

Fall 2019

FSW Honors Scholar Program

A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

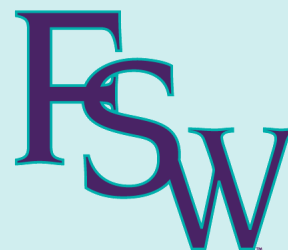
The Honors Advisory Council is constantly re-evaluating our program to make sure that we are staying true to our mission to encourage intellectual risk-taking, cultivate creative engagement, and offer opportunities to conduct and present independent research. To this end, we passed two new courses through FSW's curriculum committee last spring: IDH 2910: Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar and IDH 2911: Interdisciplinary Honors Capstone. Honors students entering the program as of fall 2019 are now required to take an Honors seminar their first year and to complete an Honors capstone project before they graduate.

This fall, Dr. Rona Axelrod and Professor Jackie Davis are team-teaching a seminar on the Collier campus titled Psychology and Statistics which introduces students to research and the scientific method. Using "The Islands", a virtual world created by Dr. Michael Bulmer, students develop their research questions with a psychology focus, generate samples, collect and analyze data, and will present findings via a poster presentation. On the Lee campus, Professor Terri Housley is offering a seminar titled, The Good Life. In this version of the course, students are presented with opportunities to discover effective ways to enhance the quality of their personal lives, relationships, and the world at large. After exploring and practicing various healthy living habits this semester, students are now ready to co-create The Good Life magazine to share their wisdom with the FSW community. Dr. Sarah Lublink, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, and I are team-teaching the third seminar being offered this fall on the Lee campus titled, The Just Society. This course is structured around three guiding questions: What is a just society? How do you unveil injustice? What is the role of the individual in creating a just society? Potential responses to these questions are explored through the lenses of philosophy, anthropology, and the visual arts.

In order to facilitate high-quality research which all Honors students will now be required to complete in their capstone course, we have adjusted our funding model. As of fall 2019, all students in the program can all apply for up to \$1,000 per year to pay for costs of travel, supplies, or conference fees related to their research. Students can also use this funding to help pay for study abroad experiences or to travel to visit universities where they might want to transfer.

In addition to designing new courses exclusive to students in HSP, we have also expanded the number of courses that will automatically count towards the completion of the Honors certificate. In hopes of attracting more STEM students to the program, we are now counting all sections of Organic Chemistry I and II, Calculus I, II, and II and Differential Equations as honors courses although they will not be specifically designated as such. Likewise, any study abroad courses will count towards the fifteen credit hours of honors coursework students must complete (with a B or higher) to earn their certificate.

As usual, faculty and advisors, please send any students who you think would benefit from our program to see me or my new assistant, Tori Frisina, in L-101 so that we can give them more details about the program. Although the deadline for applications isn't until July 1st, 2020, students are eligible to take any of our courses as an affiliate if they receive the professor's permission. Please reach out if you would like to be involved.



Dr. Wendy Chase

Coordinator, Honors Scholar Program

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Black Maria Film Festival
November 8th at the Edison-Ford Winter Estates.
Gates open at 6pm, free to FSW students with their BUC ID.



HONORS IN ITALY

Honors students spent the summer completing *Media Explorations*, taught by Professor Dana Roes. The class was taught in Florence, Italy and Honors students had the opportunity to take additional courses at Lorenzo de Medici. Honors students also visited Rome and Venice!





Dr. Romeo

FACULTY FEATURE: DR. PEGGY ROMEO

If you could isolate one concept from your discipline that you think everyone should understand what would that be and why do you think it is fundamentally important?

Sustainability! The fragile condition of Earth and the need for action cannot be overemphasized! Unfortunately, we are currently, as a human race, destroying the very planet on which we rely. Through years of ignorance and greed, we find ourselves living in a very dangerous situation. My students are introduced not only to the importance of living sustainability, but also how to adjust their lifestyles to contribute positively toward improving the situation. Through research, they learn to identify leading problems associated with our fragile environment, work to find possible solutions, and suggest methods for influencing others to live more sustainably.

Did you always know that you wanted to be a biology professor? If not, what led you down this path?

Yes! As an undergraduate biology major, I was not only the cool kid who, much to my parents chagrin, led the typical college lifestyle, but at the same time the nerdy kid who loved to hanging out in my professors' offices to talk about biology. Those years were the proverbial best years of my life. So, how do you make this lifestyle last forever? Easy, never leave college! So, here I am, still happily surrounded by the college lifestyle and getting to talk about biology with my students and colleagues!

Whose work inspires you right now? Are there any new trends in your field of study that you find to be particularly interesting?

When reading this last question, I instantly thought of this quote and the work of Stephen Jay Gould: "When people learn no tools of judgment and merely follow their hopes, the seeds of political manipulation are sown." How appropriate for what has happened in the past and what is presently happening today. This one quote influences my philosophy for teaching. I want my students to make those critical decisions that positively influence the world; science and history tells us we cannot simply rely on hope. Unfortunately, we lost this great individual in 2002, but his contributions to science and the history of evolution remain unequalled today. Gould's work is significant to me because his philosophy overlaps with my own. I began my career studying evolutionary botany and ecology, and still find any and all the new trends in evolution of special interest today.

INSIDE HONORS BSC1010 AND BSC1011 WITH DR. ROMEO

During my initial interview for a biology teaching position FSW, I was thrilled to learn that I was expected to create and teach Honors sections of BSC1010/L and BSC1011/L courses, and during the 15 years of teaching here at FSW, I have watched our Honors Scholar Program expand and flourish. Initially I taught both sections of the honors biology courses while also sitting on the Honors Advisory Council, and I have continued to do so for most of my tenure at FSW.

A strong theme throughout my years as an educator has been that of fostering productive world citizens, citizens who unselfishly work toward protecting all those valuable resources that are so delicately balanced within the ecosystems of our planet. I like to emphasize the importance of being able to see the world from the perspective of all its members, not solely from one's own personal circumstances. A major goal for all my biology courses is for students to recognize choices and critically analyze all data available in order to make intuitive and responsible decisions. We have some good thinkers among our students who, with only a little persuasion, will develop into productive community leaders. I am continuously asked to write letters of recommendation for graduate school, med school, and special research programs for my honors students, and am especially proud when they let me know they have been accepted into the program of their choice!

NEW STAFF ASSISTANT: TORI FRISINA

Hello my name is Tori Frisina. I am the new Honors Program Staff Assistant! Not too long ago (2012-2015) I was a student here at FSW. Some of you may know my younger sister Megan, she just graduated this past spring. While I was studying here at FSW I was able to accomplish so much and work toward my dreams, that sounds corny I know. But this school helped me discover what I would like to pursue as a career and played a vital role in shaping who I am today. It was not an easy journey but it was worth it. During my time at FSW I changed majors 3 times, from journalism, to marine science, to art history. Journalism is what I thought I wanted to do while I was in high school, turns out I wanted to do academic research so I turned to marine science. After a tough battle with math and chemistry I decided that marine science as a career just wasn't meant for me. So I chose art history as the path I wanted to take. But I consider myself very lucky, I have 2 passions, marine science and art history. I try to incorporate both in my life as much as possible! During my time at FSW I was very active on campus; I was president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Vice President of Scuba Club, and played intramural sand volleyball. I was even selected to be the commencement speaker for graduation! One of my all-time favorite moments from my time at FSW was going on the first ever Honors Study Abroad with Dr. Roz. We got to

travel to La Paz Baja California Sur Mexico to study Whale Sharks, Sea Turtles, Sea Lions, and Starfish! I made a video about my experience in La Paz and the school still uses it (if you do a little digging you can find it on the website). I made lifelong friends on that trip and not a day goes by that I don't think about it and smile. Truly this school holds a special place in my heart and I am very excited to be back! My door is always open so stop by my office (L-101C) and say hi anytime!



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: FGCU FOOD FOREST TOUR



JULEXIUA ELLIS

Tell us about yourself. What are your most pressing academic and personal goals that you hope to achieve in college? Has your experience in HSP helped to refine the goals you came here with as a freshman?

I am originally from Lakeland, Florida and moved to Fort Myers last fall to attend FSW. I hope to attain a bachelor's degree in Communications with a concentration in public relations. I would then like to pursue a graduate degree in Integrated Marketing Communications. My personal goals that I hope to achieve while in college are to build my networking skills and take risks. My experience with the Honors Program has definitely helped me refine the goals that I established as a freshman. I would have never imagined that I would present at a research expo or attend out of state conferences. The Honors Program has afforded me numerous opportunities to grow professionally and academically. I am forever grateful that I chose to begin my post-secondary education at FSW.

How has participation in HSP shaped your experience at FSW?

My participation in the Honors Program has dramatically shaped my experience at FSW. The Honors Program at FSW is one of the best assets the institution has to offer. I am so thankful to be a part of a learning community that nurtures my intellectual curiosities and to take risks. I am not just a number or GPA to the Honors Program but an active citizen in an evolving learning community.

What advice would you give to students who are curious about HSP?

The advice I would give to students who are curious about the Honors Program is don't be afraid to ask questions! I would also say to advocate for yourself and pay attention to deadlines. I have met numerous talented students who were unable to join HSP due to missing the application deadline. The Honors Program office is extremely welcoming and always willing to answer questions. My final piece of advice would be to make the most of your time at FSW by taking risks to grow academically and professionally. The Honors Program is a phenomenal support system.

You will not regret applying and putting yourself out there!



HONORS



B.A. WIKOFF

My name is Barbara Ann Wikoff, but everyone at F.S.W. knows me as B.A. My hobbies include blogging and spending time with my dogs, but I found my purpose in creating art. Being a part of the Honors Scholar Program has allowed me to flourish not only as a student but as an artist. I became heavily involved with FSW's art department, which led me to starting a new club (FSW's Art Club) and eventually earning an internship at the Robert Rauschenberg Artist Residency in Captiva, FL.

My experience in being a part of the Honor Scholar Program was incredibly valuable. The classes allowed me to be challenged both academically and intellectually. Each class had a unique way of engaging me, which allowed me to build stronger relationships with my professors and collaborate better with my classmates. I felt such a strong sense of community among my peers, especially in

constructing my honors capstone project. Every person that I asked to participate or give feedback was eager to help and assist me. My advice for any incoming freshman is to jump in with both feet. Take every opportunity you can! You'll be challenged in all the best ways and if you need help, don't be afraid to ask for it. The workload can be intimidating at times, but if you keep yourself open and focused you'll do great.



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: RESEARCH EXPO

Students Tara and Julexiua presented their research at the annual fall Research Expo. Tara used her experience from studying abroad to craft a research presentation on myths. Julexiua presented on Fast Fashion. Both students are considering putting in an abstract for the FCHC conference in spring.



STACEY BARTOLOTTA

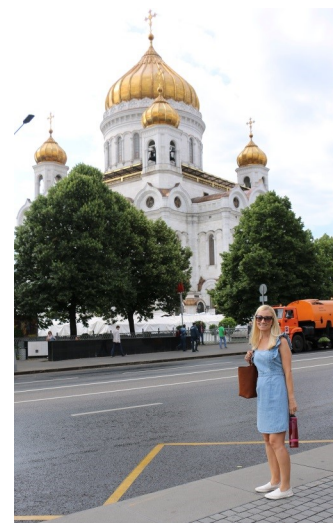
My name is Stacey, and I am currently a Sophomore at FSW. I'm also a non-traditional student. I had many passions in my life when it came time to deciding to go to college after high school, and I couldn't just pick one, so I didn't. I packed up, left Michigan, and headed out to sunny California and received a different type of education. It wasn't until five states and 15 years later that I finally figured out what I really wanted to pursue, which was political science. And that's ok. Everyone figures it out when the time is right and FSW helped me figure it out. It wasn't until I joined the Honors Scholar Program and enrolled in some of the more unique, poli-sci driven courses that I realized I have a passion for international relationships and foreign policy.

My experiences with the HSP have everything to do with the unique classes that are offered. Taking Dr. Baltodano's Terrorism and Political Violence seminar, which was one of the most fascinating and eye-opening classes I have ever taken, helped me realize that I would like to work within the intelligence community in some capacity. The Politics, Power and People course had us in Nicaragua to do individual case studies, and experienced first hand how dangerous single-story narratives are and the fall out of what multi-national companies, foreign intervention and government repression can do to a nation.

Finally, Professor Lehrian's Russian literature class opened up my mind to literary greats like Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and Pushkin. Having traveled to Russia this past summer with my classmates, we were able to see where these classics were written and how celebrated

they are in Russian culture. Using the tools I was taught in my other courses, I was able to separate the government from the every day people, who were unbelievably welcoming and passionate about their beloved authors and the history of their country.

Without the help of the HSP, I wouldn't have had the amazing opportunity to not only learn the history of these countries but also to break stereotypes and biases of the narratives and images we have seen splashed all over the television and online. Whatever ideas of both countries I had before each trip was shattered within hours of arriving to each country. My advice to incoming freshman would be to take advantage of every program that is afforded to you. Study abroad if you can and be engaged in whatever you are the most passionate about. Learning more about other cultures will only benefit you going forward, and make you more marketable when joining the workforce. Good luck to you all!





Professor Van Gaalen visiting Collier honors students

Pachamama Alliance Up to Us Symposium



Collier students visiting Lee campus for the Research Expo

Scholarship Workshop hosted by PTK, NSCS and the Honor Scholars Program



Are you or someone you know interested in the Honor Scholars Program?
If you are motivated, hardworking, creative, innovative, forward thinking, or ready to achieve your dreams then the Honor Scholars Program might be right for you!
We strive to cultivate your academic excellence, leadership skills, and commitment to being socially responsible. Honors is a great way to build your academic resume, meet likeminded people, and develop your very own research!
Email or stop by L-101 on the Lee campus to speak to Dr. Chase or Tori about all that the program has to offer!

Contact Us:

Honors Program Coordinator: Dr. Wendy Chase, wchase@fsw.edu
Honors Staff Assistant: Tori Frisina, vfrisina@fsw.edu

Check out our website at FSW.edu/Honors



THE THOMAS EDISON BLACK MARIA FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, Nov. 8
Gates open at 6 p.m. & Screening begins at 7 p.m.

Edison-Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd.