

# DISTANCE LEARNING & STUDENT SERVICES NEWS

[TOP NEWS](#)[DLSS UPDATES](#)[REMINDERS](#)[ARTICLE DIGESTS](#)[THE FUN STUFF](#)[SPECIAL FEATURE](#)**QUICK LINKS**

## TOP NEWS IN FL & BEYOND

### ONLINE LEARNING STILL IN HIGH DEMAND AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

"Although the shift to remote learning was precipitated by the pandemic, many community colleges, which disproportionately serve older adults and working people, are continuing to offer at least half of their courses online in response to growing student demand for more flexible options. Some colleges administrators are even proactively expanding and improving their online offerings or making their current offerings more accessible."

(Source: [Inside Higher Ed](#))

[Read more here.](#)





## AI IS ALREADY CHANGING HOW TEACHERS TEACH

"As AI jolts education, public school teachers and university professors are discovering that it is not just for students. Educators are using it to help develop tests, generate case studies, write emails and rethink teaching strategies."

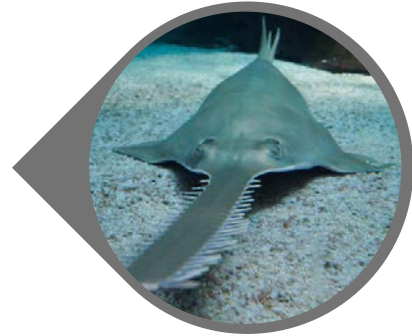
(Source: [Washington Post](#))

Read more [here](#).

## FSU RESEARCHERS PART OF TEAM THAT FIND "CRITICALLY ENDANGERED" FISH SPECIES

"Smalltooth sawfish populations declined dramatically during the 20th century as a result of habitat loss, fishing bycatch and other factors. Since 1996, the species has been listed as "critically endangered" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List." (Source: [Newsweek](#))

Read more [here](#).



# DLSS UPDATES

## TRANSIENT STUDENT ADMISSIONS APPLICATION (TSAA) NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE DURING SUMMER

Transient Student Admissions Applications submitted so far for this summer (30,391) have increased by 22 percent when compared to the entire summer term in 2022 (24, 994). At this point in the academic year there have been 42,050 applications created compared to the same time in 2022 (35,193), which is a 19.5 percent increase. Thank you for supporting the mission of the Florida Virtual Campus and being a part of the Transient Admissions Application process to support your students. Please do not hesitate to contact the Florida Virtual Campus Help Desk, throughout the semester, for further assistance.

[BACK TO THE TOP](#)

## ■ STATEWIDE UPLOADS OF IN-PERSON AND ONLINE PROGRAM DATA TO THE 2022-2023 FLORIDASHINES CATALOG WERE SUCCESSFUL

In response to the ongoing implementation of House Bill 1507 (2021), the process to upload in-person and online program data to the FloridaShines Catalog for the 2022-2023 Academic Year was extremely successful. Should you have any questions about your institution's program upload, please contact [catalog@flvc.org](mailto:catalog@flvc.org).

Review window for institution profiles is open and will close on **August 1, 2023**.

## ■ FREE REGISTRATION TO COLLEGE 101 WEBINAR SERIES OPENED FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023

In September, FLVC will partner with education groups across Florida to present "College 101," a series of free online webinars to prepare students for college and beyond. This year, FLVC will host three sessions that will give students the ability to learn how to select a college, how to apply, and how to fund their journey over the course of three nights. Free registration to this webinar series opened on Friday, July 14, 2023 on Eventbrite. Interested individuals must register for each night that they plan to attend. Registration will close at the conclusion of each night's session. Save the dates on the [College 101](#) webpage and check back often for more information.



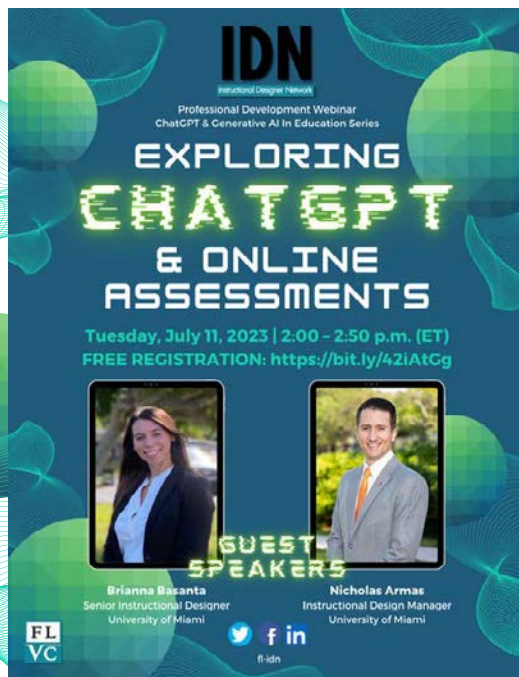
## NEWS FROM FLORIDA INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER NETWORK (FL-IDN)

### ■ FL-IDN HOSTED ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR ON JULY 11, 2023

FL-IDN's ChatGPT & Generative AI in Education Series has been a huge hit this summer, and their latest webinar in the series, *Exploring ChatGPT & Online Assessments*, was no different. Engagement continues to remain strong with 405 in attendance last Tuesday. The recording of the FL-IDN Professional Development Webinar, *Exploring ChatGPT & Online Assessments* is currently available on [YouTube](#). You can also download a copy of the [presentation slides](#). We really appreciate our guest speakers, Brianna Basanta and Nick Armas, for sharing their innovative instructional design ideas, effective practices, and great experience of applying ChatGPT technology in online assessments. Way to go, Brianna, Nick, and the DLI Team in the Division of Continuing & International Education at the University of Miami!

**[BACK TO THE TOP](#)**





**THANK  
YOU!**

We really appreciate our guest speakers, Brianna Basanta and Nick Armas, for sharing their innovative instructional design ideas, effective practices, and great experience of applying ChatGPT technology in online assessments.

**UP  
NEXT:**

### **2023 Summer Program on ChatGPT and Generative AI in Education Lightning Rounds**

Monday, July 24th | 2:00 PM (ET)

[Free Registration Link](https://bit.ly/3paASuI)



#### **Presentation 1: AI in Higher Education: The Future is Now**

This presentation will focus on possibilities. There are also incredible opportunities to advance critical thinking and reawaken student curiosity and commitment to learning. ChatGPT is not the first open-source AI that will impact education; we have been using it for years. It is, however, the first fine-tuned linguistic-based AI that is available to the public for free that is so convincing that people believe it is 'thinking' and making meaning. That is where the opportunity for learning steps in because the issue is not about the technology. The issue is how individuals and institutions interact with a machine. This is an incredibly exciting time, and in the future, people will look back and think in terms of before and after the introduction of linguistic-based AI. The academy must take this opportunity to move forward with conviction and not hold back out of fear.

#### **Presentation 2: If ChatGPT Were a Cookie?**

Asking students to resist using ChatGPT to submit work may be somewhat like asking yourself to resist a fresh, warm chocolate chip cookie. To some degree, our brains are wired to preserve cognitive resources, as they are to maximize high calorie intake. Using this analogy as a basis for an interactive session, the presenters will lead the group in examining what strategies we can employ to help students embrace academic integrity. The session will include both research and anecdotal narratives relative to the following strategies.

**[BACK TO THE TOP](#)**



# REMINDERS

Have something that you'd like to share?  
Send [Brooke](#) the details, and we'll put it here!

## QM LICENSE RENEWAL FOR 2023-2024

**\$1275** Affiliate Institution Subscription Fee (QM bills institution) + **\$187** FLVC QM MOU Fee (FLVC bills institution shortly after **July 1st**)

## FLORIDASHINES CATALOG

Review of Institution Profiles opens **July 1st** and closes **August 1st**

## COLLEGE 101 SESSIONS COMING IN SEPTEMBER

College 101: EXPLORE

You have choices. Which one is right for you?

Thursday, September 14th | 6:00 PM (ET)

[Free Registration Link](#)

College 101: APPLY

Submit a college application that wows!

Thursday, September 21st | 6:00 PM (ET)

[Free Registration Link](#)

College 101: FUND

You've applied. Now, how do you pay for college?

Thursday, September 28th | 6:00 PM (ET)

[Free Registration Link](#)

## IDN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

AI in Higher Education: The Future is Now If  
ChatGPT Were a Cookie?

Monday, July 24th | 2:00 PM (ET)

[Free Registration Link](#)



# ARTICLE DIGESTS

## THE ART OF EFFECTIVE NOTE-TAKING IN ONLINE LEARNING

"Notetaking is a critical component of successful online learning that serves as a valuable resource for review, revision, and retention. Students actively engage with the course material by taking notes during online lectures and discussions that help identify and record key points, examples, and explanations. Although online learning presents unique challenges for students, there are a variety of effective notetaking methods..."

(Source: [Baltimore Post-Examiner](#))

## MORE THAN 40% OF TODAY'S ONLINE STUDENTS ARE PREVIOUS COLLEGE STOP-OUTS: REPORT

"A new report found that half of today's online learners had previously stopped out of college and/or are first-generation students. Forty-four percent of those stop-out students are first-generation. Wiley's 12th annual report recorded 2,600 student responses from this spring. Online education is the only viable way for many students to have access to higher education, especially for those who desire to pursue a master's degree..."

(Source: [University Business](#))

[BACK TO THE TOP](#)

## **CHATGPT ISN'T DESIGNED TO BE A TUTOR. STUDENTS ARE STILL USING IT THAT WAY**

"Although ChatGPT isn't designed to be a tutor, over 10 percent of students study with it in addition to a tutor. Among those who use it to study, 95 percent have improved grades since studying with ChatGPT. Almost all respondents have replaced some tutoring sessions with ChatGPT in math or science. However, ChatGPT does not behave as a true tutor since it cannot always respond to an individual's unique needs or provide multiple..." (Source: [Tech & Learning](#))

## **WEARABLE DEVICE MARKET EXPECTED TO INCREASE OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS**

"After experiencing its first decline in 2022, smart watches, smart earwear, and other wearables are expected to rebound this year. The International Data Corp estimates that 504.1 million wearables will ship in 2023 worldwide, increasing 2.4 percent from 2022. Earwear and smart watches, the two most popular wearable categories, will drive this growth..." (Source: [Campus Technology](#))

## **WCET REPORT: SUPPORTING INSTRUCTION & LEARNING THROUGH AI: A SURVEY OF INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES & POLICIES**

"In April 2023, WCET – the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies, undertook a national survey to ascertain how and why postsecondary institutions are using Artificial Intelligence to support instruction and learning, what policies are in place, and what are the perceived barriers to, and benefits for, its use. This report highlights the survey results plus six in-depth interviews conducted post survey." (Source: [WCET](#))

# THE FUN STUFF



BARBENHEIMER by [@ThatTallGinger](#)

## **MOVIE MUST-SEE: BARBIE AND OPPENHEIMER**

"What happens when two of the most anticipated films of 2023 debut in the same week? A fan-made movie crossover event known as [Barbenheimer](#).

*Barbie*, directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Dua Lipa, and Issa Rae, among several others, will release on July 21. *Oppenheimer*, Christopher Nolan's film on J. Robert Oppenheimer, who was integral to the development of the atomic bomb, comes out the same day. Summer movie-goers are relishing the chance to celebrate a one-day cinematic experience of watching two polar-opposite films back-to-back."

(Source: [TIME](#))

The internet is a wonderful and weird place... Will you take part in Barbenheimer?

Read more [here](#).

## **YOU GOTTA TRY IT: POM POM'S TEAHOUSE AND SANDWICHERIA**

Who can resist a great sandwich? If you're in the mood for something a little funky and different, then [Pom Pom's Teahouse and Sandwicheria](#) is something worth trying in the Orlando and St. Petersburg area. "East meets West with themed gourmet sandwiches plus a unique blend of authentic side salads and a wide variety of loose leaf teas and a delicious array of sweets to tantalize your taste buds!"

(Source: [Pom Pom's](#))



# SPECIAL FEATURE



## ■ TRAVELS WITH JOSH: OCKLAWAHA

As a lover of nature and a fan of local history, the Ocklawaha River and Silver Springs have always drawn my attention. It didn't hurt that I grew up a mile from Silver Springs. Flowing from the Green Swamp, through the Harris chain of lakes and eventually into the St. John's river, near Palatka, the Ocklawaha helped shape Florida's early history. From providing for the needs of countless indigenous people, serving as a critical trade route and stoking Florida's early tourism industry, the river has always been bustling with activity. In the early days, the draw was a steamboat trip from Palatka, up the Ocklawaha, to see Silver Springs. For me, the main attraction was, and still is, the tea colored Ocklawaha. As a child, the river provided me with access to shoreline fishing and was my first solo destination with my newly minted Florida driver's license. Eventually this would be the setting where I spent several years apprenticing under an inland waterway captain, fishing and sightseeing guide.

Researching the Ocklawaha for my Freshman Composition research paper, I found out that I'm far from the first person to be enamored with the river and its surroundings. I found writers speaking of the river in near mythical terms, dating back to the 1870's, in periodical publications such as Harper's, various Florida travel guides and by authors such as Stowe and Lanier. They described a mysterious jungle-like passage where the towering cypress nearly blacked out the sun, inhabited by all manner of reptiles, birds, including a now-extinct parakeet, and the heartiest settlers. You can also catch the springs in many classic films and television series and the river's lore was further immortalized in song and story by Florida's Gamble Rogers. A legend in the Florida Folk community and the namesake of a state park, Rogers created a robust (almost systematic) mythology surrounding what is affectionately known as Florida's 68th county, Ocklawaha County. The river is still commonly recounted – both in myth and fact- at events such as the Gamble Rogers, Will McLean and Florida Folk festivals. If you are interested in reading up on the actual history yourself, I recommend *Eternal Spring: Man's 10,000 Years of History in Florida's Silver Springs*, by Richard Martin or, *Ocklawaha River Steamboats*, by Edward Mueller, focusing on the river's steamboat era.

[\*\*BACK TO THE TOP\*\*](#)



Toward the end of the 1920s, the steam engine gave way to the outboard motor and now, some 100 years later, the outboard is slowly giving way to the paddle. These days, the best way to enjoy this mysterious river is much the same as 200 years ago, by paddle-craft. Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha River are popular with kayakers, including me. Although the springs are fantastic, they can get quite crowded. Even so, if you've never seen the headsprings, I recommend bringing your boat or renting one from the park and putting in at Silver Springs State Park and spending a few hours on the crystal-clear waters that drew so many to early Florida. My favorite option is putting in at either Ray Wayside park near Ocala or Gore's Landing near Fort McCoy and heading downstream. On this route, it is common to see more monkeys than people. Alligators, turtles and wading birds are common and you might just see a manatee or two. If you know where to look, there are still a few relics from the steamboat era and, if you have any imagination at all, it's easy to appreciate why those 19th century writers and 20th century musicians found it so easy to stretch the truth as they did.

Josh Strigle  
Director  
E-Learning and Learning Support Services  
College of Central Florida



## MORE PHOTOS

### Bibliography

- Edward Mueller, Ocklawaha River Steamboats (Jacksonville, FL, 1997)
- Gamblerogers.org
- Harriet Beecher Stowe "Palmetto Leaves" (1873)
- Harper's Weekly, 14 February 1880, 110
- Richard Martin, Eternal Spring: Man's 10,000 Years of History in Florida's Silver Springs (St. Petersburg, Fla., 1966)
- Sidney Lanier, Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History with an Account of Charleston, Savannah, Augusta, and Aiken and a Chapter for Consumptives; Being a Complete Handbook and Guide (Philadelphia, 1876)

Have something that you'd like to share?  
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