

Fellows Forum

Each year, under the direction of The Graduate School, members of the Fellows Society organize and participate in an interdisciplinary symposium designed to engage students from a broad range of academic disciplines. Proposals for the 2013 Fellows Forum topic are due November 1, 2012.



Organized by:

Fellows Society Members

Torsha Bhattacharya, Ph.D. candidate, Urban & Regional Planning
Joseph Davenport, Ph.D. student, Mass Communications
Karin Jeffery, Ph.D. student, Sport Psychology
Mary Marcous, Ph.D. student, Philosophy
Alexa Warwick, Ph.D. candidate, Biological Science

Fellows Society Coordinator

Jennifer Feltman, Ph.D., The Graduate School

Food Drive to benefit the FSU Food Pantry

Donations of non-perishable items will be collected to help stock the FSU Food Pantry, which provides food for FSU students in need.



THE
GRADUATE
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2012

Fellows Forum



Journey to the Table: A Discussion of the Food System

March 30, 2012
Florida State University
Center for Global Engagement, Auditorium



Agenda

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Welcome from Dean Marcus

8:30 – 8:40 AM

Panel 1: Modern Ag, Science, and Nutrition

8:40 – 10:05 AM

Dr. Nora Underwood, Associate Professor, FSU Department of Biological Science

Dr. Felicia Coleman, Director, FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory

William D. Clay, Jr., Visiting Professor, Intl. Affairs and Dept. of Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Sciences; Former Chief of the Nutrition Programs Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Break

10:05 – 10:15 AM

Panel 2: Food, Culture, and Community

10:15 – 11:30 AM

Dr. Ed Barnard, Forest Pathologist & Supervisor, Florida Forest Service, Forest Health Program (Retired)

Kareem Usher, Ph.D. student, FSU Department of Urban & Regional Planning

Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Director, FAMU Small Farms Program

Break

11:30 – 11:40 AM

Keynote

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

"Sustainability and Entrepreneurship: Connecting Health, Environment and Sustainable Practices to Gain Market Premium"

Dale Sims, FSU Alumnus and Fellow, Co-Founder of CleanFish, Inc.

Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 PM

The Future of Food: A Discussion with Panelists

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Notes

The Fellows Society

Bringing together University-wide and national fellowship recipients for the purpose of interdisciplinary learning.



Panel 1
Modern Ag, Science, and Nutrition

***Modern Agricultural Tools and Unexpected
Consequences***

Dr. Nora Underwood

Associate Professor
Department of Biological Science
Florida State University

Modern industrial agriculture relies on major innovations that have arisen through the history of agriculture: irrigation, monoculture, tilling, synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and genetic manipulation. Each of these tools provides benefits, but these may come at a cost. Understanding the surprisingly complex ways in which modern agricultural tools interact with the biology of crops and other organisms should help us use them in the best way possible. In this talk, I will discuss the particular case of some unexpected consequences of nitrogen fertilizers. Recent research suggests that fertilizer has complex effects on the community of organisms that live in soil, altering the ability of plants to use naturally available nitrogen. These results have implications for conventional and organic agriculture and for the health of natural ecosystems.

***Effects of Fishing on Marine Ecosystems:
Are We Asleep at the Reel?***

Dr. Felicia Coleman

Director
Coastal and Marine Laboratory
Florida State University

In the United States, the capture of wild animals on land occurs primarily as a recreational activity, since the bulk of our animal protein for nutrition comes from domesticated and agriculturally-derived beasts, including chickens, ducks, and cows. The story is quite different for marine fish, the capture of which has quite large commercial and recreational components. How do these sectors differ in terms of their impact on fish populations? What is the relationship between these animals and the rest of the ecosystem within which they live? This presentation will explore the broad effects of fishing from both population and ecosystem-level approaches as well as the regulatory milieu intended to control those effects and the social context within which these regulations are made. It will also touch on new approaches to management, from marine protected areas to ecosystem-based management, and how (or whether) such approaches will prove helpful.

***A World of Plenty, A World of Want: A Global
Perspective on Hunger and Malnutrition***

William D. Clay, Jr.

Visiting Professor

International Affairs and Dept. of Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Sciences
Former Chief of the Nutrition Programs Service of the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

First, the good news: there is more food available in the world today and more people have access to it than at any time in history. Now, the bad news: there are more malnourished people in the world today than at any time in history. The reasons for this situation are complex and cut across disciplines, often including social, economic, cultural, political, agricultural and environmental dimensions. This presentation will look at the current state of food and nutrition problems around the world, explore the causes and consequences of widespread hunger and malnutrition, and discuss opportunities for improving food systems so they can better contribute to the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

**Panel 2
Food, Culture, and Community**

Wendell Berry: Modern Day Oracle of Agrarianism

Dr. Ed Barnard

Forest Pathologist & Supervisor (Retired)
Florida Forest Service, Florida Forest Health Program

Wendell Berry is increasingly becoming an icon in American literary and academic circles. Having resigned (twice?) from teaching creative writing at the University of Kentucky, Berry lives with his wife Tanya on his beloved Lanes Landing Farm in the small Kentucky town of Port Royal. Poet, novelist, essayist, writer of short stories, activist, and agrarian, Berry is the author of more than forty books on topics and themes spanning among others, agriculture, rural life, environmental issues, and communities. Agrarianism is a term poorly understood by many. It has both social and political-philosophical implications and has been held by some as synonymous with nostalgia or a longing for “the good old days.” Berry’s concept of agrarianism, as deduced by this presenter, has more to do with common sense husbandry and use of resources as opposed to the exploitation of the same, which is so often extant in industrialized societies. His critique of many modern environmental, political, and cultural ills is multifaceted and challenging. When introduced to Berry, a colleague labeled him the “master synthesizer,” tying “all the pieces” of life together in rational and functional simplicity. Indeed this presenter knows of no one, other than Wendell Berry, who has seamlessly and meaningfully weaved sexuality, marital relations, child care, and abortion into a discussion on resource conservation. Certainly a well-respected thinker and revered writer, Wendell Berry is perhaps a modern day prophet as well, at least understanding and seeing the future better than most.

***Exploring Alternative Food Networks:
Food Justice or Socially Paternalistic Food Policies?***

Kareem Usher
Ph.D. Student
Department of Urban & Regional Planning
Florida State University

The modern commodified food economy is possibly the most efficient, productive and profitable activity in the last thousand years of human history, yet it is crippled by three major problems: unequal access to food, the questionable sustainability of the agro-food system, and food health and safety problems. At the local scale in North American and European cities, the global food system has produced a patchwork of unevenly distributed food where deficient locales (“food deserts”) face issues of food accessibility, affordability, adequacy, acceptability (cultural relevance), nutrition, and equity.

Solutions usually include enticing grocery store chains to deprived locations and promoting community gardens/urban agriculture, farmers’ markets, farm-to-school and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs often in low-income, working-class, and predominantly minority neighborhoods. Although activists promote the alternative approach as a way to feed poor neighborhoods and buoy struggling family farms, extant research suggest that working-class African-Americans do not participate in alternative food networks such as farmers’ markets and CSAs to the extent (by proportion of population) of their Anglo counterparts.

Alternative food networks promote the democratization of food systems through enhanced public participation. They open spaces for dialogue and stimulate creativity and social innovation. Although this approach has displayed intermittent success, consistent results are expected, and these may be achieved through a better understanding of the role of class and racial differences in food discourse.

Sustainable Development

Dr. Jennifer Taylor
Director
Statewide Small Farms Program
Florida A&M University

A key issue within global agricultural research and development is the need to focus positively on the sustainable development of small-scale farmers by providing resources for poor farmers and their families. Though these farmers make up approximately 90% of the world’s farmers, in general, they have not had equal access to or participation in the same kinds of programs and training as larger-scale producers and agribusinesses.

Generally, agricultural research and extension programs have sought out medium to large-scale farmers because they are thought to be more successful, innovative, and readily able to adopt technology and, thus, contribute to growth and development. The 2007 USDA Census indicated that approximately 91% of all farms in the United States are small farms, which is an increase from previous census.

It is important to ensure local food security with agricultural management strategies that enhance sustainable agroecological production, encourage local food systems, and embrace the benefits of local small farm populations.

