



Education Department Update: February 23, 2021

1. The **2021 Coastal Lecture Series** continues to see record-breaking attendance on a weekly basis. To date, **1,766 attendees** have tuned in live to watch our first 7 virtual lectures – **an average nightly attendance of 252 guests** – breaking last year’s record lecture series turnout with three lectures still remaining. Recordings of this year’s lectures are available at <https://www.floridaocean.org/coastal-lecture-series>. This year’s series will wrap up with the following three lectures:

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, Dr. Bob Knight, Executive Director, Florida Springs Institute – **The health of Florida’s springs.**

Tuesday, Mar. 2nd, Tonya Wiley, President, Havenworth Coastal Conservation – **Sawfish research.**

Tuesday, Mar. 9th, Dr. Annie Page-Karjian, Assistant Research Professor & Clinical Veterinarian, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute – **Dolphin and sea turtle health.**
2. Education Specialists Shannon Dack and Yasmeen Fadlallah have led **4 guided beach walks** during the month of February. Additional dates were scheduled, but cancelled due to a lack of participation.
3. **Summer camp** registration opened to FOS members on Feb. 5th and to the general public on Feb. 12th. **We have already filled 104 of 122 open spots (85% of our camp capacity).** Shannon has confirmed that one of our previous full-time (temporary) camp counselors will be returning this summer. We will be advertising a second full-time camp counselor position shortly.
4. Education Director Dr. Zack Jud **submitted a Letter of Intent for a \$100,000 educational grant** supported by the Impact100 Martin grant program. Florida Oceanographic Society was selected to advance to the second round of this competitive process, and will be submitting a full grant proposal this week.
5. Yasmeen and Zack led **nine virtual field trips** this month, including a college lecture and three high school lectures, which are at our highest price point for virtual programming (\$135 per lecture).
6. To date, **78 candidates have applied for the open Education Specialist position.** Last week, we conducted Zoom-based interviews with our top ten candidates, and will be scheduling a second round of interviews with our top five applicants later this week. We are targeting a mid-April start date for the new Education Specialist.
7. Shannon and Yasmeen have been **training a cohort of eight new volunteer Exhibit Guides.**
8. Shannon and Zack participated in a **Zoom workshop focused on planning a safe nature center summer camp experience during the COVID-19 pandemic**, hosted by the Association of Nature Center Administrators.
9. Zack continues to coordinate with ColorAd and Trivium to **finalize exhibit design for the Ocean EcoCenter.**
10. Zack served as a **Session Chair during the Indian River Lagoon Science Symposium.**