Undergraduate Research Learning at South Florida State College
Presenters

• James Hawker, Ph.D., Interim Dean, Arts and Sciences
• Charlotte Pressler, Ph.D., Faculty Director, Honors Program
• Theresa James, Ph.D., Chair, English/Humanities Dept.
• Amy Bohan, M.S., Instructor, Natural Sciences
Goals

• Introduce Research-based Learning

• Offer In-Depth Research Opportunities

• Promote AA Transfer to Universities
Why?

• We believe that providing authentic research and research-based activities in the first two years of the college experience will better prepare students to be successful in a global economy that demands innovation, collaboration, communication, flexibility and high level thinking abilities.

- From Council on Undergraduate Research
1. Started first in Natural Sciences
2. Faculty involved – Amy Bohan, Dr. Mintoo Patel, and Dr. James Hawker.
3. Amy and Mintoo recruited a number of students
   • Learned lab techniques
   • Learned how to read scientific papers
   • Learned how to set up a research project
4. New faculty – including Dr. Daniel Sanches – have joined.
Current and Previous Natural Sciences Projects

• 1. Role of microRNAs in heart disease in dogs (Amy)
• 2. Identification of unique Lake Wales Ridge plants by DNA-barcoding (Mintoo)
• 3. Role of Growth Factor Receptors in endothelial cells of blood vessels, cancer cells, and neurons (Jim and Mintoo).

Future (soon)

4. Screen normal vs. cancerous tissues from area physicians for expression of these genes and other markers.
Pictured L to R: Dr. Mintoo Patel, Alena Wyland, Amy Bohan, MS, and Kristal Shands
South Florida State College (SFSC) Honors Program students Nancy J. Morrissey and Griffin Woods were recently selected as 2019 Portz Interdisciplinary Fellowship recipients for their research on genes that may be involved in the development of cancer cells.
SFSC students Kristal Shands, Carl Ewing, and Coralis Ewing (not shown) with Faculty mentor, Ms. Amy Bohan, presented their research project at Experimental Biology 2019 in Orlando FL, April 2019.
# Undergraduate Research Forum

**Discover • Share • Network • Collaborate**

**Second Wednesdays @ 4-5 p.m.**

**Highlands Campus Library, Building Y, 2nd Floor, Quiet Study Room**

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**ALL students and faculty welcome!**

For more information, contact Claire A. Miller at millercl@southflorida.edu or 863-784-7305.
Humanities Project

• Moorehaven Project – Identifying Unidentified Buried Victims of the 1926 Florida Hurricane
• Led by Dr. Charlotte Pressler in English and Humanities Honors Class
Dr. Pressler and Her Students Present at the Undergraduate Research Forum
Posted on October 14, 2019

Three of Dr. Pressler’s students from her English I and Humanities classes discussed their various approaches to research into the 1926 Hurricane Mass Grave in Pinecrest Cemetery in Sebring. When a hurricane hit Moore Haven in 1926, a 15-foot wall of water poured into the town and surrounding areas from Lake Okeechobee, drowning hundreds of people. The unidentifiable bodies of many of the victims were sent to Sebring, prepared for burial, and placed in a mass grave.
Figuring it out

• From the student’s point of view:
  • Recognition? On transcript? At graduation?
  • Easier transfer? Scholarship? Jobs? Internships?
  • Documentation? Minimum standards?
  • What do I do if I need help? Q & A?
Figuring it out

From the admin point of view:
Where is this program in the budget?
The organizational chart?
Strategic Plan? Five years? Ten Years?
Assessment?
Figuring it out

From the mentor’s point of view:
Can anyone be a mentor?
Mentor training? Payment/Recognition?
Time commitment? Assessment?
Track Record?
Thank you

THE END