Keynote Address Summary

*Undergraduate Research: Lessons Learned from Students and Rattlesnakes*

Presented by Dr. Terence M. Farrell of Stetson University

After a couple of decades working as a mentor to undergraduate students, Dr. Farrell was able to summarize his experiences in the form of a checklist that will help to maximize gains in professional development resulting from research experiences:

1. **Use Regional Advantage**
   - be aware of opportunities near your home university
   - for Dr. Farrell, one regional advantage was a national wildlife refuge about 10 miles from his home university

2. **Study What Excites You**
   - loving what you do makes the tedious portions and time commitment of research much more manageable

3. **Find and Use Your Talents**
   - recognize your strengths and capitalize on them

4. **Take Advantage of Fresh Minds**
   - the exchange of ideas among students and faculty during research discussions can inform the future direction of your work

5. **There are no “Eureka” moments**
   - simply put: research progress is the result of hard, steadfast, committed work

6. **Find Collaborators with Similar Interests**
   - time is so very limited and collaborators can greatly facilitate research progress, efficiency and productivity

7. **Find Collaborators with Different Skills**
   - increase the breadth of your research program by building an interdisciplinary team of collaborators

8. **You are a Poor Judge of Your Own Work**
   - always seek feedback and critique of your research

9. **Keep in Contact**
   - see your collaborators as a professional network that you maintain through the years

10. **Enjoy the Next Path You Travel**
    - be flexible with the directions that your research programs take and do not be afraid of change….savor it

11. **Think about Why Research Failed or Worked**
    - be introspective and assess what you did, why you did it and if you would do it again