Gillespie MUSEUM
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We Offer FASCINATING EXPERIENCES
STETSON UNIVERSITY
Museum News
Sept/Oct 2012

Smithsonian magazine museum day live!

As its first Science Saturday of the 2012-13 academic year, the Gillespie joined nine other museums throughout West Volusia to celebrate the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day *Live*. Participating institutions of the newly formed Mainstreet Arts Council (MACDeLand.org), museums throughout the city were open for extended hours and free of charge, reflecting the free admission policy of the Smithsonian. The City of DeLand proclaimed September 29 as Museum Day.

Visitors to the Gillespie browsed new displays, including

Minerals A-Z, a new arrangement of long-cherished GM specimens, and a case introducing the **Berzelian Classification System**, one of the simplest classification systems for minerals. A feature of the main display room was a small exhibit entitled **Smithson, Smithsonite, and the Smithsonian**, highlighting the contributions of James Smithson (1765-1820), the British chemist and mineralogist who was the benefactor of our national museum system.

The main attraction of the day was the opening of **A Wild Life: Protecting the Florida Black Bear**, which features Stetson graduate Krystal Sellers' *Sorrowful.* Recipient of the 2012 Elizabeth Knight Sumner Purchase Award of the Stetson Art Dept., the mixed media sculpture of a Florida black bear is made from tire tread which Sellers collected from the side of State Road 11, the western corridor of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway. In her gallery talk in the Rinker Environmental Learning Center, Sellers explained that seeing a black bear on the SR 11 inspired the piece: "The image of that bear is still etched into my memory....

"The violently ripped-apart quality of found tire tread gives my sculpture the look and emotion I want. The shredded tires I've used were on the road where this black bear died and, in my mind, these tires are eyewitnesses, symbolically representing the horrible death this animal suffered."

....The only thing I could do was memorialize the black bear into a sculpture."

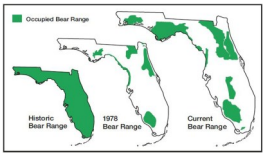
The exhibit includes information about the black bear as an "umbrella species," and how its protection indirectly protects other species in this central Florida ecological habitat. The exhibit runs through May 3.

Museum staff member, Stacey Junkins, installs the black bear umbrella species display.

In their sessions later in the morning, Mike Wood and Tony Ehrlich of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway discussed efforts of this volunteer program to promote understanding of Florida's Big Scrub and its inhabitants and to support wildlife corridors and management.

Mike Wood of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway in the RELC

Florida black bear,
Ursus americanus floridanus



Mostly GREEN Halloween IV

Outside the candy box: this year's event included some of our traditional activities—Jack-o-Lanterns in the Fluorescent Room and a learning station about Florida bats outside our cave. Lynn Albinson, Director of the HATS program, was back by popular demand to stage Minerva McGonagall's Potions Lab at the Rinker Environmental Learning Center. Prof. Cindy Bennington directed some work in the native plant landscape.

Lynn Albinson with Stetson Community Engagement Volunteers , Ava &Tiffany

With the help of students in Prof. Alicia Schultheis' introductory biology course, the Science Saturday event had even more activities to engage young visitors in learning about the wonders of the natural world through experimentation and careful observation: the green benefits of the **Microbial Fuel Cell**; **Exploding Pumpkins**, demonstrating enzyme reactions; **Lava Lamps**, an introduction to lipids; and stations on the **Special Properties of Water** and **You Are What You Eat**.

Catalyst demonstration by biology student Anja Erwin—before the pumpkin exploded!

Okay, we had plenty of candy. But some delicious organic apples, too.

Plant ecology students Katie Kern, Logan Davidson, Nerissa Fay & Shelby Grimes in the sandhill landscape

Jack Hoblick in the bat cave

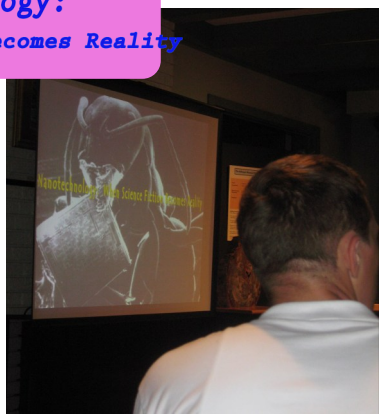
ECHO Rangers in the Potions Lab

Science Café

Conversation • Coffee • Chocolate

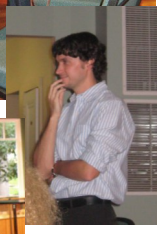
Nanotechnology:

When Science Fiction Becomes Reality



On Wednesday evening, October 24, Stetson professors Harry Price, Chemistry, and Allan Thomas, Physics, were the featured speakers at the Gillespie Museum's first ***Science Café***. Over coffee and chocolate, they spoke to a group of students, faculty, and DeLand residents about the field of science and engineering that concerns itself with the manipulation of matter on an atomic and molecular scale. An interdisciplinary field, drawing from the expertise of chemists, physicists, engineers, computer scientists, molecular biologists, and many other highly skilled professionals, "nanotech" has become a key technology with many applications, from electronics to clothing.

Twice a semester, the Gillespie Museum will host these informal conversations. Science Cafés have become a growing, global phenomenon, bringing scientists and the general public together to talk about current science in a relaxed and unintimidating way. The next **Café** is scheduled for March, when Prof. Mike King will speak about his research in neuroscience as part of Brain Awareness Week. Join us for more chocolate, coffee, and conversation.



Prof. Thomas

Prof. Price