Library Research Scholars 2018-2019  
Project Proposal

Name of Library Research Scholar: David Lanster

Project Title: Miami Craft Brewery Collection (Brew at the U)

Project Description:
(1) Create the Miami Craft Brewery Collection as part of the Special Collections (including brewery artifacts, beer samples, and oral histories)
(2) Contextualize objects within the ancient and modern social, cultural, and historical trends of the consumption of alcoholic beverages

Project Justification:
The Miami food scene - including restaurants, breweries, bakeries, and distilleries - is in a state unlike any it has experienced before. Fueled by innovators in cuisine and tangible public excitement, it is an unprecedented time in terms of both quantity and quality for South Floridians to eat and drink. The Miami Craft Brewery Collection effort within the Special Collections hopes to document and celebrate the rise of Craft Brewing in Miami through the collection of brewery documents, advertising ephemera, bottles/labels, actual beer, and oral histories from prominent leaders in the field.

Situating beer in the context of culture is a much more complicated endeavor. Fermented beverages have been around as long as civilization, and some argue that it is these types of beverages that first prompted domesticated agriculture, and thus, civilization itself. Fast forward a few hundred years and beer played a pivotal role in the founding of the field of biochemistry through Louis Pasteur’s attempts to figure out why beer went sour after fermentation (yeast, as it turns out). And even more recently, America’s beer story tells a unique tale of the twentieth century with highlights including Prohibition, 1950’s Budweiser Ads, and saloon culture. In a similar manner, Miami’s craft breweries tell a uniquely Miami tale.

Finally, as a biochemistry major and aspiring food scientist, I realize that understanding the physical/chemical/biological levels of food is only a small fraction of the total cultural, historical, and social importance of cuisine, and my endeavors would feel somewhat short-sighted without a greater sense of that broader significance.
Project Stakeholders/Team:
Cristina Favretto and Jay Sylvestre - Special Collections
Ava Brillat and Lauren Fralinger - Library Research Scholar Mentors
Miami craft brewing and beer-loving community

Project Deliverables:
- Physical collection of brewing artifacts with proper documentation and cataloguing.
- Presentation materials including Miami brewery timeline map,

Resources Needed:
Oral history equipment

Timeline:
Fall 2018
- Research more broadly into the history of fermented beverages
- Miami Brewery Overviews, map, and contacts

Spring 2019
- Collection of artifacts and brewery visits
- Finding Aid/Subject Guide
- Present, drink beer

Project Reviewers:
Library Faculty Mentor:
Dean of the Libraries: