

# STUDENTS and OPEN ACCESS



## What is Free Culture?

A free culture is one where all members are free to participate in its transmission and evolution, without artificial limits on who can participate or in what way. The free culture movement seeks to develop this culture by promoting four things:

- creativity and innovation;
- communication and free expression;
- public access to knowledge;
- and citizens' civil liberties.

## Free Culture Issues

**Freedom to Create:** Copyright was made to protect the rights of the creator, and though the letter of the law is flawed, the spirit is important to preserve. Creators deserve to receive whatever credit they desire from their creations: whether they demand only attribution, royalties from commercial use, or nothing at all, it should be up to the creator.

**Freedom to Remix:** With copyleft licensing (for example, Creative Commons, GNU General Public License), artists of professional and amateur talent can build off of the toil of others, creating unique works of art. Danger Mouse remixed a cappella vocals from Jay-Z's Black Album and the Beatles' White Album to create his highly successful (though somewhat controversial, since only Jay-Z's vocals were released for remixing) Grey Album. Artists should be able to collaborate, remix, and reuse, to allow for a sum that is greater than its individual parts.

**Freedom to Tinker:** With the iPhone's application store, BluRay's restrictive rules, and video game consoles' newer copy protection, it's becoming more and more difficult to truly own the things we purchase. Would you take home a car if the hood was welded shut, only able to be opened by the manufacturer or a blowtorch? Probably not, but that's the reality of digital media today. How many innovations and convenient

inventions are lost to us because of stifling proprietary technology restrictions? Free culture means freedom of technology and the freedom to modify the technology on which we spend our money.

## Florida Free Culture Events

**Past speakers** include Wikipedia co-founder, Jimbo Wales and FreeCulture.org co-founder, Nelson Pavlosky.

**Free your PC** is an event held by Florida Free Culture every semester. On the Reitz Union Colonnades, our members load software like the Firefox web browser, the GIMP image manipulation tool, and UF's site licensed McAfee anti-virus software on student and faculty laptops, in addition to providing minor technical support.

**Remix parties** of all sorts are held each semester, ranging from mix CD swaps to using the high-end computers in the library InfoCommons to create videos for contests.

**CopyNight** is a monthly social gathering of people interested in restoring balance in copyright law. We meet over drinks once a month in many cities to discuss new developments and build social ties between artists, engineers, filmmakers, academics, lawyers, and many others.

