

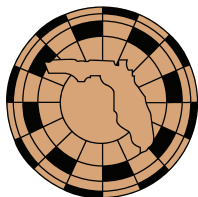
**52nd Annual Meeting  
of the  
Florida Society of Geographers  
1964-2016**

The Shores Resort & Spa  
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida

**January 22-24, 2016**

Hosted by





# Florida Society of Geographers

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Vincenzo Piazza, Daytona State College

Christopher P. Whitaker, Daytona State College

Cover photo: NASCAR's first race, 15 February 1948, South Daytona Beach, Florida. The beach, located near Ponce Inlet, was used for part of the course; Florida SR A1A was also used.

## **About our Organization**

**T**he Florida Society of Geographers was chartered in 1964 as a non-profit organization for the purpose of furthering professionalism in geography through application of geographic techniques in all areas of education, government, and business. The Society supports these objectives by promoting acquaintance and discussion among its members and with scholars and practitioners in related fields by stimulating research and field investigation, by encouraging publication of scholarly studies, and by performing services to aid the advancement of its members and the field of geography in Florida.

*The Florida Geographer* is the official publication of the FSG and is available to the public online at <http://journals.fcla.edu/flgeog>.

## FSG 2016 Annual Meeting Host

The Shores Resort and Spa  
2637 South Atlantic Avenue  
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118  
(386) 767-7350



*The Shores*

RESORT & SPA

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, FLORIDA

## Special Events at the 52nd FSG Annual Meeting



River Room

### Friday, 22 January FSG Reception

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The River Room

Cash bar and light snacks available

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Saturday, 23 January

### FSG Reception & Banquet

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Reception)

The River Room

Cash bar available

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Banquet)

The River Room

Dinner available



River Room

The FSG Reception and Banquet will be held at sunset on The Shores rooftop River Room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Halifax River. This setting offers a spectacular view of one of most beautiful strands of Daytona Beach, Florida – The Shores Barrier Island nestled between the Ocean and the River stretching southwards towards Ponce Inlet.

A floorplan is provided on  
page 24

## Banquet Program

<b>Welcome:</b>	Christopher P. Whitaker, FSG President
<b>Keynote Address:</b>	Ambassador Stanley T. Escudero
<b>Address Title:</b>	Geopolitical Features of Central Asia
<b>Closing Remarks:</b>	Christopher P. Whitaker, FSG President



Ambassador Stanley T. Escudero served as U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan (1992-1995), Uzbekistan (1995-1997) and Azerbaijan (1997-2000) under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. A native Floridian from Daytona Beach, Stan graduated from Daytona Beach Junior College and the University of Florida before joining the Foreign Service of the United States in 1967. His influential career as a U.S. diplomat focused primarily on Central Asia, South Asia and North Africa, serving in Pakistan (1967-1968), Niger (1968-1970), and Iran (1971-1975). Thereafter, he received a Congressional Fellowship at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and was then assigned as a U.S. political counselor in India (1984-1987) before serving as a political advisor to commanders at U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). In 1992, he became the first U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan and worked with resident UN officials to negotiate an end to the newly-independent country's civil war. Three years later he was reassigned as U.S. Ambassador to neighboring Uzbekistan before becoming U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan in 1997. Stan retired in 2000 after 33 years of service to his country's foreign service and as the winner of numerous medals, recognitions, and performance awards. By that time, Ambassador Escudero had become the most experienced senior U.S. official in Central Asia.

## Saturday Field Trip, 23 January

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** (90 min. All-Access Tour)

Daytona International Speedway

1801 W. International Speedway Blvd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**Cost:** \$18.00 (exact change)

The field trip for the 52nd FSG Annual Meeting is a 90 minute all-access tour of Daytona Beach's most iconic landmark and the world's first major motorsports stadium; the Daytona International Speedway. FSG field trip participants will enjoy a unique opportunity to explore the 2.5-mile Speedway from a variety of vantage points. They will come face-to-face with the track visiting the well-known start/finish line and 31-degree highbanks or ride down pit road to get a close-up view of the pit stalls. This tour provides unprecedented access like a visit to the drivers' meeting room, a trip to see the inspection station and Gatorade Victory Lane, and a look inside the Sprint Cup Series garages. Experience the world's first motorsports stadiums as you hop onto one of the 40 escalators and are transported into the new frontstretch area for a stunning view of the tri-oval and infield. FSG visitors will end the day with a view of the car of this year's Daytona 500 champion, left in the same condition as the day it conquered the World Center of Racing.

Please meet the field trip leaders (Dr. Whitaker and Dr. Piazza) in the front lobby of the hotel at 2:20 p.m. The group will then carpool or travel individually from the hotel to the Daytona International Speedway. FSG members will need to arrive at the Speedway at 2:45 p.m. and are scheduled to begin the 90-minute tour at 3:00 p.m. We will be arranging a single group payment to receive a special discounted rate for the tour so each participant will be required to pay for the tour with cash. Please have exact change of \$18 when you arrive in the lobby of the hotel to provide the group leader so they can make payment to the speedway in one payment as required.

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Whitaker at [whitakc@daytonastate.edu](mailto:whitakc@daytonastate.edu) or Vincent Piazza at [piazzav@daytonastate.edu](mailto:piazzav@daytonastate.edu).

## Program at a Glance

### Friday, 22 January

- 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Registration & Info (Bill France Lobby)  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. FSG Officers Meeting (Surf Room)  
7:30 – 9:30 p.m. FSG Reception (River Room)

A cash bar and light snacks will be available. Dinners are available for purchase in the hotel at the Azure beachfront restaurant

### Saturday, 23 January

- 8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Registration & Info (Bill France Lobby)

#### Poster Sessions

- 8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Poster Displays (Bill France Lobby)  
10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Poster Session 1 (Bill France Lobby)  
*Physical Geography*  
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Poster Session 2 (Bill France Lobby)  
*Human Geography*

#### Paper Sessions (morning)

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Paper Session 1 (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*  
9:05 – 10:25 a.m. Paper Session 2 (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*  
10:25 – 10:40 a.m. Morning Break  
10:40 a.m.– 12 p.m. Paper Session 3 (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Physical Geography*

#### Break/Intermission

- 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch

#### Paper Sessions (afternoon)

- 12:45 – 2:05 p.m. Poster Session 4 (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Economic, Political & Tourism Geography*



## Field Trip

2:20 – 4:30 p.m. Daytona International Speedway All-Access Tour (\$18)—*please have exact change*. Meet in the hotel lobby at 2:20 p.m. to carpool to the speedway. We are required to arrive at the speedway at 2:45p.m. The tour starts at 3 p.m. and will last 90 minutes (until 4:30 p.m.).

## FSG Reception & Awards

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. FSG Reception (River Room)  
A cash bar will be available

Awards presentation (River Room)

FSG Best Graduate Presentation Award  
1st Place - \$300 | 2nd Place - \$150  
Honorable Mention Presentation - \$50

FSG Undergraduate Award: The Harm J. deBlij Undergraduate Student Award - \$200.  
The FSG Undergraduate Award is made possible by a generous donation from the H.J. deBlij Scholarship.

FSG Best Poster Award  
Best Poster - \$100  
Honorable Mention Poster - \$50

## FSG Banquet

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. FSG 2016 Banquet (River Room)

Keynote Speech: Amb. Stanley T. Escudero  
Title: *Geopolitical Features of Central Asia*

## Sunday, 24 January

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting (Bill France B-C rooms)

**Adjournment**—Have a safe trip home.

The Florida Society of Geographers (FSG) would like to express its deep gratitude to the Florida Geographic Alliance (FGA) for its financial support and sponsorship. The FGA has Promoted Geographic education at all levels in Florida and the success of the FSG's annual meeting is largely because of the assistance provided by the FGA. Thank you!

## Florida Geographic Alliance (FGA)

The Florida Geographic Alliance is a professional organization affiliated with the National Geographic Society of Washington D.C. and is housed at the Florida State University within the Institute of Science and Public Affairs. It is comprised of primary, secondary, community college, and university geography educators, along with others interested in the enhancement of geographic education. Florida became a National Geographic Society Alliance State in 1988, and is governed by an executive board selected by both the alliance and state department of education coordinators.

The Alliance also has an advisory board that serves as the main governing body of the Florida Geographic Alliance. This advisory board consists of the State Alliance Coordinator, the DOE Social Studies Program Specialist, two district social-studies supervisors, two university/college geographers, two elementary teachers, two secondary teachers, one university social-studies educator, The President of the Florida Society of Geographers and one community college geography educator. The advisory board meets at the Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference each October and at the Florida Society of Geographers annual meeting, which is usually held in February and the location rotates around the state. One third of the board will be elected each year. The General Alliance population meeting takes place at the FCSS Annual Conference.

The alliance plays a vital role in the development of the new social-studies curriculum as well as suggesting ways of implementing national standards through the help of their understanding staff of teacher consultants and geographic educators. FGA's main concern is the quality of geographic instruction in the state of Florida as well as the support of their teachers providing that instruction.

To learn more about FGA, visit <http://fga.freac.fsu.edu>.

Dr. Edward A. Fernald, Co-Coordinator | [efernald@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:efernald@admin.fsu.edu)

Dr. Laurie Molina, Co-Coordinator | [lmolina@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:lmolina@admin.fsu.edu)

### **Florida State University**

Institute of Science and Public Affairs

C2200 University Center

Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2641

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## Saturday, 23 January: Paper and Poster Sessions

**Reminder to speakers:** If using a digital projector, please bring your file on a USB flash drive to the room at least ten minutes prior to the beginning of the session. Once the room opens someone will be there to assist you in uploading it onto the laptop. It is important that your file be uploaded and open on the computer so that you can begin your presentation at the scheduled time. Note that each paper time slot is 20 minutes long: 15 minutes for the paper presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers for the group. Please respect the session chairperson's time cues.

\* Denotes graduate student presenter

\*\* Denotes undergraduate student presenter

\*\*\* Denotes undergraduate student presenter enrolled at state college

### Poster Sessions

**8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Poster Displays** (Bill France Lobby)

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Poster Session 1** (Bill France Lobby)  
*Physical Geography*

**Kyle Flanagan**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*  
*Rethinking MPA: Integration of Watershed Urbanization*

**Taylor Gibbs**, University of Florida\*\*  
*Interannual Precipitation Variability surrounding the Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve, Costa Rica*

**Kittiya Harris**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*  
*Temporal Analysis of the Relationship between Impervious Surface, Rainfall, and Inland Flooding*

**Marjorie Jerez**, Florida State University\*  
*Mangroves in the Salt Marsh: A GIS Approach to Identify Critical Salt Marsh Locations for Possible Mangrove Establishment in North Florida*

**Tess Rivenbark**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*\*  
*Analysis of contamination from septic system coastal waters of Florida using GIS data*

**Molly Winn and Michael Teti**, Florida Atlantic University\*\*  
*Susceptibility of Applesnail Eggs to Submersion in  
Increasing Water Levels*

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m.**     **Poster Session 2** (Bill France Lobby)  
*Human Geography*

**Leilona Catanzaro**, Florida International University\*\*  
*Disproportionality of Minority Students in Special  
Education: Where Does Miami-Dade Stand?*

**Carlos Dolz**, Florida International University\*\*  
*Atlantis: Truth of Myth?*

**Cassandra Neira**, Florida International University\*\*  
*Poverty in Florida: A Focus on Women*

**Ethan Roberts**, Florida International University\*  
*Supporting competitive programs for undergraduates: A  
study of FIU's Model UN team*

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**     **Paper Session 1** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*

**Chair: Vincenzo Piazza**

**April Watson**, Florida Atlantic University\*  
*Brewing the Vernacular: Florida Microbreweries and the  
Cultural Landscape*

**Hira Gul**, Daytona State College\*\*\*  
*Geographical factors influencing the cultural mosaic of  
Gilgit, Pakistan*

**Matthew McKay**, University of Florida\*  
*Nature as a Social Construction: Tourists' Perspectives of  
"Nature" in the Nordic Realm*

**9:05 – 10:25 a.m.**     **Paper Session 2** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*

**Chair: Mary Caravelis**

**Mary Caravelis**, Barry University

*The Yamato pioneering Japanese farming colony of Palm Beach County*

**James Abbott**, Stetson University

*William Bartram as Place Agent in Florida*

**Chuck Kovacik**, University of South Carolina

*Barbecue and the Mosaic of Southern Culture*

**Vincenzo Piazza**, Daytona State College

*The "Mezzogiorno." The untold causes of Italy's Southern Dilemma and the massive emigration to the New World*

**10:25 – 10:40 a.m. Morning Break**

**10:40am – 12 p.m. Paper Session 3** (Bill France B-C rooms)

*Physical Geography*

**Chair: Jeffrey Martin**

**Andre McFadden II**, University of Florida\*\*

*El Niño-Southern Oscillation and its Effect on Rainfall Patterns in the Lake Mweru Basin, Zambia*

**Joseph A. Andreoli**, University of Florida\*

*Predicting the Geographic Ranges of Non-native Cichlids in Florida with Climate Change*

**Kimberly Lyons**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*

*Simulating shifts in the temporal and spatial distribution of soil erosion rates under climate change*

**Samantha Cope**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*\*

*Use of logistic regression to predict seagrass distribution: An analysis of space-time dynamics*

**12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch** (Atlantic Room)

## Paper Sessions

**12:45 – 2:05 p.m.**      **Paper Session 4** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Economic, Political & Tourism Geography*

**Chair: Rebecca Johns Krishnaswami**

**Bryan Winter**, University of South Florida\*  
*Informal Street Vending and Urban Space in China:  
Observations from Nanchang*

**Danjha Leon, Alyssa Tedrick, Tiana MacNichols, Greta Eitzen  
and Joel Diaz**, Quanta-Honors College, Daytona State College\*\*\*  
*Exploring Agenda-Setting via Social Media: The Impact of  
Political Agendas on Students at Daytona State College*

**Jared Mitchell**, University of Central Florida\*\*  
*Geographic Viability of American Political Parties*

**Karina Livingston**, Florida International University\*  
*Mapping ethnographic data on migration, tourism labor,  
and health risks in the Dominican Republic*

**2:20 – 5:00 p.m.**      **Field Trip**  
Daytona International Speedway: All-Access  
Tour. Cost: \$18 (*please have exact change*)

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**      **FSG Reception & Awards**  
FSG Reception (River Room)  
Awards presentation (River Room)

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**      **Banquet**  
FSG 2016 Banquet (River Room)

## Sunday, 24 January: Conclude 2016 Meeting

**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**      **Business Meeting** (Bill France B-C Rooms)

**Adjournment:** Have a safe trip home.

## Poster Abstracts

**8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**      **Poster Displays** (Bill France Lobby)

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**      **Poster Session 1** (Bill France Lobby)  
*Physical Geography*

**Kyle Flanagan**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*  
*Rethinking MPA: Integration of Watershed Urbanization*

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are established based on ecological and economic characteristics and needs. Assessed through adaptive management, their targets for success parameters are set by comparison with control areas. This method considers ecological interactions within the MPA boundary, but fails to integrate and incorporate the detrimental effects on marine ecosystems and MPAs from runoff-derived inputs (such as sediments and pollutants) from adjacent watersheds. Because studies show that MPA success is related to water quality parameters derived from watersheds effective MPA planning, management, protection, placement strategies and success criteria need to expand their scope to include the interconnectivity of terrestrial-coastal systems and mechanisms that link landuse/landcover (LULC) to water quality. It was hypothesized that MPAs downstream from urban watersheds would be impacted by poor water quality and therefore be less successful than MPAs downstream from relatively pristine watersheds. A multi-level analysis rubric was used in conjunction with ArcGIS spatial data to analyze correlations between MPA success and LULC within adjacent watersheds at the HUC8 scale. Preliminary results show that MPAs located downstream from watersheds with 43.6% urban landuse scored an average 23% success rate, while MPAs downstream from watersheds with 10.7% urban landuse scored an average 58% success rate. A significant ( $p=0.037$ ) inverse relationship between urban landuse coverage of adjacent watersheds and MPA success was seen. Subsequent research will use discharge and water quality data and model simulations to evaluate MPA success to further demonstrate the differences between MPAs adjacent to urbanized and relatively pristine watersheds.



**Taylor Gibbs**, University of Florida\*\*

*Interannual Precipitation Variability surrounding the  
Alberto Manuel Brenes Biological Reserve, Costa Rica.*

Annual and seasonal precipitation totals are analyzed from rainfall stations surrounding the Alberto Manuel Brenes Reserve in the northwestern-central region of Costa Rica in order to determine the likely precipitation climatology of the newly acquired biological reserve. This is achieved through the combined use of interstation correlations and digital elevation model analysis. While annual results give a broad regional setting, seasonal results present distinct statistical variations across the small region. The observed differences are a consequence of complex large-scale physical factors, including local topography, seasonal shifts of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), strengthening of Trades creating a pause in precipitation (Veranillos de San Juan), influence of tropical cyclones, as well as southward-moving cold fronts traveling from North America, all of which produce opposing signals on the Caribbean and Pacific flanks of the mountains. We can further attribute this variation to local influences consisting of the cordilleras themselves, producing a well-defined boundary between rainfall regimes. Given these hemispheric and regional mechanisms, natural response of interannual variability is identified.

**Kittiya Harris**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*

*Temporal Analysis of the Relationship between Impervious  
Surface, Rainfall, and Inland Flooding.*

In the few past decades, flood events have become more frequent and severe in coastal cities worldwide. Inland flooding in particular has caused structural, environmental, and economic damage, mainly due to the inability to predict rainfall and the expansion of impervious surfaces. The confluence of urban development choices that facilitate increased urban flood events, sea level rise, and densely populated coastal communities creates the potential for hazards of increased severity. The objective of this research is to analyze the spatio-temporal relationships between changes in land use/land cover (LULC), rainfall patterns and inland flooding events in the tri-county region of Tampa Bay (including Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties). LULC changes will be determined by using geographic

information systems (GIS) to show increases in impervious surfaces for 1990, 1995, 1999, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011. Rainfall data is analyzed using available decadal meteorological and discharge data from 1960-2014 for the tri-county region. Both the LULC and rainfall data events will be compared to flood events from historic (circa 1960) and recent local newspapers. The hypothesis for the expected result is that the increase in impervious surfaces and discharge is strongly correlated to the escalation in inland flood frequency. Identification of the areas impacted by LULC, rainfall, and flood pattern changes will provide critical information for local planners in the event of increasing risk of climate change and related natural hazards.

**Marjorie Jerez**, Florida State University\*

*Mangroves in the Salt Marsh: A GIS Approach to Identify Critical Salt Marsh Locations for Possible Mangrove Establishment in North Florida*

In recent years, documentation of mangroves being established far beyond their northern frontier of Cedar Key on the Gulf Coast have been noted. In 2010, for example, an entry for WFSU's Ecology Blog was published where Dr. Randall Hughes, now currently an assistant professor in the Marine and Environmental Studies department at Northeastern University, was conducting research with the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory. Although her original intent was to observe the salt marshes in St. Joe Bay, she also became interested in the stunted black mangroves she encountered. Various questions arise with these mangroves establishing in St. Joe Bay: Will they take over the salt marshes? What actions will be taken to protect and preserve the current ecosystem or will we let nature run its course? For this project, the goal was to identify salt marshes of high critical importance to state for the purpose of investigating if mangroves have also established in locations north of Cedar Key, Levy County. Data from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) was used to locate salt marshes that were of high critical wetland importance and of high critical biodiversity importance and GIS was used to produce maps of locations that met both criteria.

**Tess Rivenbark**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*\*  
*Analysis of contamination from septic system coastal waters of Florida using GIS data*

With an estimated number of 2.6 million in Florida, septic tanks are a possible source of contamination to both groundwater and surface water. This contamination can affect human health and the environment. Using hydrology, in situ sampling data, and other ancillary data in a GIS, this study examines the spatial distribution of septic systems in relation to contamination of coastal surface waters. The study area is defined by the 8-digit level hydrologic units that border the coast of Florida. Known septic system locations were obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Standard setback distances are used to determine areas where septic tanks are within close proximity of surface waters. Beach action data is used to represent contamination of coastal marine waters. Overall, the study aims to identify areas where septic systems are likely causing significant contamination of Florida's coastal waters.

**Molly Winn and Michael Teti**, Florida Atlantic University\*\*  
*Susceptibility of Applesnail Eggs to Submersion in Increasing Water Levels*

Susceptibility of Applesnail Eggs to Submersion in Increasing Water Levels Molly Winn<sup>1</sup>, Michael Teti<sup>1</sup>, Bruce Sharfstein<sup>2</sup>, Dean Monette<sup>1</sup>, and Scott Markwith<sup>1</sup> 1. Florida Atlantic University Department of Natural Sciences 777 Glades Road Boca Raton, Florida 33431 2. South Florida Water Management District Applied Sciences Bureau 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, Florida 33416 bsharfs@sfwmd.gov Fecundity is an important predictor of invasion potential for exotics. *Pomacea maculata* is an invasive applesnail with overlapping populations with the native *Pomacea paludosa* in Florida's aquatic systems. We examined oviposition distance above the water surface and use of various macrophyte species as laying substrate in Lake Okeechobee, which is characterized by rapid increases in lake levels. Egg clutches placed closer to the water surface are more susceptible to submergence, possibly causing an impact to snail hatching success. We recorded egg clutch height above the water surface and species of the macrophyte substrate. A SIMPER analysis was conducted

to examine differential macrophyte use. Dominant species for oviposition include *Typha* spp., *Eleocharis* spp., *Pontederia cordata*, *Polygonum* spp., *Sagittaria* spp. and *Schoenoplectus* spp. Among the dominant plant species, *Schoenoplectus* spp. was the predominant macrophyte used by both *P. maculata* and *P. paludosa* for oviposition. A one-way ANOVA was used on each individual macrophyte species to determine significant differences between *P. maculata* and *P. paludosa* for mean oviposition height. Statistically significant differences were found only for *Sagittaria* spp., with *P. maculata*'s egg clutches being a mean 5 cm closer to the water surface. However, oviposition height and plant height were positively correlated, suggesting that oviposition height is mainly a function of plant stability/height. Consequently, evidence does not suggest that either *P. maculata* or *P. paludosa* would be substantially favored or penalized as a function of differential laying height under conditions of rapidly rising water levels.

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Poster Session 2** (Bill France Lobby)  
*Human Geography*

**Leilona Catanzaro**, Florida International University\*\*  
*Disproportionality of Minority Students in Special Education: Where Does Miami-Dade Stand?*

Disproportionality of minority students in special education has an extensive history of providing separate and unequal education to children based on their cultural or linguistic diversity. Disproportionality is the overrepresentation or underrepresentation of a group within a disability category when compared to the membership of the entire population. There is overwhelming evidence to suggest one's race or ethnicity increases the risk of misidentification and placement into special education. Based on this evidence, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was modified in 2004 –holding all districts accountable for improving disproportionality in their schools. Minority students tend to receive special education services in the most segregated and restrictive learning environments. They also experience the harshest disciplinary actions, such as physical restraint, seclusion, lengthy suspensions, and expulsions. Once placed, students are given a less rigorous

curriculum, lower expectations, and significant social separation. On a national level, the rate of placement of minority students into special education has remained virtually unchanged for more than forty years. However, the rates of placement vary from state to state, district to district, and even school to school. More than a decade after the amendment to IDEA, minority students are still being placed into the most segregated and stigmatizing disability categories at an alarming rate in Miami-Dade Public Schools (MDPCS). This study explains the current status of disproportionality in MDCPS, one of the largest and most progressive school systems in the nation.

**Carlos Dolz**, Florida International University\*\*

*Atlantis: Truth of Myth?*

This research explores how geographic changes in the past could have affected human culture, particularly, the universal flood myth found in many ancient civilizations. In 10,000 BCE, the last Ice Age ended and the melting ice from glaciers caused the sea level to rise. Many coastal cities would have been inundated by the rising seas. Archaeologists have found underwater cities like Heracleion in Greece, Dwarka in India, and the Yonaguni monument in Japan. The flood myth of the bible, the Epic of Gilgamesh and the story of Atlantis could have been based on factual events in history.

**Cassandra Neira**, Florida International University\*\*

*Poverty in Florida: A Focus on Women*

In the United States, the average woman earns 77 cents to every man's dollar in salary; yet in the state of Florida a woman earns 83 cents to every man's dollar as the average salary for a woman is \$33,823 per year compared to \$40,951 per year for men. Although this may seem favorable, since the recession in 2008 men and women in Florida generally are found to make less than the national median income, though the gender gap is narrower (Gilin 2014). This research study examines the rate of poverty in Florida, focusing particularly on women. It also aims to define disparities between men and women of salary earnings throughout several different fields. After analyzing data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau as well as from city-data.com, this project compares the percentages of

women in poverty through the counties in Florida and specifically in its major cities; Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Orlando. These cities and their respective county are highlighted due to their striking results of women in poverty. Furthermore I compare salaries between men and women working in the State Court Systems, Office of the Governor, and faculty of Florida's public and private universities that also reveal interesting numbers. Among several reasons for women living in poverty other than wage disparities, a notable factor is mothers raising children without a husband; this data is also included in this study, however the study searches for other factors of poverty that differentiate the major cities.

**Ethan Roberts**, Florida International University\*

*Supporting competitive programs for undergraduates: A study of FIU's Model UN team*

Higher Education is in the midst of a critical transition as it attempts to integrate new technologies and adapt to a competitive economy that constantly requires new skill sets from workers. While enrollment at Universities increased significantly over the last twenty-five years opportunities and pay for college graduates has decreased. As Universities attempt to provide a better product to students greater attention should be given to the value of competitive academic organizations and their ability to provide something to students that Universities have been struggling to provide: a pathway to a promising career. At Florida International University the Model United Nations Program introduces students to a network of peers, as they compete and cooperate with politically minded students from across the globe. Students are provided with mentoring and instruction throughout their participation in the program. This study will observe the effect that participation in the Model United Nations Program at FIU has on students, specifically what they do after graduation in comparison to students who do not participate.

## Paper Abstracts

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**      **Paper Session 1** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*

**Chair: Vincenzo Piazza**

**April Watson**, Florida Atlantic University\*  
*Brewing the Vernacular: Florida Microbreweries and the Cultural Landscape*

The microbrewery trend has exploded onto the American landscape, capturing attention across multiple disciplines. Geographers have explored this growing movement, suggesting that this renaissance amongst microbreweries represents a return to place attachment. The microbrewery experience gives a person a sense of the authentic, the local, and the unique. Microbreweries are popular because they give both the local and the outsider a literal taste of a place. However, most research has focused on microbreweries from a “bird’s eye” perspective. Previous research has addressed so-called “microbrewery deserts”, especially within the South, but has not been able to explain them. The appeal to the authentic, or lack thereof, could help explain this phenomenon, yet little work has been done that surveys just how authentic the microbrewery experience really is in any given region or place. This paper examines microbreweries from four regions in the state of Florida and discusses the strength of their “sense of place.” This study found that Florida actually exhibits four levels of the authentic, and subsequently attempts to fit microbreweries into vernacular regions identified by Lamme and Oldakowski (2007)

**Hira Gul**, Daytona State College\*\*\*  
*Geographical factors influencing the cultural mosaic of Gilgit, Pakistan*

This project explores the cultural geography of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, a unique area of South Asia typified by significant variances in linguistic and religious characteristics. It analyzes the manner in which historical factors and aspects of the physical environment influenced the development of this regional diversity. Previously

known as the Northern Areas of Pakistan, it is officially called Gilgit-Baltistan. The region is largely characterized by relative isolation created by its surrounding mountains, the Hindu-Kush and the Karakoram Mountains in the north and western Himalayas in the south. While remote and little known to conventional tourists, Gilgit is famous for holding the second highest mountain in the world (K-2) and unrivaled natural splendor. While others might not be aware of its existence these factors make it an annual destination spot for a select group of tourists and mountaineers seeking to enjoy its beauty. Today, many come for the adventure, Geo-tourism, and cultural tourism. Many of the gemstones found in Gilgit are renowned on the international market. Wildlife hunting is becoming very popular in the region, bringing international hunters as visitors willing to pay heavy licenses to trophy hunt. The project will delve into how the human geography of the local populations was affected by the relative isolation. Isolation created by intervening obstacles inhibited regional mobility communication, along with other push and pull factors, leading it to distinctive differentiation and segmentation in the area's religious and linguistic geography.

**Matthew McKay**, University of Florida\*

*Nature as a Social Construction: Tourists' Perspectives of "Nature" in the Nordic Realm*

According to Schaad (2008), "some of the most unaffected and interesting perceptions of Scandinavia may be gleaned from Internet travel accounts -- perceptions people record from their visits to a foreign country" (201). The purpose of this paper is to examine how tourists perceive nature in Scandinavia (and beyond, including all areas within the Nordic realm) for travel and vacation purposes to this region of northern/northwestern Europe. A spatial perspective that incorporates the importance of tourists navigating spaces and attaching meanings to places, through their visits to Nordic countries, is the crux of this paper, from a conceptual perspective. The objective is to further the discussion on better understanding how visitors to Nordic places/spaces perceive and utilize nature for tourism experiences.

**9:05 – 10:25 a.m.**

**Paper Session 2** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Cultural Geography*



**Chair: Mary Caravelis**

**Mary Caravelis**, Barry University

*The Yamato pioneering Japanese farming colony of Palm Beach County*

From 1865 to 1910 various agencies within Florida, both private and public, were involved in a vigorous campaign to attract settlers to South Florida. When the call from the northern states was ignored the immigration campaign shifted to foreign individuals and their families with plans to create foreign colony settlements in the state. Possibly, the most ambitious colonization enterprise was the establishment of the Yamato Japanese farming colony in 1904 in Boca Raton. Unfortunately, this farming colony was short lived and dissolved by 1942. The reasons for the demise were due to adverse weather, farming, economic and political conditions prevalent at the time. Today, the only visible reminder of the Yamato colony is the same named road in Boca Raton and the Morikami Museum and Gardens in neighboring Delray. This case study is an example of the efforts that the state employed in order to populate the South Florida wilderness after the Civil War.

**James Abbott**, Stetson University

*William Bartram as Place Agent in Florida*

William Bartram published his seminal American natural history in 1791, "Travels through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws." In addition to this he authored various reports and essays on his southern experiences. Three themes dominate Bartram's writings: flora and fauna, Native American culture, and interaction with European settlers. His literary legacy was generally overlooked in the nineteenth century, being rediscovered by scholars in the early-twentieth century, when he was characterized as America's first native-born natural historian. As such, Bartram has become a touchstone for nature and history enthusiasts throughout the Deep South. His trace imbues southern landscapes through historical markers and recreational trails named for him, established by affinity groups such as the Bartram Trail Conference and garden

clubs. These contemporary manifestations of Bartram on the landscape constitute a Southern text, one that is as autobiographical of modern Southerners as it is biographical of Bartram. An analysis of the content of Bartram historical markers in Florida reveals how Bartram enthusiasts deploy a narrative using the themes of Bartram's Travels. His reflections and work on biota predominate, which frame the South of the period as a wild landscape rather than one highly contested by human agents.

**Chuck Kovacik**, University of South Carolina  
*Barbecue and the Mosaic of Southern Culture*

Food along with dialect, religion, music, and literature are among the important cultural traits that lend character and identity to the American South and its various subregions. Barbecue certainly is a distinctive southern food and generates about as much friendly discussion and heated debate as football, politics, or religion. Squabbles over barbecue are very much like those generated by football where the high school or college football team is associated with community, area, or even state identity and pride. Similarly, strong preference for a particular type of barbecue reflects the cultural character and identity of specific regions or places. Ostensibly the quality of the team or barbecue is at issue, but it is the regional or local pride that is at stake. This paper defines southern barbecue, traces its origins, illustrates its landscape expression, and outlines regional preferences with respect to meat types and sauces. The differences in preferences support arguments that the American South is not a homogeneous region but exists as a mosaic of many subregions.

**Vincenzo Piazza**, Daytona State College  
*The "Mezzogiorno." The untold causes of Italy's Southern Dilemma and the massive emigration to the New World*

This brief study will take into consideration shortcoming and failures of the Italian Risorgimento – period of National struggle for unity – in its process of integration of the peninsular people and the inevitable repercussions on a greater part of its Southern population, the "Meridionali." The information hereafter gathered is a result of

new historical research and geographical revelations regarding the events that occurred between 1860 (year of the expedition of the 1000 led by Giuseppe Garibaldi) and the immediate post-Risorgimento period which resulted in the conquest and forced annexation of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies. This brief thesis draws from new archival research in the past decades, that reveals unprecedented information regarding Piedmont's systematic economical and moral, if not physical, annihilation of the people of the Mezzogiorno: at the dawn of the Risorgimento, the Kingdom of Two Sicilies was the third most industrialized nation in Europe, as well as holding the fourth position in pro-capita. My study covers episodes regarding the injustice suffered by the southerners, their contrariety to unity with the rest of the peninsula, the economical theft ordained by the Savoy monarchs, not to forget the massacre of thousands of "Meridionali." Events, these, that have remained closed, if not obliterated in the past century, and that have led to the main objective of this thesis: the emigration of not thousands, but millions of individuals from the "Mezzogiorno" into other parts of the world, and trying to delineate the geographical patterns in the US preferred by the "Meridionali."

**10:25 – 10:40 a.m. Morning Break**

**10:40 a.m. – 12 p.m. Paper Session 3** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Physical Geography*

**Chair: Jeffrey Martin**

**Andre McFadden II**, University of Florida\*\*

*El Niño-Southern Oscillation and its Effect on Rainfall  
Patterns in the Lake Mweru Basin, Zambia*

Significant precipitation variability over parts of Africa, a continent which because of its generally low precipitation and high evapotranspiration rates, and reliability on rain-fed agriculture, is susceptible to the vagaries of climate. However, variability in some regions is poorly understood in part due to the lack current and historic data, national resources and/or political will. This study focuses on precipitation into the basin of Lake Mweru, and important source of nutritional and economical subsistence, in northeastern

Zambia. Historic rainfall data within and around the basin are investigated for indications of the influence of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the largest single cause of climate variability globally, and for suggestions of temporal changes in the relationship. Simple linear correlation establishes statistical links between annual rainfall and the Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI). Results suggest that rainfall in much of the basin is negatively correlated with the MEI, but the association is generally weak. Detailed examination of temporal changes in the association suggests that the strength but not the nature of the association changed over the course of the past century, supporting the view in the literature that the connections between the Indian and Pacific Oceans may change in the long run.

**Joseph A. Andreoli**, University of Florida\*

*Predicting the Geographic Ranges of Non-native Cichlids in Florida with Climate Change*

Invasive species and climate change are two of the most pressing issues facing Florida today. The state is a hotspot for non-native fish introductions, including cichlids. Cichlids are a popular group of fish in aquaculture, and among anglers and aquarists, with many species having established populations in Florida. These species cause various environmental and socioeconomic impacts to the state. This study correlates the georeferenced presence points of three different cichlid species in Florida and the current bioclimatic (BIOCLIM) and hydrologic (HYDRO1K) variables at those sites using maximum entropy modeling (MAXENT), in a species distribution modeling (SDM) framework. These relationships are then extrapolated to two different representative concentration pathways (RCPs) for the years 2050 and 2070. The resulting maps give us predictions to where in Florida suitable habitat for a given species exists at a fine resolution of 1 square-kilometer. The geographic ranges vary from species to species, with a general trend of expansion throughout the state in the future given climate change. As eradication is difficult once a species becomes established, these models have use in informing risk assessments for sister taxa. There is predictive power in uncovering what parameters drive non-native cichlid ranges in Florida. These findings can be expanded to what variables are important for aquatic non-native species establishment at global and regional scales. For regions supporting rich fish diversity and endemism like the

Southeastern United States, managers may use these findings in prioritizing effort and limited resources in controlling those non-native species causing the most negative impacts.

**Kimberly Lyons**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*  
*Simulating shifts in the temporal and spatial distribution of soil erosion rates under climate change*

Climate change is expected to alter the earth's hydrologic cycle by fluctuating rainfall quantities and intensities. These changes to the hydrologic cycle could significantly alter soil erosion rates as well as the spatial distribution of areas of high erosion risk potential (soil erosion 'hot spots') in a watershed. Understanding these potential changes could allow watershed managers to better implement best management practices and facilitate more sustainable development particularly in the agricultural sector. This research utilized the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) and the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis Couple Climate Model (CCCMA CGCM3.1) in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyze annual and seasonal soil erosion risk potential in the Cobb Creek watershed, GA under current and future climate conditions. Upon completion of the analysis, outputs were classified to represent soil erosion risk classes with moderately high and high erosion risk classes to be considered soil erosion risk 'hot spots'. Finally, changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of 'hot spots' were determined using an Xor Operator and a Wilcoxon Matched Pairs Analysis.

**Samantha Cope**, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg\*\*  
*Use of logistic regression to predict seagrass distribution: An analysis of space-time dynamics*

Habitat suitability modeling can reveal connections between seagrass and environmental variables namely water quality. This can help predict seagrass distribution affected by changing water quality variables. Seagrass, and its density distribution in Tampa Bay, Florida, is an important environmental and economic resource. The overall goal of this study was to loosely couple GIS and logistic regression methods to analyze relationships between seagrass distribution

and water quality variables across the time period observed (2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012). Specific objectives were i) to determine key water quality variables that influenced seagrass occurrence and ii) to analyze prediction error including differences across years observed. Water quality variables, such as light attenuation, salinity, and temporal variability of salinity (TVS), were used with GIS and the logistic regression model in order to predict their relationship with seagrass occurrence. Preliminary results showed that light attenuation was a significant predictor of distribution, with salinity and TVS to a lesser extent. The predictive model was validated using known seagrass polygon data. Results showed an increasing trend in under-prediction (140% increase) and a decreasing trend in over-prediction (80% decrease) overall across the observed time period. Over-prediction was most prevalent in northern regions of Tampa Bay in 2006 and 2008 but decreased in 2010 and 2012 while under-prediction increased. Error was more evenly distributed across space and time in southern regions of Tampa Bay. Changes in annual average rainfall and land cover may have contributed to this distribution difference in prediction error. Tampa Bay receives significant freshwater inputs from both point and nonpoint sources of pollution, so this study can aid in understanding the fluctuating dynamics of the study area.

**12:00 – 12:45 p.m.**    **Lunch** (Atlantic Room)

## **Paper Sessions**

**12:45 – 2:05 p.m.**    **Paper Session 4** (Bill France B-C rooms)  
*Economic, Political & Tourism Geography*

**Chair: R. Johns Krishnaswami**

**Bryan Winter**, University of South Florida\*  
*Informal Street Vending and Urban Space in China:  
Observations from Nanchang*

The heterogeneous nature of urban informality is rarely taken into account within the growing geographic research on urban China.

This presentation discusses the preliminary results of observational research done on informal street vendors in Nanchang, China. The main objectives of this presentation are: (1) to offer a description of the street vendor debate in the urban Global South; (2) provide an historical overview of street vending in urban space in China; and (3) describe observations of street vendors in a place-specific context. Informal street vending is a commonly seen practice in cities of the Global South and has become an increasingly visible livelihood strategy in China's cities since the economic reforms beginning in 1978. While often chastised as illegal or aesthetically unpleasing, informal activities and the consumption of the goods and services they offer are an integral element of everyday urbanism. Therefore, how informal vendors fit into urban and public space in China needs to be given closer consideration. This presentation will provide both an overview and local account of how this unfolds in a city largely left out of urban geographical scholarship.

**Danjha Leon, Alyssa Tedrick, Tiana MacNichols, Greta Eitzen and Joel Diaz**, Quanta-Honors College, Daytona State College\*\*\*

*Exploring Agenda-Setting via Social Media: The Impact of Political Agendas on Students at Daytona State College*

This study shows that agenda-setting does exist and function within social media. Surveys, which measured the political agendas of those who pay attention to social media and those who pay attention to traditional media, were administered to four different classes and a random pool of students at Daytona State College, Daytona Beach campus. We found that the interests of the students who received their political news from social media and those who received it from traditional media sources were almost identical. Since this study did have limitations of time and clarity of the administered survey, further research is needed in order to verify whether or not the findings are legitimate.

**Jared Mitchell**, University of Central Florida\*\*

*Geographic Viability of American Political Parties*

Geographic Viability of American Political Parties Jared Mitchell  
1/15/2016 The increasingly diverse American electorate, as

evidenced by the last two national elections, has given rise to the theory that the Democrat Party will have a built in demographic advantage in future Presidential races. Some have concluded that the Republican Party will need to adopt major policy changes to appeal to minority voters, or face marginalization. However this project will explore the Republican Party's potential advantages within America's changing electorate by examining candidate data from the past 100 years of U.S Presidential elections. The project will also analyze the changing geographic boundaries of the Republican Party at the Local, State, and, Federal level, as well as the evolving ethnic make-up of its candidates. Mapped results of recent elections illustrate an alternative scenario where the Democrat Party faces long term strategic disadvantages among its candidates for President. Examination of these data suggests that the current field of Republican and Democrat candidates in the 2016 Presidential Primaries may illustrate a pattern for future elections.

**Karina Livingston**, Florida International University\*

*Mapping ethnographic data on migration, tourism labor, and health risks in the Dominican Republic*

This paper focuses on the mixed-method's approach taken to quantify qualitative data from the results of the going NIDA-funded ethnographic study: "Migration, Tourism, and the HIV/Drug-Use Syndemic in the Dominican Republic". The study examines the health vulnerabilities and social factors contributing to HIV/AIDS and drug abuse among migrant workers in two tourism areas in the Dominican Republic. Prior research by our team has demonstrated a behavioral and epidemiological connection between tourism zones, HIV, and drug abuse. This project represents the first large-scale mixed method study to identify social, structural, environmental and demographic factors that may contribute to ecologies of vulnerability within the Caribbean tourism zones. Methods: Phase 1 of the study utilized ethnographic observation and in-depth qualitative semi-structured interviews with a theoretical sample of 37 migrants, 36 interviewed twice. Our research has identified deportation history as a critical factor contributing to vulnerability to HIV, drugs, mental health problems, and other health conditions. This paper demonstrates how we went about interpreting 37 interviews into a visual representation. Since deportation is such a contributing factor

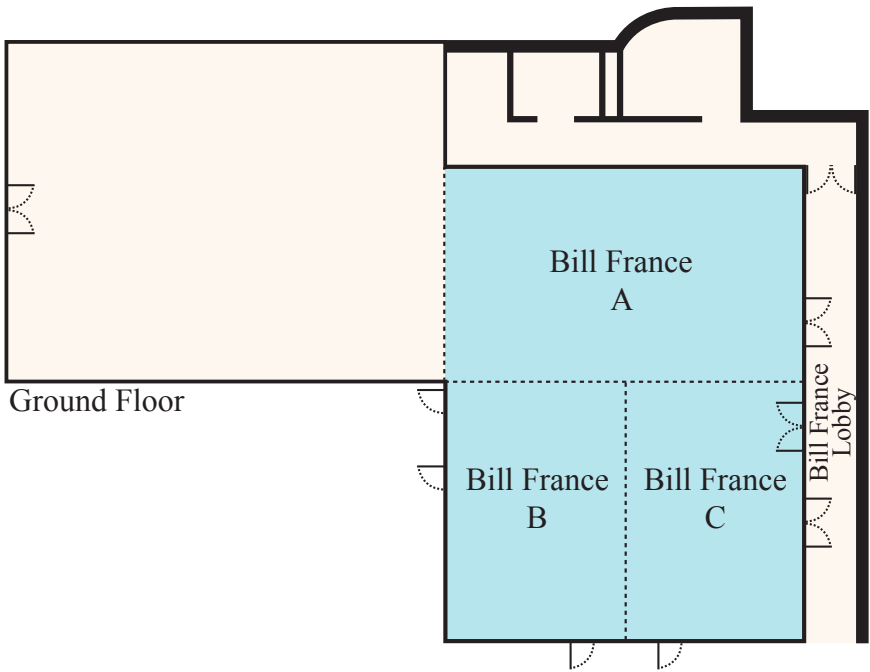


on their lives, understanding the movements of the participants became a vital scope of this research. Methodological innovation and lessons learned: The methods of mapping this qualitative data contribute to the ongoing, broadening capabilities of using GIS in social science research. These can be reinterpreted and used in future projects.

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**NOTES**

## The Shores Resort & Spa: Meeting Rooms Floor Plans



### Rooftop Level

