



WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE CONSTRUCTING PLACES OF COLLABORATION

**Hosted by the University of Utah
Park City, Utah
March 31-April 2, 2011**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| WELCOME LETTER | 2 |
| SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | 3 |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | 4 |
| CITY AS TEXT WALKABOUTS | 5 |
| KEYNOTE SPEAKER INFORMATION | 7 |
| CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE | 8 |
| PRESENTER ABSTRACTS | 15 |
| NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL SUMMER INSTITUTES | 41 |
| PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS | 42 |
| PRESENTER INDEX | 43 |
| HOTEL MAP AND RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS | 49 |



WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE WELCOME 2011

It's a pleasure to welcome you to Park City and to this year's Western Regional Honors Council Conference. Because of the enthusiastic response to the call for papers that went out last fall we have a terrific lineup of papers, indication of the tremendous talent that exists in Honors Programs and Colleges in the Western United States. Take some time to peruse the program, but note two special events in particular. Please join us Friday night as we celebrate *Scribendi's* twenty-fifth year anniversary.

I encourage you to take advantage of the two "City as Text" walkabouts that are included in this program brochure. Shuttle buses will bring you from the hotel to the base of Main Street throughout the day. These walkabouts will give you the chance to briefly get to know Park City and to think about its past and present. We will convene a discussion session Saturday morning to debrief and reflect on what we saw and did.

I can't thank enough Libby Walker of Washington State University, Anne Marie Scott of the University of Northern Arizona, and Gretchen James of the University of Utah for their kind mentorship and patience in planning this event. Kudos to the staff at the Honors College at the University of Utah for their diligence in reviewing proposals and mapping out what promises to be a great conference! We are excited to have you here in our beautiful state and particularly in the charming historic mining town of Park City, Utah.

Best regards,

Martha Bradley

Dean, Honors College and Conference Chair

Schedule At-a-Glance

| Thursday, March 31, 2011 | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 3pm-7pm | Registration in Lobby |
| 8pm-9pm | Student Reception in Silver Mine Room |
| 8pm-9pm | Faculty, Administrators and Staff Reception in Prospector Ballroom 4 |
| Friday, April 1, 2011 | |
| 7am-12pm | Registration Continues-Lobby |
| 7am-8am | Continental Breakfast in Foyer C |
| 8am-5pm | City as Text Walkabout in Park City |
| 8am-5pm | Poster Session in Foyers B & C |
| 8am-11:30am | Presentation Sessions |
| 11:30am-1pm | Lunch on your Own |
| 1pm-4:30pm | Presentation Sessions |
| 4:30pm-7pm | Dinner on Your Own |
| 7pm-9pm | Scribendi Reception; Program begins at 7:30pm-Prospector Ballrooms 3 & 4 |
| Saturday, April 2, 2011 | |
| 7:30am-8:30am | Continental Breakfast in Foyer C |
| 7:30am-10am | Registration Continues in Lobby |
| 8am-10am | Poster Session Continues in Foyers B & C |
| 8:30am-12pm | Presentation Sessions |
| 9am-11am | WRHC Business Meeting-Prospector Ballrooms 3-4 |
| 11am-12pm | City as Text Walkabout Reflection Session-Prospector Ballroom 1 |
| 12:15pm-2pm | Lunch with Keynote Speaker: Dr. Baldomero "Toto" Olivera University of Utah Professor of Biology Conference Closing Prospector Ballrooms 3-4 |

Special Events

Student Reception

Silver Mine Room

Thursday 8pm-9pm

Everyone loves popcorn and candy bars!

Faculty, Administrators & Staff Reception

Prospector Ballroom 4

Thursday

8pm-9pm

Poster Session

Foyers B & C

Friday 8am-5pm

Saturday 8am-10am

Browse the posters, talk to the presenters and enjoy your breakfast all at the same time.

City As Text Walkabouts & Reflection Session

Grab a notebook, take some notes, sketches or photos and explore Park City on foot as you walk up and down historic Main Street. Use your senses to interpret and to analyze the space.

What do you notice? Two Walkabouts are included in this program; plan on two hours to complete them both. Then join Dean Martha Bradley for a reflection session on Saturday from 11am-12pm in Prospector Ballroom 1 to discuss your observations and experiences.

Scribendi 25th Anniversary Reception and Program

Prospector Ballrooms 3 & 4

Friday 7pm-9pm

Program begins at 7:30pm

Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Scribendi! Food and cake for everyone!

Keynote Speaker and Concluding Lunch

Prospector Ballrooms 3 & 4

Saturday 12:15pm-2pm

Dr. Baldomero “Toto” Olivera from the University of Utah’s Department of Biology speaks on collaboration and interdisciplinary in academics.

City as Text Walkabouts

General Instructions:

City as Text Walkabouts inspire us to use all our senses, to interpret, and to analyze urban space—its past and present, its people and its material fabric. As we walk with others, we should ask ourselves: what did I notice? How did I respond? How come, do I think, this sort of thing catches my eye? Bring your notebook and take notes, sketch or photograph what you see and what you find interesting. Talk with each other about what you notice.

You can do the walkabout any time you choose on Friday, but count on at least two hours. We will hold a debriefing Saturday morning at 11 am in Prospector Ballroom 1. You can take the shuttle bus from our hotel to Main Street, but venture out from Main Street itself, and take time to explore.

Walkabout I: Park City as a mining town

George G. and Rhoda Snyder and their three children, Sylvia, Lillie and Kimball moved from Wanship to a mountain valley near the spot where prospectors had recently discovered a huge vein of silver ore. Relishing the fresh air and fields filled with wildflowers, George turned to his wife and said, “We will call this place Park City, for it is a veritable park.” Colonel Patrick Edward Connor’s California Volunteers first discovered Utah’s mining wealth in 1862. In Park City, the Ontario Mine attracted hundreds of prospectors who camped on mountain slopes near the mines. Within a few years 500 miners worked in a number of different mines and lived in tents, wooden shanties or boarding houses. Businesses and institutions that serviced the miners followed—saloons, hotels, “sporting houses,” Masonic temples and the Oddfellows Hall. Unlike Salt Lake City or Mormon towns located throughout the region, Park City was marked by social, religious and ethnic diversity.

Walking from the bottom of Park City’s Main Street to the top, what evidence do we have of the mining history of this place? Be sure and stop at the Park City museum and spend time with the exhibits.

What historic landmarks still exist?

What do picture do they paint about the 19th century story of this place?

Who lived here and how did they live?

Where did all this come from? What is the future of this place and how does a sense of history contribute to the future identity of Park City?

Walkabout II: Park City as a Ski Town

Even as late as 1950, Park City residents would have failed to imagine the shape their town would take on by the end of the 20th century. Ski resorts that sprawl at the base of Treasure Mountain, Deer Valley and Otto Carpenter's old Snow Park ski hill, vast neighborhoods of multi-million dollar homes, and a Main Street that had doubled in length with the construction of hotels, restaurants and high end shopping. Catering to a far different crowd than the miners or locals, Park City became a skiing destination that attracted tourists from all across the world. At the same time, Park City's population grew dramatically, and became home to an economically successful, diverse crowd of individuals who were drawn by the breathtakingly beautiful mountain ranges, the abundant recreational activities in both winter and summer months, and the small town atmosphere. Consider the following questions:

What evidence do you see that Park City is a resort town that caters to wealthy tourists?

What amenities does it have to offer? How welcoming is it?

What attracts visitors to this place?

Who lives here? Who plays here?

What do you think of living conditions for visitors or for residents?

Who do you think lives here and how would you characterize them in terms of demographics or economics?

What existing infrastructure can you see? This might be health or welfare facilities, legal services, places of worship, schools, shopping for food, or other necessities.

How does this city and the people who live here talk about this place? This might be evident in local newspapers, or in conversations with locals, or through billboards or signs.



WRHC 2011 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BALDOMERO "TOTO" OLIVERA

Growing up in the Philippines, Baldomero "Toto" Olivera recalls that cone snails were sold by the kilo in local seafood markets. As a child, however, Olivera was blissfully unaware of the impact that the predatory cone snail, *Conus magus*, would have on his life's work. Nor could he have imagined that the creatures would even enable his lab to develop a drug to bring relief to people in chronic pain.

Now a distinguished Professor of Biology and neuroscientist at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Olivera was nicknamed Toto by a cousin who could not pronounce Totoy, a pet name sometimes given to Filipino boys. Appointed as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute "Million Dollar Professor" in 2006, Olivera plans to take the story of the cone snail back to the children of the Philippines and the nearby Pacific islands the snails inhabit. "These snails have so much potential, and the children don't know anything about their biology," he explained. Olivera will teach children and undergraduates from the Philippines, Hawaii, and U.S. territories in the Pacific about the richness of their surroundings through a project he calls the Biodiversity-Biomedical Links Initiative. "My idea is to concentrate on the biodiversity that's at their feet," he said. His goal is to interest young students by educating them about scientific principles that can be observed in organisms that they see every day.

By studying the complex neurotoxic venom made by the snails, Olivera and members of his lab, including University of Utah Honors students, have identified several drug candidates, as well as gained a better understanding of how ion channels work. Michael McIntosh, now a fellow researcher in psychiatry at the University of Utah, was an undergraduate in Olivera's lab when he discovered a cone snail toxin whose synthetic form is now used to treat pain effectively in patients who have become tolerant to morphine.

Olivera believes that the future of neuroscience depends on collaboration across disciplines. He has increased the number of students fluent in neuroscience by implementing an Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Neuroscience Program at the University of Utah. Students whose majors range from math to electrical engineering will be offered the opportunity to minor in neuroscience. "If we are to accelerate the pace of scientific progress, we need people looking at the same problems from different intellectual viewpoints," he said.