



**VENTURE LAB IN EXPERIMENTAL
ARTS AND HUMANITIES --
HYBRID WRITING/VISUAL MEDIA*
CONTEST, '18-'19 – Cash Award**

***A Module of the Evolutionary Studies
Collaborative at St. Francis College***

[*Visual media includes drawing, painting, photography, short film, digital art, animation]

Emphasizing evolutionary ideas, how can we restore our biosphere, mitigate ecosystem degradation, or reverse extinction of rainforest plant and animal species critical to the sustainability of global climate health?

In a competition open to current SFC and Pratt students and judged by The Evolutionary Studies Collaborative, we are looking for new ideas via hybrid approaches. Pending budget and subject to rules: Cash prize of \$500 (possible multi-distribution, especially with a collaborative project; judges reserve the right not to award any prize). The winning essay with visual media link will be considered for possible publication on either the *ASEBL Journal* blog or on the Bibliotekos website.

What's your vision for the future based on our hominin past? The best entry will address a specific problem and consider solutions by utilizing ideas from evolutionary biology, evolutionary psychology, and cultural evolution. Use the question at the top of this page as a guide. Broad subject areas for consideration in developing a controlling idea or thesis include:

- Biophilia / Biosynergy
- The Gaia Hypothesis
- Animal Rights and Veganism
- Ethical Environmentalism
- Relief of Anthropogenic Stressors
- Sustainability over Degradation in Rainforests
- Empty Forest Syndrome

Other points of stimulation: How important is our connection to nature? Has our link to the natural world been diminished in any way? How do we reclaim association to the natural world and why is this important? Consider, for example: green spaces; group size and population; health and nutrition; consciousness and the adapted mind; human relations to animals; environmental psychology; education and advocacy; even ecotourism. However you approach this subject, it is important that evolutionary ideas are foregrounded as part of the solution.

First, submit to Dr. Tague an abstract of 500 words that outlines the project. If deemed acceptable for competition, you will complete your project per attached guidelines. At a future date, completed projects will be judged and considered for possible online publication. Include name and stable email contact on abstract. Second, if your abstract is approved, an invited submission of the finished project should consist of an academically inspired essay of approximately 2,000 words (including bibliography) that explains and informs an accompanying visual project. We are not looking for a research paper per se but academic writing that reaches to and connects with a wide audience and which illuminates a related visual project: both must be submitted.

Competition opens 1 September 2018. [No abstracts before then, please.]

Deadline for abstracts: 30 October 2018.

Deadline for essays and visual media: 30 January 2019.

**CONTACT: Gregory F. Tague, Ph.D., Professor of English/Interdisciplinary Studies, and founder,
The Evolutionary Studies Collaborative, Room 6005, gtague@sfc.edu**

Contest rules and guidelines. Contact: Gregory F. Tague, Ph.D. Professor of English/Interdisciplinary Studies, gtague@sfc.edu. You may contact Prof. Tague for guidance, but only after you have read the contest guidelines and only after 1 September 2018, please.

Please carefully read and follow these guidelines:

- To be eligible, you must be a matriculated student at St. Francis College or The Pratt Institute. Collaborative projects are welcome.
- By entering the contest, you affirm that the essay and media submissions are your own original creations.
- A non-fiction essay academically-inspired that explains and informs the project is the only literary form accepted.
- Only one essay (in Word) and related media (as a web link) may be submitted by each contestant.
- Submission should reflect the contestant's own interpretation and original thinking of the subjects outlined on the contest announcement.
- Your essay and accompanying media project should be given the same original, descriptive title.

Specifications: • The essay should be approximately but no more than 2,000 words, double-spaced. • Use 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman). • Use 1-inch margins all around. • Do not justify the right margin. • Pages should be sequentially numbered. • There should not be any footnotes or endnotes, but do engage with and cite peer-reviewed secondary sources. • Use APA or MLA-style documentation to quote from and cite academic sources. • The bibliography should be in plain text without the use of end-noting software. • Media should be submitted as a link.

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria: 1. Creativity – Do the essay and visual media reflect a creative and original perspective on the subject presented? 2. Compatibility – Do the essay and visual media work well together as a whole? 3. Organization – Does the essay argument follow a logical progression and is there a conclusion? 4. Clarity – Does the creator use concise language and striking imagery? 5. Development of Thought – Do the essay and visual media reflect a thorough comprehension of sources applied to the overarching contest subject? 6. Academic Unity – Has the author made an effort to integrate evolutionary ideas into his/her writing and visual media?

Judging of Final Submissions: • Headed by Dr. Tague, other faculty will help judge finished essays and visual media. Cash prize distribution will be determined by Dr. Tague: pending budget, the top amount is a maximum of \$500; if there are several outstanding submissions, that amount can be apportioned. If no submissions are deemed prize worthy, no cash awards will be distributed. A winning essay including its visual media link will be considered for possible publication on either the *ASEBL Journal* blog or the Bibliotekos website. Decisions are final.

Submitting Work: • **FIRST**, abstracts are vetted by Dr. Tague, who can consult with students as needed. The deadline for abstracts is 30 October 2018. Create a suitable title for the essay and media: same title for both. Send abstract by email attachment in Word to gtague@sfc.edu. All entrants will be contacted, but Dr. Tague will only invite submission of a full essay and related visual media from the best abstracts. • **SECOND**, entry of a finished essay which has passed the abstract submission stage must be received electronically by Dr. Tague by no later than 30 January 2019 along with a link to the visual media to the following email: gtague@sfc.edu • When submitting, please attach your essay to the email in Word, and make sure your essay has a fully descriptive title that matches the visual media title: i.e, same title for both. • “Venture Lab submission” must appear in the subject line of email. • For judging purposes, your name must not appear anywhere in or on the finished essay or visual media. Rather, include the following information in the body of your email message: Name; Email address; Phone number; descriptive title of your essay that exactly matches the title of the essay/visual media. • Failure to adhere to contest guidelines can amount in disqualification from contest. Abstracts, essays, and visual media could be made available for inspection if necessary.

Dr. Tague and the panel reserve the right to alter or amend the call and guidelines as needed. [25 June 2018]