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March 21, 2014

HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg

USF "Walks the Halls" at Capitol

Florida State Senator Jeff Brandes was among the legislators USF leaders met with this week as the legislative session swings into full gear in Tallahassee. USF System President Judy Genshaft, USF Trustee Nancy Watkins and USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska led a group that met with legislators to advocate for funding of the USFSP College of Business, among other projects. They also attended the Board of Governors meeting.

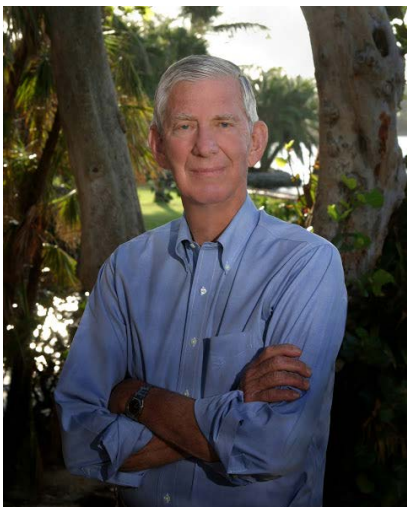


The House and Senate are moving quickly this year to develop their respective budgets. "We'd like to express sincere appreciation to members of the Pinellas delegation who are working so hard on our behalf," Wisniewska said.

Photo: Senator Jeff Brandes welcomes USF President Judy Genshaft (far left), Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, and USF Trustee Nancy Watkins (far right).

Florida Studies to Host Renowned Environmentalist Nathaniel Reed to Speak on Saving Florida Estuaries

Nathaniel Reed has served six Florida governors and two presidents in many positions, including terms as chairman of the Florida Department of Air and Water Pollution Control, and assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. He'll be on campus next Thursday, April 3, to lecture on how we are all impacted by Florida's estuaries, and why we should care deeply about preserving them. The lecture, free to the public, will be hosted by USFSP's **Florida Studies Program**.



"Declines in water quality are a problem for all of us: Poor water quality harms and reduces the quantity of seafood (and birds that eat fish), it chases away tourists, and it forces us to pay more to clean up our drinking water," said Christopher Meindl, Ph.D., director of Florida Studies. "This program is particularly important now because during Florida's dry season, people tend to focus on water quantity, ignoring threats to water quality."

Reed is perhaps Florida's most influential environmental advocate. He served as Florida Governor Claude Kirk's environmental advisor in the late 1960s, and as the assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior in the Nixon and Ford administrations, where he was responsible for Fish, Wildlife and National Parks. Reed now serves as vice chair of the Everglades Foundation and former Governor Bob Graham's Florida Conservation Coalition.

Reed will present "Florida Estuaries: Connection Landscapes to the Ocean."

"Reed's background and knowledge of this subject are truly

stunning," said Frank Biafora, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "I'm delighted that the Florida Studies Program is able to bring him to campus and offer this open lecture to the Tampa Bay community."

The lecture will be held at 5:30 at Harbor Hall. The **event** is free.

USFSP Professor Awarded Princeton Fellowship

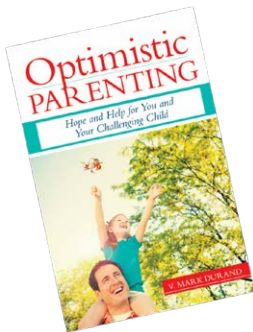
USFSP Psychology professor Mark Durand, Ph.D., traveled to Princeton this week as a recipient of the highly regarded 2014 Princeton Lecture Series Fellowship. As a tribute to his career in the field of autism, Dr. Durand was selected to be a keynote speaker at the 20th anniversary of the Princeton Lecture Series on Autism, where experts are invited to present new findings and future possibilities for the treatment and awareness of this complex developmental disorder.



"This is an impressive accomplishment for Dr. Durand and an honor for USFSP," said Vivian Fueyo, Ph.D., interim regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. "This award simply confirms what we've long understood -- that Dr. Durand is one of this country's leading authorities on autism."

Durand's body of work includes the publication of three books since November: "Sleep Better! A Guide to Improving Sleep for Children with Special Needs," "Autism Spectrum Disorder," which is aimed at helping clinicians screen for and treat the disorder, and "Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach," Seventh Edition, a textbook required by universities across the country. Yet a fourth book, the seventh edition of a second text, "Essentials of Abnormal Psychology" is due in the fall.

For his Princeton lecture this week, Durand drew largely from his research and the resulting popular book, "Optimistic Parenting," which guides parents and teachers of challenged children on how to develop more positive thoughts and perceptions -- a key ingredient of successful parenting and effective behavior management.



"Trying to change difficult child behavior is much more complicated if families are struggling themselves," says Durand. "What we are learning is that confidence and optimism -- having hope -- are prerequisites to successful parenting."

Ever Thought About Grad School? USFSP to Host Grad Programs Open House

If you've ever thought about attending graduate school, you won't want to miss this opportunity to have your every question answered.

What:

Graduate Programs Open House

When:

Saturday, April 5, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Where:
Science & Technology Building

Representatives from all three of USFSP's Colleges -- Arts & Sciences, Business and Education -- will be on hand to explain programs and options.

Open House organizers Eric Douthirt, MBA Program, and Simone DeLoach, Arts & Sciences

"This is a great opportunity for anyone who's been considering a graduate degree, whether

they want to explore options or dive right into a specific field," said Eric Douthirt, MBA, assistant director, MBA Program.

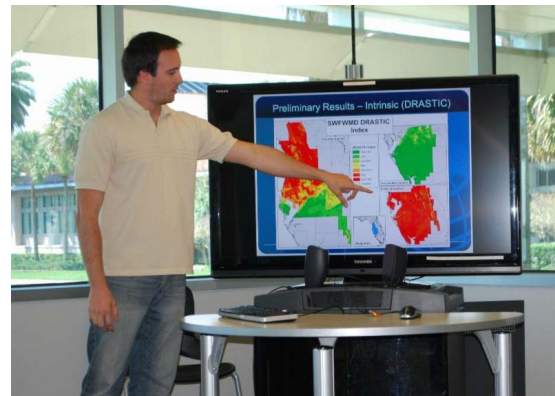
"It's a great chance to meet with faculty," added Simone DeLoach, a graduate programs specialist with the College of Arts & Sciences. "Current grad students will be here, too, for those looking for insights from peers."

The Open House is free and open to the public. For more information, visit usfsp.edu/OpenHouse.

Student Researcher Focuses on Water Safety

Steven Douglas, a Graduate student in Environmental Science, Policy & Geography (ESPG), was one of two special guests at USFSP's Student Research Colloquium this week at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Douglas presented "Modeling of Groundwater Contamination Potential: An Integrated Geospatial Approach." The project won a top prize at the annual conference of the **Florida Society of Geographers** held recently in Orlando.

"Our objective here," said Douglas, "is to delineate areas of groundwater by varying levels of vulnerability. We hope to be able to help officials determine potential threats to animal and human health and where to focus their attention."



Steven Douglas presents "Modeling of Groundwater Contamination Potential."

Kimberly Lyons, also an ESPG Graduate student, presented "Using SWAT and MUSLE with a Downscaled Climate Model to Predict Sedimentation Due to Increased Storm Intensity in the Fajardo River Basin, Puerto Rico." Not surprisingly, her project won in Orlando, too.

Upcoming Events

Florida Studies
Writers in the Preserve

Friday, Mar. 28
7 p.m.

College of Arts & Sciences
Lecture: Nelson Freires, Ifa priest
Thursday, Mar. 27
4:00 p.m.

College of Business
Lecture: Brad Edmondson
Tuesday, Apr. 1
5:00 p.m.

Journalism and Media Studies
USFSP Florida Food Conference
Saturday, Apr. 5
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Honors Program
Holocaust Survivor Peter Feigl
Wednesday, Apr. 9
6:30pm - 8:00pm

USFSP Commencement
Sunday, May 4
6:00 p.m.

[See details and more events on our Things To Do Calendar](#)

[Follow our public events on Twitter](#)

HarborNotes publishes weekly during the fall and spring semesters. To suggest a story, contact the editor:

Jessica Blais
USF St. Petersburg University Advancement
(727) 873-4456
jblais@usfsp.edu

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