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Florida Studies Explores Chinsegut Hill

The Florida Studies program hosted its annual retreat from Oct. 4-5 in Chinsegut Hill, a nature sanctuary located a few miles north of Brooksville, Fla. The sanctuary is interlaced with hiking trails, many built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s.

A group of more than 40 Florida Studies enthusiasts participated in the excursion. Students and faculty hiked the grounds and toured its 1840s Manor House led by Andy Huse, Florida historian.

Gary Mormino, PhD, co-director of the Florida Studies Program, has visited Chinsegut Hill for 30 years and the Florida Studies Program has hosted a retreat there for the last five years.

“This takes students to a world which they’ve never seen before,” Mormino said. “This is a Florida treasure – kayak this 19th century plantation home north of Brooksville – there’s no other place quite like it.”

Students went on several hikes and some went kayaking on the Withlacoochee River.

Daun Fletcher, a Florida Studies student, said, “I learned a lot of background information about the area, the house and it's many owners and some great general information about Florida in the 19th and early 20th century. It’s a great representation of Florida history.”

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