Department of Earth & Environment
2017 Graduate Research Symposium

School of Environment, Arts and Society
College of Arts, Sciences and Education
Florida International University

MARC Pavilion, Modesto Maidique Campus
Friday, February 24

Schedule

Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:30 Morning refreshments
9:00 Dr. Rene Price, Chairperson, Department of Earth & Environment
9:05 Dr. William Anderson, Senior Associate Dean, College of Arts, Sciences & Education
9:20 Dr. Lidia Kos, Associate Dean, University Graduate School
9:35 Dr. Grenville Draper - Observing the 50th Anniversary of Plate Tectonics

Graduate Student Presentations
9:50 – 11:02 am Session 1 – Oral Session
11:02 – 11:15am Coffee break and posters
11:15 – 12:30 pm Session 2 – Poster Tour, authors present
12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch (provided for all presenters)
1:30 – 2:42 pm Session 3 – Oral Session
2:42 – 3:00 pm Coffee break and posters
3:00 – 4:12 pm Session 4 – Oral Session

Awards Reception and Social Hour
4:15 – 5:00 pm Refreshments and presentation of awards for best posters and best talks
Presentations

Session 1 – Oral Presentations

9:50  Jander Socorro, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Continuous episodic dysoxia related to OAE1a, Organyà Basin, El Pujal section, Catalunya, NE Spain
10:02 Anteneh Abiy, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Modeling Groundwater Response to Hydroclimate Variability: Implications to Saltwater Intrusions in the Freshwater Aquifers of South Florida
10:14 Heather Vasquez, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Natural variability on a warmer globe in CMIP5 models
10:26 Kevin Casavos, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Restocking and Protecting Staghorn Coral Populations on the Florida Reef
10:38 Javiera Hernandez, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Understanding Hurricane Impacts with an Idealized Catastrophe Model
10:50 David Riera, MS Student, Environmental Studies: Orchid Synthetic Seed: Conservation and Commercial Applications Plant Biotechnology

Session 2 – Poster Presentations (11:15-12:30, with all first authors present)

1) Ariel Fredenreich, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Effects of Prescribed Burn on Pine Rockland Soil Health and Plant Communities within FIU’s Nature Preserve
2) Kathryn Braddock, MS Student, Environmental Studies: Conserving Nature Through Land Trust Initiatives: A Case Study of The Little Traverse Conservancy, Northern Michigan, USA
3) Christina Brown, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Integrated Modeling for Everglades Ecosystem Services Valuation
4) Lydia Cuni, MS Student, Environmental Studies: Drivers of species composition and diversity in the pine rockland-hardwood hammock ecotone: implications for restoration efforts in a fragmented community.
5) Carissa Gervasi, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: The impacts of Marine Protected Areas on fish and fisheries in South Florida
6) Israel Gonzalez, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Mechanisms of Hurricane Motion and Intensity Change (tentative)
7) Michael Kiflai, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Hydrogeophysical Characterization in the Mangrove Lakes Region of Everglades National park
8) Jose Llaguno, MS Student, Geosciences: Environmental Conditions Of Deposition, Origin, and Relative Maturity Of Organic Matter in Uppermost Barremian - Lowest Aptian Limestones Of The Eastern Prada Quarry Section, Organya Basin, South-Central Pyrenees, Spain.

9) Yongxian Pei, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Shear-motion Combined Effects on Tropical Cyclone Low-wavenumber Precipitation Asymmetry

10) Dillon Reio, MS Student, Environmental Studies: Investigating the Effects of Land-Use Change on the Hydrologic Conditions of a Restored Agricultural Area in Everglades National Park

11) Eshita Samajpati, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Geochemistry of detrital Pyroxene and Glass from DSDP Site 296

12) Suresh Subedi, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Is there evidence for trait-based community assembly patterns in South Florida hardwood hammock forests?

13) Kalli Unthank, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Influence of C-111 Spreader Canal on Groundwater Levels in the C-111 Basin and Taylor Slough Area, Miami-Dade County, Florida

Session 3 – Oral Presentations

1:30 Joshua Allen, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Assessment of water and constituent transport in the L31N canal following two hydraulic alterations to flow within and to the Everglades National Park

1:42 Stephen B. Leatherman, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Rip current measurements in South Florida

1:54 Brad Klotz, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Tropical Cyclone Surface Wind Asymmetry in Response to Wind Shear and Intensity Change

2:06 Maria Sider, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Benthic Foraminiferal Facies of a Caribbean, Mid-Holocene Coral Reef, Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama

2:18 Jesse Blanchard, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Searching for the missing variance: individual personalities structuring dispersal limited metapopulations

2:30 Joseph Sinicrope, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Critical Next Steps to Introducing a Novel Approach to Mitigate the Potential Release of Radioactive Contamination Under Thermal and Seismic Stressors During Environmental Remediation of Nuclear Sites.
Session 4 – Oral Presentations

3:00 Joshua Diamond, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Tree selection by woodpeckers in South Florida's tropical forests

3:12 Kathleen Fallon, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Beachgoers’ literacy and recognition of the rip current hazard at Miami Beach, Florida

3:24 Zoe Verlaak, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Downcore distribution of the benthic foraminiferal biocoenosis in the southwestern Everglades, South Florida, USA

3:36 Jeremy Katz, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Evaluation of Surface Layer Parameterizations Using In-Situ Observations

3:48 Philip Lamela, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Foraminifera of the Cannonball Formation: Paleocene Transgression of the Western Interior Seaway

4:00 Zongyao Yang, PhD Student, Earth Systems Science: Importance of Representation of Cloud Microphysics to the Intensity Forecast of Tropical Cyclones

Awards

A panel of judges will announce the winners at 4:45 PM. Awards for best presentation and runner-up, and best poster and runner-up, will be given in both the MSc and PhD cohorts. Best Poster and Best Presentation awardees receive a $100 gift certificate, and the runners-up receive a $50 certificate.

Acknowledgements

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