

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS: THE UNHEARD SOCIETY

“The Unheard Society” podcast’s Season 5 is now available on SoundCloud, Spotify, YouTube and at the Florida Prison Education Project’s website. This season, the podcast went to the South Unit of the Central Florida Reception Center, a state prison in southeast Orange County. The South Unit houses about 90 men, many of whom are undergoing palliative care.

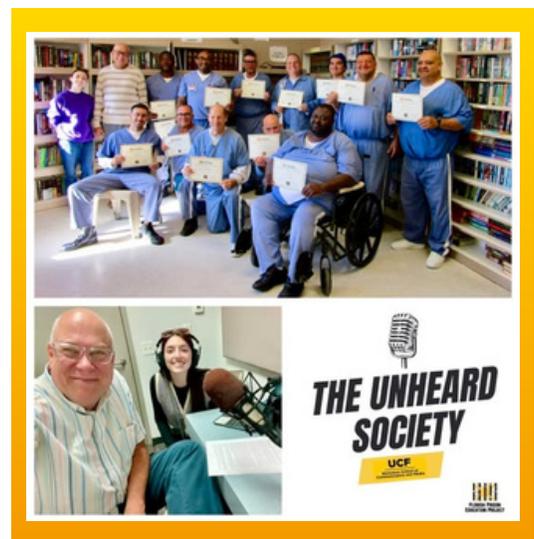
Rick Brunson, Senior Instructor in UCF’s Nicholson School of Communication and Media, was joined by his teaching and production assistant, Claire Macchiarola, a Senior broadcast journalism major in the school. Together, they taught 12 men, ranging in age from 31 to 81, the art of sound writing – writing for podcasts.

In this season’s episodes listeners will hear what it’s like to work in a prison canteen, how to turn regrets into a life worth living, and what AI means in prison – getting your information from "Another Inmate."

On the last day of the class, one of the students shook Professor Brunson’s hand on the way out and said, “Understand that most of us will not get out of here. This class lets us get our words out there,” he said pointing to the window and the world beyond the razor wire. “Thank you.”

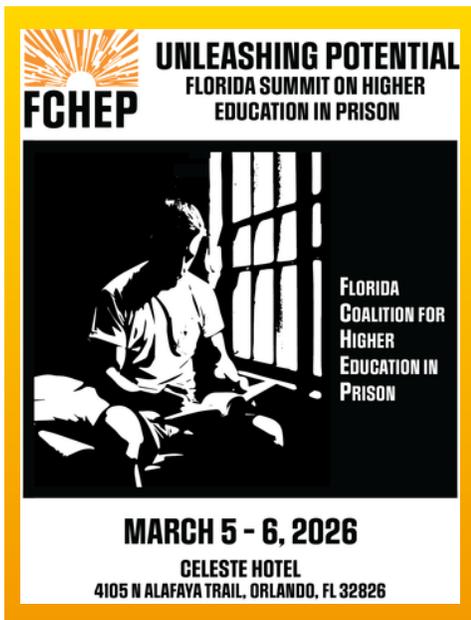
That is why “The Unheard Society” exists.

Rick Brunson, Senior Instructor
University of Central Florida



FCHEP UPDATES

UNLEASHING POTENTIAL: FCHEP SYMPOSIUM 2026



On March 5–6, 2026, at The Celeste Hotel in Orlando, Florida, FCHEP will host its second annual symposium: Unleashing Potential.

This two-day event will feature powerful panels, a resounding keynote address, and a unique team-building workshop.

This is a space where momentum and change agents collide—where the work to transform Florida’s carceral landscape is discussed, amplified, and mobilized. People from across the state will come together to share ideas, elevate one another’s platforms, and engage in productive, solutions-driven dialogue.

Events like this are only possible through your continued support and engagement.

To reserve your FREE tickets, visit the FCHEP website’s events page.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS: THE CARRIER PIGEON POST

For the 62% of the individuals in America’s prisons that did not make it past the tenth grade, it is not just a lack of access to higher education that interferes with their future success, but a lack of confidence. Their fourth grade tests scores (reflecting a disparity that began as early as preschool, kindergarten, and first/second grades) could predict their high school predicament. For many of these, caught in a cycle of poverty and raised in an educational desert, there was never any question about their ability in school. They knew they lacked. They lacked the ability, the talent, and the disposition for schooling. Education in general, and higher education even more, was never for them.

The Carrier Pigeon Post flies in the face of such detrimental self-narratives. Provisioning hope through the power of story, CPP is an 8 page, 4 color newsprint paper full of short, 500-word stories, crafted and curated specifically for those who experience incarceration. CPP features narratives about paintings, sculpture, photography, landmarks, celebrities, political figures, literature, historical events, multicultural folktales, finance, science, poetry, creative writing, jokes, and even a comic strip. Every aspect of CPP is designed to foster hope, to rescript life stories, and to provision a common knowledge cultural literacy. Story by story, CPP works to change the individual “I can’t” regarding education, to “I can and will”.

CPP fosters self-efficacy and complements the work of higher education in prison efforts by building the confidence of those who otherwise might never even try. CPP tells each of its readers, but especially that 62%, that they have not been forgotten, and that they too can learn.



Sonya S. Cronin, Ph.D.
Founder & Executive Director
The Carrier Pigeon Post
www.carrierpigeonpost.org

EVENTS

February 28, 2026

Carrier Pigeon Post's 2 Year Celebration

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Jacksonville, FL

rsvp:

Sonya@carrierpigeonpost.org

March 5-6, 2026

**Unleashing Potential
FCHEP Symposium
2026**

**The Celeste Hotel
Orlando, FL**

April 7 - 10, 2026

**National Conference on
Higher Education in
Prison**

**Huntington Convention
Center
Cleveland, OH**

April 7 - 10, 2026

**National Returning
Citizens
Conference**

**Southbank Hotel
Jacksonville, FL**

FCHEP IN ACTION

Are you passionate about expanding access to higher education in prisons? Join us at the Florida Coalition for Higher Education in Prison (FCHEP) and become part of a transformative movement. Whether you're interested in volunteering with us, partnering organizations, or simply learning more, FCHEP is your gateway to involvement.



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