

FAQ: General Information about First Coast Scholars

What is First Coast Scholars?

The inspiration for creating First Coast Scholars (FCS) began in September, 2004. The collaborators include the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership, Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville University, The University of North Florida and Edward Waters College.

The primary purpose of FCS is to provide First Coast teachers with an opportunity to deepen content knowledge by participating in scholarly seminars. The seminars are presented by faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business at UNF and JU with the outcome being the development of high quality research based lesson plans that will help improve the academic performance of students in Northeast Florida.

How do I apply for one of the 2012 seminars?

The information session for the spring 2011 FCS seminars will be held November 15, 5:00 p.m. at the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership. Attending this information session is the best way to get all the information about the seminars being offered. Seminar Leaders will be at this meeting to present an outline of their seminar content. Teachers can register for one of the 2012 seminars by logging on to the Schultz Center's online course registration system and clicking on First Coast Scholars.

How is this different from other programs offered in Duval County?

This is a collaborative program developed by active classroom teachers, working with university professors, to provide a content rich opportunity for Duval county teachers. Seminars are designed to be scholarly discussions. These are not methodology courses, but a chance to investigate topics of interest without the pressure of tests. Reading assignments are suggested to enrich seminar discussions.

Who is eligible to participate in the seminars?

Eligibility is open to all K-12 classroom teachers and academic coaches currently under contract in Duval.

How long are the seminars?

The seminars begin the week of January 16, and end the week of April 2, 2012. The seminars meet once a week and consist of eight seminar discussion sessions and three curriculum support sessions. All sessions are scheduled from 5-7 p.m. The day of the week is determined by the seminar leader's schedule. Seminars will not meet the week of Duval's spring break.

What are the spring 2012 seminar topics?

Who's That Tip Tapping at My Door? Fairy tales, Folklore, and the Stories of Our Lives, Betsy Nies, Ph. D., University of North Florida, Tuesdays 5-7 p.m. January 17 -April 3, 2012

This seminar will explore the way narrative structures that we are—how we think, how we perceive those around us, what we accept as real or possible for us in our lives. In particular, we will look at folklore and fairy tales, giving thought to how different cultural systems generate values, values which move us forward to explore ourselves or close us down, limiting our options. Our students face this same struggle—what stories govern their lives? Do their stories help them to reach for more or encourage them to give up before they've even begun?

Participants will read fairy tales, folktales, and contemporary revisions of them, giving thought to what structures of thought inform stories for youngsters and our more mature students. The seminar will open with a look at cross cultural child rearing patterns and fairy tales/folktales from Europe, Africa, and Asia. We will move on to consider contemporary revisions by a range of authors of children's, young adult, and adult literature appropriate for use in public school classrooms.

Tentative reading and discussion schedule:

Week 1: Child-rearing in Africa and Europe

Reading Little Red Riding Hood

Week 2: Reading Sleeping Beauty

Week 3: Reading Cinderella

Week 4: Jane Yolen's *Briar Rose* (or other YA fairy tale revision)

Week 5: Reading folklore as coming-of-age: Maxine Hong Kingston's *Woman Warrior*.

Week 6: Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* (or other YA folklore revision)

Week 7: Rosa Guy's *My Love, My Love or The Pheasant Girl* (or other YA fairy tale revision)

Week 8: Khaled Hosseini's *Kite Runner* (book or graphic novel)

Betsy Nies, Associate Professor English, teaches children's literature, adolescent literature, and contemporary American ethnic traditions at the University of North Florida's Department of English. If you have suggestions for specific texts or questions about this 2012 spring seminar, please contact her at bnies@unf.edu.

Who, What and Where of the Florida Conservation Battle, Quinton White Jr., Ph. D., Jacksonville University, Wednesday 5-7 p.m. January 18-April 4, 2012

Seminar Summary: The Who, the What and the Where will be a unique look at the science, history, philosophy and sociology of the fight to save the fragile Florida environment with some hands on and feet wet field work. We'll talk about how fire and water shaped Florida and the influence of indigenous people too. Join us as we take a look at the heroes and heroines of the Florida conservation movement ranging from the historic John and William Bartram to the matriarch Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, and include the dynamic duo Archie and Marjorie Carr and such modern writers as Bill Belleville and Craig Pitman. We'll combine a blend of readings and discussions with some field trips to look at what they were

fighting to preserve. What did Old Florida look like and where are we today? Let's look at the St. Johns River, the sandy beaches and the sensitive wetlands along with the importance of fire and water in maintaining the ecology of Florida. This seminar will be a multi-disciplined approach with topics for elementary, middle school and high school teachers alike.

Seminar topics include:

- An Introduction to Old Florida- Fire and Water
- A Walk on the Beach- Field Trip
- Early Pioneers: John and William Bartram
- A Look at the Wild Side of Florida- Field Trip
- Booming Florida: Douglas and the Carrs
- A Ride on the River-Field Trip
- Modern Warriors
- What does the future hold?

Quinton White, Executive Director of the Marine Science Research Institute at Jacksonville University. He has been studying the St. Johns River for over three decades. He received his Ph.D. in 1976 from the University of South Carolina at the Baruch Institute of Marine Biology and Coastal Research. He has a MS degree from the University of Virginia. He is a former Professor of the Year at JU. His research has taken him to China, the Galapagos Islands, the Bahamas and down to 1500 feet below the ocean. His research on the St. Johns River includes work on manatees, dolphins, and human related nutrient impacts.

Google, Gadgets and Gizmos: Inventions and Innovation, Carole C. Barnett, Ph. D., Jacksonville University, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. January 18- April 4, 2012

Seminar Summary: This is an interdisciplinary seminar which will explore how access to knowledge and technological developments have affected our world from how and what we "see" to what we know. We will explore how developments in science and technology have improved (or worsened) the world in which we live. We will trek through history and the far ranging realms of art, agriculture, transportation and the sciences as viewed through the lens of the artist, writer, historian and scientist. Your individual interests and classroom needs will be our "road map" of exploration.

It would seem that the world of Wiki culture and Google has created instant access to facts and information which were once only harbored by scientists and learned men and women. If the Middle Ages had a problem with lack of knowledge, then contemporary society and our students are drowning in "information overload". Our communal culture has enabled us to create "virtual" worlds which would amaze the likes of Leonardo Da Vinci. With so much knowledge just "one click" away, we are free to explore our wildest dreams and interests in this seminar from Abacus to Zeitgeist.

Being trained as an "Interdisciplinary Humanist" I have always fostered a great love of the arts and sciences. I look forward to a shared learning community whereby we are all empowered, engaged and energized!

Weekly seminars will be based upon a thematic focus. The seminar has been designed to allow you freedom to inquire and read at your leisure. The majority of our work will be done in class. Each participant will create an informal presentation based upon his or her interests.

Seminar Topics:

- The World in the Year 1000 "Medieval Minds"
- Global Connections and Discoveries
- Enlightenment: Lenses and Light (Art and Astronomy)
- Agrarian Societies and Culture (Crops, Food Supply)
- Powering our World (Steam, Electricity, Nuclear Energy)
- Mother Nature (Climate, Environment, Geology)
- Virtual Worlds (Education and Technology)
- Envisioning the Future (Science Fiction, Wiki Worlds)

Dr. Barnett has been a Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities at Jacksonville University since 1998. She recently spent time in the Middle East on sabbatical teaching at the United Arab Emirates University. Dr. Barnett was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities Grants and conducted research at the University of Chicago. She has travelled extensively through Europe, the Mediterranean and has a wide array of interests from culture and society to science. She has been associated with First Coast Scholars since its inception and loves working with Duval County teachers!

What do you Mean I Can't Have More Cake? Unlimited Wants & Scarce Resources: Decision Making in a Limited World, Elizabeth Porter, Economist, Jacksonville University, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. January 18-April 4, 2012

Seminar Summary – All resources are scarce, time, money, and natural resources. Economics is the study of the decisions that individuals and society make given our limited resources. There is an increasing concern however that we are making decisions that satisfy our needs and wants in ways that are unsustainable. Sustainability is grounded on the conviction that societies should develop ways to meet their present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. Since sustainability is ultimately about the scarcity of resources, however, the primary focus of this seminar is the development of an understanding of basic economic principles and a discussion of choices to meet future challenges. In this seminar, participants will explore the diversity of disciplines that are critical to understanding and creating solutions for economic and environmental challenges.

Seminar topics:

- What is Economics? Economic Perspectives
- "The New Normal": Our Economy and Economic Growth
- Natural Resources and Biocapacity
- Unsustainable Patterns/Misalignment of Resources
- Ack! Debt!

- Unemployment
- Our Ecological Footprint
- Personal Finance
- Human Capital
- Being Green

Elizabeth Porter is an instructor at Jacksonville University. She holds a MA in Development from the University of Manchester in the UK, and a BA in International Relations & Diplomacy having studied in Germany and Spain. Elizabeth is currently a doctoral student at the University of Florida where she is researching poverty and deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest. She has worked in numerous countries for different international organizations, including the UN. Elizabeth is a Jacksonville native and the daughter of a Duval County school teacher.

How do I earn the honorarium and professional development points?

There are four levels of participation:

- Level One - Attend the seminar and curriculum support sessions and create one lesson plan and earn up to 30 professional development points.
- Level Two - Attend the seminar and curriculum support sessions and create two lesson plans and earn up to 40 professional development points.
- Level Three - Attend the seminar and curriculum support sessions and create three lesson plans and earn up to 50 professional development points.
- Level Four - Attend the seminar and curriculum support sessions, create a curriculum unit, narrative and 4 or more lesson plans to and earn up to 60 professional development points. Participating at level four makes you eligible to apply for the 2012 First Coast Princeton Scholars Summer Experience seminar. [Click](#) here for seminar summary.

What is the purpose of developing lessons?

The purpose of developing lesson plans is to demonstrate the ability to transfer the knowledge learned in the seminar into application in the classroom. It is also to show that in a multi-disciplined environment you can teach one subject and get many different outcomes. The lessons will be published on Riverdeep for access by all Duval district teachers. Teachers are asked to develop lesson plans that follow Next Generation Sunshine State Standards/ Common Core Standards and fit into the appropriate grade level curriculum learning schedule.

Are there any costs?

There are no costs for participating in the FCS seminars.

How do I become eligible to apply for the Princeton Scholars Summer Experience program?

Teachers who are actively participating in a 2012 First Coast Scholars seminar and have committed to developing a curriculum unit of four or more lessons are eligible to apply for participation in the Princeton Scholars Summer Experience. The selection process is determined by members of the FCS Advisory Council based on the applicant's application, principal recommendation, and FCS curriculum unit lesson plans. Each participant will be required to create three new classroom lessons following their experience in the seminar at Princeton University. Expenses for air fare, room and board and transportation between Princeton University and the airport are covered by FCS. [Click here](#) for a summary of the 2012 First Coast Princeton Scholars Summer Experience seminar.