

11-7-2014

Harbor Notes : 2014 : 11 : 07

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University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of University Advancement., "Harbor Notes : 2014 : 11 : 07" (2014). *Harbor Notes*. 70.

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November 7, 2014

HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg

Smith & Associates Makes \$100,000 Gift

USFSP received another special gift recently: A \$100,000 contribution from Smith & Associates Real Estate will support objectives of student and faculty initiatives, including academic and research programs, student clubs, equipment, computers and student travel and training, among others.

"We've had the pleasure to work with Bob Glaser and his team at Smith & Associates for several years and are delighted to be able to announce this gift," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "These gifts make a tremendous difference to us, to the educational experiences of our students."

The Smith & Associates gift will be recognized by naming the café in the new Kate Tiedemann College of Business building. USFSP broke ground on the new 68,000 square-foot building earlier this month.

"It's been exciting to watch the momentum and growth at USFSP," said Robert Glaser, president and CEO of Smith & Associates. "We're delighted to become a part of it."



Robert Glaser

COE Grads Perform Well on State Tests



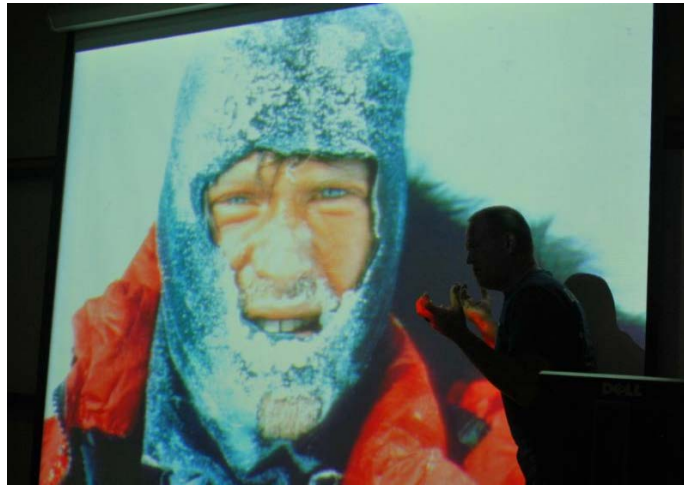
COE Associate Dean Olivia Hodges and Dean Bill Heller

Graduates of the USFSP **College of Education** are performing consistently well on the State of Florida's General Knowledge Test and the Florida Teacher Certificate Examination. That, according to assessment results just released for the years 2011-2014. Results show that USFSP teacher certification candidates are performing at or above the state average in all of four subtests: English Language Skills, Mathematics, Reading and Essay.

"The performance results reinforce the College's efforts to prepare the very best teachers possible," said Bill Heller, dean of the College of Education. "These teachers can and will make a difference with every child."

USFSP candidate performance has increased steadily, with the highest scores recorded during 2013 and 2014. "The outstanding performance of the COE students on the state certification tests reflects the excellence of the COE students, and the COE faculty and staff, said Dr. Han Reichgelt, regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. "They all deserve our congratulations."

Blue Ocean and USFSP Welcome Sir Swan



Sir Robert Swan, polar explorer and motivational speaker

As part of the Blue Ocean Film Festival, Sir Robert Swan presented to a class of USFSP Geography students. Swan was the first man in history to walk 900 miles to the South Pole and 700 miles to the North Pole -- and today, is one of the world's leading advocates for the preservation of Antarctica.

"Climate change is definite. Science has told us this," said Swan. "Most people insure their cars, their homes. We need to insure our planet."

"Sir Robert Swan's 'chat' with Dr. Meindl's class was perhaps the most inspiring 45 minutes of my life," said Dr. Frank Biafora, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "His stories of leadership and courage and of surviving the elements on two polar expeditions left the audience breathless and in awe, with each of us to ponder what we are doing in our own lives to make a positive difference in the world."

For more information about Swan and his work, visit www.2041.com.

Sea Level Rise a Topic for Maldives President, Mayor

Also as part of Blue Ocean, the university welcomed the former president of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed. Nasheed was on hand for a screening of documentary, "The Island President," which details why the Republic of the Maldives - which includes 1,200 coral islands and 400 miles of coastline - is in critical danger because of rising sea levels. The low-lying islands are on the front lines of sea level rise and facing possible devastation, the likes of which other nations could face in the future.

"Our students were active in helping to organize this event and responded in large numbers," said Dr. Dona Stewart, assistant visiting professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography. "SEAS, the Student Environmental Awareness Society, has been a terrific resource."

Stewart went on to note that USFSP, as a member of a coastal community, must play a role in helping develop resilience to the effects of climate change. "President Nasheed's visit was especially timely as our community works to



Mohamed Nasheed

forge a comprehensive response," she said.

-- *Karlana June*

Also at USFSP this week: a panel discussion of the major facets of sea level rise and its impact closer to home. Among the panelists were St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman and Jackie Dixon, dean of the USF College of Marine Science.

The Blue Ocean Film Festival continues through November 9. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org.



Coming Soon to a Location Near You: GIS Day!

It's that time of year again: USFSP is ramping up for GIS Day. GIS (geographic information system) is computer software that maps and analyzes geographic data. GIS Day provides an international forum for users of GIS technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society.

"We have been hosting this event since 2001, and it is open to the public," said Dr. Barnali Dixon, professor of GIS and Remote Sensing, and chair of the Dept. of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography. "We bring students K-12 to campus and show them how GIS affects our lives. We also bring in local, state and federal agencies to demonstrate how they use GIS."



Dr. Barnali Dixon

USFSP's GIS Day 2014 will be held on Tuesday, November 18, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Harbor Hall. For more information, please visit [the event website](#).

Upcoming Events

Guy Harvey Fisheries Symposium

November 12 and 13

Colonial Dames XVII Century, St. Petersburg Chapter

Williams House Dedication

Saturday, November 15

1:00 p.m.

USFSP Town & Gown Reception

November 20

5:30 p.m.

USFSP Fall Commencement

Sunday, December 14

6:00 p.m.

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

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