

Feb 21 - Feb 22, 2020

WELCOME TO IDIGTRIO

Biological Sciences Conference

Gainesville, FL





iDigTRIO 2020 Conference

In 2018, iDigBio, the Office of Academic Support (OAS) and Student Support Services (SSS)/TRIO Program at the University of Florida (UF) founded the iDigTRIO Conference. It focuses on increasing diverse voices in biological sciences through interactive experiences and workshops. It is believed that by getting more under-represented groups into science, it will lead to better research. How?

Science is driven by asking questions, and scientists from different walks of life often ask different questions. Different questions can produce new insights. This is why it is important to have a variety of genders, ethnicities, perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures participate in science. This is why your voice is needed.

A NASA recruiter once said: "Science is not a boy's game, it's not a girl's game. It's everyone's game." Science belongs to no one—and to everyone. It knows no country. It knows no borders. There is no formula for being a scientist.







Agenda at a Glance

J. Wayne Reitz Union

Friday, February 21st, 2020

	1
8:00am - 3:00pm	Career Shadowing (Students will have the opportunity to shadow biological science professionals at
Condition (A) (c) 4 h	the University of Florida and surrounding area.)
3:00pm – 6:00pm	BREAK
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Meet & Greet Reception
	Welcome: Dr. W. Kent Fuchs (University of Florida President)
	Keynotes: Dr. Talline Martins (Director, Office of Graduate Professional
	Development) and Dr. Hazel C. Levy (Research Scholar)
	2365
	(Costume Contest: Dress Like A Scientist) (Meal Provided)

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020

	Pre-Collegiate Track	Pre-Collegiate Track	Collegiate Track	Collegiate Track	
7:30am – 9:00am					
8:00am – 9:00am		(coffee and pa	esource Fair stries provided) 555		
9:00am-10:00am	Weld	come: Antonio Farias	nary Session (UF Chief Diversity Of	ficer)	
10:00am - 10:10am		BRI	EAK		
10:10am – 11:10am	Pre-Collegiate Workshop Session I Advocating for Science: Tools and Strategies for Confidently Sharing Research with Others	Pre-Collegiate Workshop Session I The Bug Club: UF Entomology and Nematology	Collegiate Workshop Session I Becoming a Biodiversity Future Forecaster Using Big Data	Collegiate Workshop Session I How to be an Ally for Fellow STEM Students	
	2360	2365		2330	

3:00pm - 3:10pm 3:10pm-3:40pm	BREAK Closing Remarks and Conference Evaluation 2365					
		2365	2315			
2:00pm-3:00pm	Pre-Collegiate Workshop Session II Look!A Bird!: How to ID Birds and Impress Your Friend	Pre-Collegiate Workshop Session II Museums: The Powerhouse of Science Communication	Collegiate Workshop Session II Overview of Resume/CV, Cover Letter and LinkedIn Career Connections Center	Collegiate Workshop Session II Applying to Graduate School for Biology		
1:50pm – 2:00pm	BREAK					
12:30pm – 1:50pm	Lunch and Panel Session Diversity in the Biological Sciences (meal provided) 2365					
12:20pm - 12:30pm	BREAK					
11:20am - 12:20pm	Undergraduate Financial Aid 101 2365		Funding Opportunities for Graduate Study 2355			
11:10am – 11:20am	BREAK					
			2315			

Keynote Speaker

W. Kent Fuchs

Kent Fuchs has been President of the University of Florida since January 2015. UF joined the nation's top-10 public research universities in 2018, and Dr. Fuchs has since set the university on a path to joining the top five – and becoming the nation's number one university for comprehensive excellence. Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs was provost of Cornell University. He has served in academic leadership positions and as a faculty member of electrical and computer e engineering at Cornell, Purdue and

the University of Illinois. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.



Keynote Speaker

Antonio Farias

Antonio Farias joined the University of Florida in 2018 as its first chief diversity officer and senior advisor to the president. He oversees university-wide efforts to advance The Big I.D.E.A! -Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Access. He was previously vice president for equity and inclusion at Wesleyan University and, before that, the inaugural chief diversity officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Farias has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master of fine arts from the

University of California, Riverside. He worships his daughter, reenergizes through a plant-based diet, runs ultra-marathons to test the limits of WHY, fly fishes to commune with the Divine, and believes failure is the greatest teacher. He is currently failing to publish his first novel.





Keynote Speaker

Hazel Levy

Hazel Levy, Ph.D. is a research scholar in the Biomedical Sciences, STEM Education, and Higher Education Policy at University of Florida (UF). She was the first African American woman to have an independent and National Institutes of Healthfunded research laboratory in the history of the UF College of Medicine.

Hazel is also a social justice organizer, serving as the Vice-Chair of the Women of Color Caucus (WOCC) of National Women's Lib-

eration (NWL) Gainesville, Florida chapter, and Dr. Levy was the first faculty mentor to UF's Black Women in Medicine student organization.





Advocate for Science

Tools and Strategies for Confidently Sharing Research with Others Presented by: Sadie Mills

Sadie Mills is a coordinator and environmental educator for TESI. She manages programs and events that support TESI's mission of educating Floridians about the state's natural systems and the threats they face. Mills earned bachelor's degrees in ecology and evolutionary biology, and anthropology from the University of Arizona. After graduating, she served two years with the AmeriCorps program supporting education and conservation efforts at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center before serving as an educator with

the University of Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program. She went on to earn a master's degree in environmental studies from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, with concentrations in environmental education and coastal management.

In her workshop you will learn how to advocate for science. Science-based information has great potential to aid individual and societal decision-making, however sometimes this information is misinterpreted,



misunderstood, or contested. This workshop will give you tips and tricks to advocate for science-based information in a way that is effective, respectful, and productive.



Let's Talk About Bugs!

The Bug Club: UF Entomology and Nematology Presented by: Rebecca Baldwin

Rebecca Baldwin, BCE, a University of Florida graduate, is currently an associate professor and the undergraduate coordinator for the UF Entomology and Nematology Department. She became interested in entomology as a child through 4-H and shares her love of entomology by directing the UF Entomology Education and Outreach Program, by mentoring students, developing curricula, and teaching introductory entomology courses to undergraduates. Her research focuses on Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) for crawling insects. Outside of the classroom, Rebecca provides CEU and recertification training for teachers, pest management associations, and for the Entomological Society of America (ESA) ACE program. In her workshop, you will learn about bugs. You will learn how bugs are classified and will look up close at those characteristics by having an arthropod petting zoo with tarantulas, scorpions, and beetles. Also, you will learn fun facts. Who knows, you may even get to taste some insect cuisine.





Let's Talk About Birds!

Look!...A Bird!: How to ID Birds and Impress Your Friends Presented by: Gabriel Gonzalez

Gabriel Gonzalez is in his senior year majoring in biology, minoring in wildlife ecology and conservation at UF. Though interested in wildlife from an early age, it was when he became homeschooled in 8th grade that he got bit the birding bug. He now is a frequent contributor to the citizen-science project, eBird, and is involved with the Alachua Audubon Society. His presentation demonstrates that through a keen eye and a bit of thinking, you can ID almost any bird in any situation, impressing your friends and

proving your mastery of all things feathered. It is a first step into this larger world of birds, a step that, hopefully, provides you with a lifetime of adventures, great and small.





Museums Meet SciComm

Museums: The Powerhouse of Science Communication Presented by: Chelsea Collison

Chelsea is currently in her fifth year as a full-time Museum Educator at the Florida Museum of Natural History. She is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of new and existing public programs for diverse target audiences such as SciArt Meetups, Fieldworks Fails, Science on Tap, and Girls Do Science! She holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Florida and a master's degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Her interests include breaking down barriers

between art and science and using storytelling as a way to bring science and scientists to the general public. In her presentation, you will learn about museums and what role they play in communicating science. As trusted institutions, natural history museums play a crucial role in interpreting scientific data via exhibits and public programs to make information accessible to the broader public. We hope the public will then use that information to make informed decisions regarding the future and sustainability of Earth. In her



session, the audience will hear about the ways in which museums are stepping up to this role and how individuals can play a part in it.



Forecast Climate Change

Becoming a Biodiversity Future Forecaster Using Big Data Presented by: Pam Soltis

Pamela Soltis is a Distinguished Professor and Curator in the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida and Director of the UF Biodiversity Institute. She has made fundamental contributions, with Douglas Soltis, elucidating the phylogenetic relationships of the angiosperm branch of the Tree of Life. Her research interests are angiosperm phylogeny, polypoidy, conservation genetics, and the use of digitized natural history collections in biodiversity research. She served as President of the

Botanical Society of America in 2007-2008 and of the Society of Systematic Biologists in 2005-2006; she is currently President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In her workshop, participants will access and download digitized herbarium data from online databases and learn how to construct and use models to describe the current and future distributions of Florida's plants,



with applications to conservation. These records can be used to forecast future distributions and inform conservation decisions.



Learn About Inclusivity

How to be an Ally for Fellow STEM Students Presented by: Hao Ye

Hao Ye is a postdoctoral associate and Moore data fellow in the University of Florida's Wildlife **Ecology & Conservation** Department. His work focuses on developing statistical methods and software for ecological time series analysis, to produce forecasts, identify interacting variables, and quantify ecosystem stability and abrupt change. He is a mentor for Mozilla's Open Leadership Training Series, an associate editor for Methods in Ecology and Evolution, and a co-leader of the Gainesville Ally Skills Network (with Ellen Bledsoe

and Kelsey Lewis). In his workshop you will be introduced to the concepts of privilege and oppression, how to identify when they are at play, and how they work within places like a university to marginalize targeted individuals and groups. You will then talk about a variety of actions you can take with your privilege to work as an ally for marginalized people at your institution.





Brand Your Professional Self

Overview of Resume/CV, Cover Letter and More! Presented by: Sara Gould

Sara believes that each individual knows themselves best, even if they don't recognize it at the time. She is a certified career services provider who focuses on helping individuals identify their strengths, value-add, and interests. Sara works with individuals to articulate their potential and confidently achieve their career goals. She works at the UF Career Connections Center providing career development to all undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students through every step of their journey. She has

previous experience working at a non-profit organization and with employers, understanding hiring from the employer's perspective. Sara enjoys reading, being a cat mom, relaxing at the beach, and traveling home to Pittsburgh. Certifications: Certified Global Career Development Facilitator & Certified Career Services Provider. In her session, you will understand the purpose and power of a resume/CV, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile when searching for experience. Students will leave knowing the proper content, style



and format for resume/CV writing, cover letter development, and LinkedIn building.



Think About Grad School

Applying to Graduate School for Biology
Presented by: Catherine Early, Adania Flemming and Jeanette Pirlo

Catherine Early is a postdoctoral researcher at the Florida Museum of Natural History working on a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to CT scan vertebrate animal specimens in museums across the country. She earned her PhD in an ecology and evolutionary biology program and was funded by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. You should join her discussion, if you want to earn a Master's or PhD in Biology after you've finished your undergraduate degree. In her session, panelists will offer tips and answer questions

about this process. We will focus on identifying and contacting potential graduate programs, finding funding for your degree, and applying to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Note: the panelist(s) may not be officially affiliated with NSF and will instead be offering advice based on their own experiences. You can get to know the other panelists in this session on the next page!





Think About Grad School

Adania Fleming Panelist #2

Adania Flemming spent her formative years in Trinidad and Tobago, a twin island nation in the Caribbean. Fascinated by water and aquatic systems she earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology at the University of Tampa, followed by a Master of Science in zoology. Adania is interested in exploring the ecology of fishes, their role and niche in the environment, their life history as well as understanding how form relates to function.

Adania is also interested in using

natural history collections as a resource to introduce students of diverse backgrounds to the field of Ichthyology and other scientific fields. For her PhD she will combine her interest in education with Ichthyology, through an interdisciplinary research project where she will evaluate the impact of experiential learning within collections on students understanding of science and less known scientific fields as Ichthyology. Her ultimate goal is to work as a researcher and



educator in a science center (museum/aquarium) in Trinidad and Tobago. However upon graduation she would like to work as museum faculty, between the intersection of the research collections and the education department.



Think About Grad Schoo!

Jeanette Pirlo Panelist #3

Jeanette is a third year PhD student at the Florida Museum of Natural History (through the Biology Department), focusing on vertebrate paleontology. She studies a new population of 4-tusked elephants called Gomphotheres that were discovered near UF. She was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to conduct her research. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is first generation Latina-American and the first in

her family to go to college. Catch Jeanette at the "Applying to Grad school for Biology" session. You should join the discussion, if you want to earn a Master's or PhD in Biology after you've finished your undergraduate degree. The panelists will offer tips and answer questions about this process.





Funding for College

Undergraduate Financial Aid 101
Presented by: Kimberly Schmitt and Kimberly Dukes

Originally from West Palm Beach, Kimberly Schmitt is a Coordinator III of Advising in the Office for Student Financial Affairs (SFA). She has been with SFA since December 2013. Prior to working for UF, she was a financial aid adviser at Santa Fe College. When she is not assisting students and their families at UF, she enjoys cycling around Gainesville.

Kimberly Dukes, a Coordinator II of Advising, joined the Office for Student Financial Affairs (SFA) back in January 2020. Prior to

moving to Gainesville, Kimberly worked as a financial aid adviser in Mississippi. When she isn't assisting with the financial aid process, she enjoys reading, walking, and snorkeling.

In their presentation, you will learn everything students need to know about financial aid for college. Financial aid is available for all types of students, and comes in various different forms, from grants, loans, and scholarships.







Paying for Grad School

Funding Opportunities for Graduate Study Presented by: Talline Martins

Talline Martins currently serves as the Director for the Office of **Graduate Professional** Development, in the Graduate School at the University of Florida. She is a former McNair, NIH-Bridges to the Baccalaureate, Ford, and NSF Fellow. She started her studies at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University. She went on to earn her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Genetics, and conduct postdoctoral work at Duke University. She was a faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno before moving into administrative roles in diversity and inclusion and professional development of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

In her presentation, you will learn about programs and resources for prospective and current STEM graduate students -- including funding opportunities and professional development programs.





Diversity in Biology Careers

Raymond Carthy

Ray Carthy is the Assistant Unit Leader at the U.S. Geological Survey's Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and a faculty member in UF's Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. His research interests lie in coastal ecosystems and endangered species, with a special focus on marine turtles. His lab group studies nesting and in-water ecology, as well as a nthropogenic and global change-induced impacts on these threatened species. Dr. Carthy is also the Program Coordinator of

the UF Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research Program, which explores integration of the latest platform and sensor technologies to answer natural resource questions. You can learn more about Raymond at lunch. He is one of the panelists for the "Diversity in Biology Careers" panel.





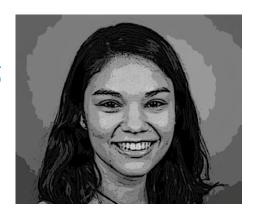
Diversity in Biology Careers

Virnaliz Cruz

Virnaliz Cruz is an interdisciplinary PhD student in the University of Florida. She is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (NSF-GRFP) and a proud member of the Acevedo and Weecology research laboratories. Her research interests include disease macro-ecology, science philosophy, complex systems, and computational ecology.

She is also interested in the integration of technology to outreach and is part of the

R-Ladies Gainesville organizing team. Virnaliz would be delighted to talk about how being a LoL/TFT player makes her a better scientist. You can learn more about Virnaliz at lunch. She is one of the panelists for the "Diversity in Biology Careers" panel.





Diversity in Biology Careers

Aido Miro

Aida Miró is a postdoctoral researcher at the Florida Museum of Natural History studying the DNA of head lice to understand the history of early humans. She began studying biology at the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras, and after her first anthropology course, decided to study both biology and anthropology. As an undergraduate student she participated in research that focused on her passions for science and history. In one project, she used DNA to study sea turtles in the Caribbean, and in another project she used archeological

remains to study the diet of ancient human populations in Puerto Rico. Between these experiences, she discovered her passion for using DNA to study human history (genetic anthropology). She obtained her Ph.D. in Genetics at the University of Florida in 2013, and then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research uses DNA to study human migrations that have occurred in the past. Her favorite part of her career is to be able to travel to different places in the world to share her research. She wants to become



a professor and continue doing research and teach on genetics and human history.



Diversity in Biology Careers

Jasmine Smith

Jasmine Smith is a first year PhD student in the Biomedical Engineering department. She graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor's in Biochemistry. She was an undergraduate researcher for about 2 years and conducted research on the patellar tendon. She is now focusing on research related to traumatic brain injury under the same advisor that she worked for in undergrad. Her research will focus on tracking cerebral micro-bleeds in the brain following repetitive head injuries on adolescent male

and female rats. In the future, she would like to pursue a career in academia as a tenure track professor. I still plan to do research as a professor, but I would also like to teach students and be a mentor to students. You can learn more about Jasmine at lunch. She is one of the panelists for the "Diversity in Biology Careers" panel.





Thank you...

iDigTRIO participants were given a "real-world" look at occupations and careers in biological sciences. From collecting butterflies in the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory to a hands-on class session of "Cellular Engineering Laboratory"- participants were able to spend a few hours to a day working in the field. We want to give a special thank you to all the field trip and shadowing stations.

Florida Museum: Education & Public Programs

Ordway-Swisher Biological Station

Natural Area Teaching Lab

Field and Fork

Florida Museum: Agricultural Ecology

UF Biomedical Engineering Department

Florida Springs Institute

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience

Florida Museum: Reptiles and Amphibian Curation

Florida Museum: Fossil Plant Research

Florida Museum: Parasite Research

Florida Museum: Fish Identification

Florida Museum: Mammal Curation

Florida Museum: Vertebrate Fossil Preparation

Thanks To All Of Our Community Partners!







































www.iDigBio.org

Sharing online and enabling use of millions of biodiversity specimen records, images, and other media

Digitizing the Past and Present for the Future

















Developing Scholars, Cultivating Leaders, Achieving Greatness



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida Student Support Services (UF SSS) is a federally funded grant program helping first-generation, limited-income and students with disabilities reach their full potential at UF.

BENEFITS

- Scholarships
- Graduate school tours
- · Leadership events
- Support from faculty and staff
- Access to a textbook rental library
- · And much more!

ELIGIBILITY

- · Be an admitted UF student
- Be a US citizen, Federal Aid Eligible, or have Green Card

AND

· Be a first-gen student

OF

Come from a limited-income household

OR

Have a disability that is registered with the UF

HOW DO I APPLY?

sss.oas.ufl.edu

Student Support Services 105 NW 16th Street Suite 110 Classroom Building (CBD) Gainesville, FL 32611-8020 Phone: (352) 392-0788 Email: sss@aa.ufl.edu







