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MBA Graduate Advances at C1 Bank

Javier Jorge, '11, MBA '13, took a circuitous route to his career as a banking professional, but his detours had no negative effect on his current rise through the ranks at C1 Bank in St. Petersburg.

After graduating with a B.A. in finance, Jorge immediately began working on his MBA. "Javier represents many qualities of an outstanding graduate of the USFSP MBA program," said Gary Patterson, interim dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business. "He benefited from our case-based curriculum that links the classroom to actual corporate situations. We emphasize group projects since this is a part of corporate life, and Javier's leadership skills shined in this environment."

With his MBA in hand, Jorge was one of six people accepted into C1 Bank's Management Associate program, which is designed to train new managers. It combines hands-on experience in various bank divisions with graduate coursework at USFSP. At the end of the 22-week program, he was one of three participants who were asked to stay on.

Javier became a Loan Operations Analyst in January 2014, a new position created for him, but he will soon strike out on a new professional adventure. In November he will take on the role of C1 Bank's SBA and Lending Business Development Officer for Miami Dade County.

Read the full story.

USFSP Partners With Technology Forum

A partnership between USFSP and the Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF) seeks to identify gaps in industry demand and match them with existing talent - including that of USFSP graduates. To that end, TBTF has formed a student chapter at USFSP to help market area business and internship opportunities, and to facilitate communication between students and professionals.

"Students have a lot of responsibility when it comes to balancing their education, families and work," said chapter advisor Cherie Collins, a visiting professor who teaches Information Systems for Managers in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. "It is important to remind them to
A recent study by the IT Workforce Task Force, which included TBTF members, revealed that one of the challenges in bridging the university and the business communities is simply making students aware of what opportunities exist in their own backyard.

"There are a vast number of local companies interested in hiring students, but students are unaware of the career options that can match their skill set," said Patricia Gehant, director of TBTF's Workforce Initiative. "We have a membership of over 300 companies representing thousands of members to connect to educators and students. We create the opportunity and the environment to make change happen."

Read the full story.

**COE Grads Take Leadership Roles in Pinellas County Schools**

Seven graduates of the USFSP College of Education's Educational Leadership master's program received promotions to administrative positions at the beginning of this school year. Chosen from a pool of 160 applicants, they are:

- Shannon Brennen, Principal, Mildred Helms Elementary
- Kristy Moody, Principal, Douglas Jamerson Elementary
- Cassandra Cummings, Assistant Principal, Pinellas Park High
- Nikishia Dixon, Assistant Principal, North Shore Elementary
- Tekoa Moses, Assistant Principal, Lake St. George Elementary
- Gwendetta Richards-Betts, Assistant Principal, Kings Highway Elementary
- Mary Salazar, Assistant Principal, Mildred Helms Elementary

"These appointments from a competitive pool attest to the excellence of both the program and the students," said Dr. Olivia Hodges, coordinator of the College's Educational Leadership program. "The Pinellas County School system is very careful in who it selects as leaders for their schools, which adds even more to the significant accomplishments of these graduates."

**USFSP to Graduate Ninja Warrior Student**

The locals have dubbed his restructured home "Danger House." He has been a finalist on TV's "American Ninja Warrior" for six seasons. In 2008, he switched from skateboarding (with sponsors) to freerunning or in other terms, obstacle coursing. He's a certified personal trainer. And he hopes to earn his degree in Mass Communications from USFSP this year.

"Don't let fear get in the way of the life you want," says Sean Morris, 26, who often refers to himself as a movement artist. "It's not that I am particularly talented, it comes down to the fact that I train to be adaptive rather than train for an obstacle course."

Morris grew up and still lives in Sarasota, in a home that features a backyard obstacle course and an 18-foot rock climbing wall, among other training amenities. He currently operates a production company called Internalized Fitness, which promotes the ideals of leading an active lifestyle. With his degree in Mass Communications, he plans to expand his production company.
De Leon Exhibit Opens at History Museum

Now open at The St. Petersburg History Museum: "Imaging La Florida: Juan Ponce de Leon and the Quest for the Fountain of Youth," a special exhibit curated by USFSP History Professor J. Michael Francis. Francis, who holds the Hough Family Endowed Chair in Florida Studies, is one of the nation's leading experts on the Spanish colonial experience in Florida.

The Museum says the intent of the exhibit is to "spread the importance that Spain had in the discovery and in the colonial past of this state; a rich and complex history that, to an extent, is unknown by both countries."

"This is yet another excellent opportunity for the public to share the incredible work of our faculty," said Dr. Han Reichgelt, Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

The exhibit will run through the winter.

Upcoming Events

**Florida Humanities**
Lecture by Cynthia Barnett
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
TONIGHT, 7:00 p.m.

**Department of History and Politics**
Lecture Series: Thinking Through... World War I
Tuesday, September 30
4:30 p.m.

**Florida Institute of Oceanography Open House**
Wednesday, October 1
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Kate Tiedemann College of Business**
Groundbreaking Ceremony
Tuesday, October 14
11:00 a.m.

**USFSP Night at the Rowdies**
Wednesday, October 15
7:30 p.m.

**St. Petersburg Science Festival**
Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18
HarborNotes publishes weekly during the fall and spring semesters. To suggest a story, contact the editor:

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