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April 3, 2015

## HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg  
[www.usfsp.edu/home](http://www.usfsp.edu/home)

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### USFSP Students to Lead National Pre-Vet Association



Alexa Brandstetter (left) and Bethany Porcelli

In a new first for USFSP, two Biology students will lead the national **Pre-Veterinary Medicine Association**. Bethany Porcelli was elected President during the association's recent conference in Columbus, Ohio, and Alexa Brandstetter was chosen as Treasurer.

"We decided to run as few had taken the initiative," said Porcelli, who also serves as president of USFSP's Pre-Vet Society. "There are so many students who seem lost in terms of what classes to take, or how to get a veterinary internship. Alexa and I hope to improve understanding and develop ways to communicate with interested students."

"This is an amazing accomplishment for these students, and yet another point of pride for USFSP," said Dr. Frank Biafora, dean of the **College of Arts and Sciences**. "My deep appreciation goes to Dr. Norine Noonan for helping to create opportunities for our students to enrich their studies through internships, a successful Biology living/learning community, and a chance to lead."

As new Association officers, Porcelli and Brandstetter participate in bi-weekly conference calls with fellow officers and university advisors from colleges across the country. "We're a real team in this," said Brandstetter. "It's a big deal."

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### Psychology Students Present at National Conference



Demetric Watkins (center) was among the undergraduate presenters at SEPA.

Several USFSP Psychology students traveled to Hilton Head, South Carolina recently for the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) congress. There, they presented results from their research studies, side-by-side with senior scientists from around the country.

"This isn't a field trip; it's a peer-reviewed scientific conference," said Dr. Jamie McHale, director of the USFSP **Family Study Center**. "Our students were a strong presence there among an event dominated by senior faculty researchers."

McHale and several of his colleagues, including Dr. Vikki Gaskin-Butler, worked to prepare their students for the conference. Among the presenters was Demetric Watkins, whose study was entitled,

"Perceptions of Fatherhood for Unmarried Men After a Coparenting Intervention." McHale's work at USFSP has included groundbreaking work in the **concepts of coparenting**.

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## ESP&G Students Prep for Symposium

The **Department of Environmental Science Policy and Geography** (ESP&G) in the College of Arts and Sciences will host a Research Symposium next Friday, April 10. The event will feature presentations from seven students on topics ranging from wetland delineation to storm surge vulnerability in Pinellas County.

"The purpose of the symposium is to show the community the type and quality of research our students are performing in ESP&G. It gives potential students the opportunity to see what they might expect to do in terms of research if they pursue a degree in the department," said Dr. Donny Smoak, associate professor. "It also gives our students invaluable experience. Many are preparing to present at professional meetings in the next few weeks."

The ESP&G Symposium will be held at the Science and Technology building, Room 111, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Joseph Terrano (left) and Steven Douglas will be among the presenters at the ESP&G Symposium.

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## USFSP Marks National Library Workers Day

April 14 is National Library Workers Day, and an **American Library Association blog** invites people to write in and celebrate library "stars." Dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, **Carol Hixson**, posted this submission:



Carol Hixson, dean

*The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at USF St. Petersburg is a Star because the entire faculty and staff have put the students of the university at the heart of everything they do. They bring energy, creativity, vision and dedication to the job every day, inspiring each other and the rest of the campus with their accomplishments and work ethic. The Poynter Library has a reputation on campus as being THE place to work because the people celebrate each other's successes and support one another through the tough times.*

*Together, this group has transformed the library into the true intellectual hub of the campus, showing the students, faculty, and administration just what a group of smart, creative people can accomplish when they have a shared vision.*



Some of the "star" faculty and staff of USFSP's Nelson Poynter Library

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## Getting to Know You ... Olivia Hodges

Meet **Dr. Olivia Hodges**, associate dean of the College of Education (COE). Hodges was recognized this week for having received Quality Matters (QM) Certification for a new online course she developed with Dr. Bonnie Cangelosi, adjunct faculty and a

principal with Pinellas County Schools, and the USFSP distance learning team. With the QM seal of approval, "Principles of Educational Leadership" will appear listed among award-winning courses from colleges and universities across the country.

**What is your favorite book?**

"The JFK Conspiracy Theory" by David Miller.

**Where is your favorite destination in the world?**

Epernay, France.

**What is your favorite movie?**

"Flashdance."

**What was your least favorite subject in college?**

English Composition.

**What skill or talent would you like to have that you don't have?**

Motivational speaking.

**What do you do to relax?**

Get a massage.

**What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?**

I am a ventriloquist!

**What USFSP project or activity are you currently working on that excites you the most?**

Placing the COE adjunct orientation online.



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## **Upcoming Events**

**A Conversation with Miguel "Mike" Fernandez**

Friday, April 10

11:00 a.m.

USC Ballroom

**Innovation Overnight**

Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11

USC Ballroom

**Lecture: Thinking Through World War I: Florida, the U.S. and the World**

Tuesday, April 14

6:00 p.m.

St. Petersburg Museum of History

**MBA Information Session**

Wednesday, April 15

6:00 p.m.

Science & Technology Building

**USFSP Florida Food Conference**

Saturday, April 18

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

USC Ballroom

**Faculty Research Lightning Talks**

Thursday, April 23

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Nelson Poynter Library

**USFSP Spring Commencement**

Sunday, May 3

6:00 p.m.

Mahaffey Theater

For more information about these and other USFSP events, please visit our **Public Events Calendar**.

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

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