

7-24-2014

Harbor Notes : 2014 : 07 : 24

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of University Advancement., "Harbor Notes : 2014 : 07 : 24" (2014). *Harbor Notes*. 48.

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July 24, 2014

HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg

Dear readers,

We promised a special issue or two during the summer months. Enjoy! -- J. Blais

Students Take GIS Skills to USGS

An understanding of geographic information system (GIS) applications makes USFSP interns at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) especially valuable. Two **Environmental Science, Policy & Geography** students, Steven Douglas and Joseph Terrano, are working with USGS staff this summer on computer-aided mapping projects to identify coastal hazards.

"Steven and Joseph are working to collect and analyze data in our geodatabase, producing data sets our scientists can use to examine environmental change," said Kathryn Smith, Ph.D., a USGS ecologist who oversees the internships. "GIS is prevalent in our field, and the skills around entering and manipulating data and metadata are essential to providing information and reports to decision-makers and the public."

Douglas, a Masters student, and Terrano, a rising senior, are students of Barnali Dixon, Ph.D., Associate Professor of GIS and Remote Sensing and Chair, Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography. "As Founding Director of the Geo-Spatial Analytics Lab at USFSP, Dr. Dixon is to be commended for her tireless efforts to promote GIS/Remote Sensing through courses and workshops, a 16-credit minor in GIS, and for mentoring students with cutting-edge skill sets that industry leaders are seeking in our graduates," said Frank Biafora, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



USGS ecologist Kathryn Smith and USFSP interns Joseph Terrano (center) and Steven Douglas at the USGS building in St. Petersburg

USFSP Faculty Awarded Fulbright



Dr. Elliott
Photo: Melissa Lyttle

Deni Elliott, D.Ed., Chair of USFSP's **Department of Journalism and Media Studies**, has been awarded a coveted appointment on the Fulbright Specialist Roster. This means, that for a period of five years, Elliott is eligible to share her expertise in digital communication ethics with professional organizations and institutions of higher education throughout the world with Fulbright funding. Elliott hopes to work with universities and news organizations in Australia and African countries, but is eager for invitations from any locale. She'll be drawing from her new textbook, "Ethics for a Digital Era, (forthcoming Wiley/Blackwell), which she is co-authoring with Edward Spence, Ph.D., a media scholar with Australia's Charles Sturt University.

"Democracy's need for responsible and credible journalism is unprecedented as increasingly broad

and diverse audiences seek information for self-governance," said Elliott. "Our new book will show how global standards of responsible journalism can be culturally interpreted to best meet the needs of citizens in democracies, while recognizing pragmatic considerations for journalistic practice in different places."

Elliott, who has been teaching journalism and ethical decision-making for more than 30 years, joined USFSP in 2003. Her department is recognized nationally as a pioneer in the teaching of digital journalism. She hopes that Fulbright will approve a trip to Australia in the spring.

"Fulbright programs recognize some of this country's best teaching," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "This is well-deserved acknowledgment of Dr. Elliott's work, and an honor for USFSP."

The **Fulbright Specialist program** awards grants to U.S. faculty and professionals in select disciplines to engage in short-term collaborative projects at eligible institutions in over 140 countries worldwide. It is a program of the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Honeywell Honors USFSP Grad



Honeywell honoree Judith Deeley earned a Masters in STEM education for the middle grades.

It was last summer that USFSP Masters student Judith Deeley ('13) participated in the competitive **Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy**. This summer, she returned to the program having been chosen as just one of 10 special guests at a graduation ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the program.

Created in partnership with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Honeywell developed the Academy to help math and science teachers become more effective educators in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Educators participate in a variety of activities including 45 hours of classroom, laboratory, and field-training, including simulated astronaut training exercises and high-performance jet simulations.

"This is indeed an honor for Judy," said Vivian Fueyo, Ph.D., interim regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. "Judy represents the very best of STEM teaching at USFSP."

Deeley graduated from USFSP in December. She is a Mathematics/STEM teacher in Clearwater.

Biology Students Land in Puerto Rico

Eleven USFSP **Biology** students spent two weeks in Puerto Rico earlier this summer, studying everything from the anti-bacterial effects of various plants on the island to the food preferences of ant species. The students spent Week One of the trip in the El Yunque rainforest. The second week was spent at the Marine Research Station on Isla Magueyes.

"The importance of this program involves exposing the students to field research," said

Heather Judkins, Ph.D., Biological Oceanography. "They explored habitats that are different than our local estuary system and learned about the entire scientific research process, from hypotheses to data collection to analysis back in the lab."



Lead by Dr. Judkins (front row, far left), USFSP's 2014 Biology Field Study Group was in Puerto Rico for two weeks.

Read more about the trip:

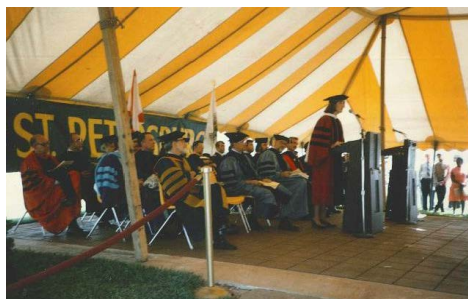
<http://fspr2014.blogspot.com/>

USFSP Digital Archive Features Commencements

Nearly all of the USFSP commencement programs -- since the first ceremony in May 1982 -- have been added to a new collection in the Digital Archives at **Nelson Poynter Memorial Library**. Special Collections Librarian Jim Schnur hopes to complete the collection within the next year.

"As usual, Jim is to be recognized for creating a collection that will serve us well for many years to come," said Carol Hixson, dean of the Poynter Library. "The Archive itself is an incredible tool that allows us to share our history and accomplishments with alumni and friends."

Schnur says the timing of this collection is particularly meaningful and that it will grow. "As we move toward our milestone 50th anniversary, we look forward to adding more materials that celebrate our half century of educational excellence along Bayboro Harbor," he said.



To view the collection, please visit:

<http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/3179>

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

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