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September 21, 2012

HarborNotes Weekly

Your source for USF St. Petersburg news

Our most popular major is also the newest



Biology is the most popular major at USF St. Petersburg this year -- the first year it has ever been offered. About 450 students are majoring in biology this year, well more than expected. "We have far exceeded our five-year enrollment goals," said Norine Noonan, regional vice chancellor for academic affairs. Biology was the most requested major by prospective students, she said.

Three young USFSP grads score big



Gigtank organizer Sheldon Grizzle (second from left) presents the grand prize to TJ Wiegel (left), Toni Gemayel and Travis Stanton.

Three friends who met while attending USF St. Petersburg hit it big at an entrepreneurs' competition in Tennessee last month. TJ Weigel, 22, Toni Gemayel, 22, and Travis Staton, 23, are the co-founders of Banyan, a start-up company that has created a cloud-based version control software system designed for collaborative research that was tested at USF. "On August 9, we pitched in front of 500+ investors and took home the grand prize of \$100,000," said Weigel., a Spring 2012 graduate "I was ecstatic, especially because we were the youngest team by about five years."

[Read more from 83 Degrees.](#)

Business prof first with Quality Matters certification

Instructional Designer Elizabeth Hanna with Instructional Technologist Nicole Emert. On the whiteboard are Quality Matters standards and how they relate to course content.



Associate Professor of Finance Todd Shank, Ph.D., is the first USF St. Petersburg faculty member to obtain the Quality Matters Program certification for an online course. Dr. Shank's course is also the first course within the USF System to be certified by Quality Matters. Dr. Shank's International Finance course meets the highest standards under the national Quality Matters review process. USFSP joined Quality Matters in 2010 to assist faculty with developing high-quality online courses.

[Read more.](#)

USFSP Celebrates! was a huge success



Gus Stavros was surrounded by hundreds of friends at the University Student Center.

Our *USFSP Celebrates!* event at the University Student Center Thursday night was a huge success, drawing more than 350 people and far exceeding the fundraising goal for the College of Business. Retired businessman and philanthropist Gus Stavros was honored for his longtime support of USF St. Petersburg and higher education in Florida. Keynote speaker James MacDougald asked the audience how many people. Nearly every hand was raised. [See more photos.](#)

Upcoming Events

September 22

Undergraduate Admissions Open House
9 a.m.

September 25
Transfer-A-Bull
6 p.m.

October 3
Democracy Under Siege? An Assessment of Contemporary Voter Suppression
2 p.m.

October 5
Regional Chancellor Search Advisory Committee meeting
11:30 a.m.

October 20
Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

[See more 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:

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