Krupinski, Joyce Rollins, Jason Calabrese and, Deborah Teed.

And the beat goes on...

Slingshotting between isolation and over-zoomification is making us all weary, but the increasing availability of the vaccine seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel. While we await widespread immunity, FSW has not skipped a "beat" in or out of the classroom. Faculty, staff and administrators have connected, collaborated and innovated our practices to allow students to nourish their minds and souls.

If you are feeling out of "rhythm" or disconnected, be sure to read each Monday's *Buc Bulletin*, Friday's Student Engagement Weekly Events Calendar, the TLC Calendar, and the FSW Bucs Athletic Schedule to be aware of all of the opportunities to connect with your colleagues in campus gatherings via Zoom and in person. Also, stay connected with each Tuesday's *10 @ 10* information sessions. There are many upcoming events, activities, concerts, recognition ceremonies and capstone presentations to inspire you and remind you of the power of higher education. There is something out there for you, so find your beat, and share your song.



Eileen DeLuca holds Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida, a Master's of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida, a Master's of Science degree in Multicultural/Bilingual Education from the College of New Rochelle, and a Bachelor's of Science degree in English Education from the University of South Florida. She has a long and complicated history with the institution we call Florida SouthWestern State College and now sits in an office in the building where she once took classes and sat in the cafeteria as a student at Edison Community College.

Reach out via email: Provost@fsw.edu

Florida SouthWestern State College, an equal access institution, prohibits discrimination in its employment, programs and activities based on race, sex, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information or veteran status. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal access or equal opportunity should be addressed to the College's Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer/504 Coordinator: Jana Sabo; Room S-213; 8099 College Parkway SW, Fort Myers, FL 33919; (239)489-9051; jana.sabo@fsw.edu. FSW online anonymous reporting www.fsw.edu/report. Inquiries/complaints can be filed with the Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer online, in person, via mail, via email, or with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Atlanta Office: 61 Forsyth St. SW Suite 19T70, Atlanta, GA 30303-8927.

FLORIDA
SOUTHWESTERN
STATE COLLEGE