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5 Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg



October 16, 2015

Faculty Discover Complete Ancient African Genome

USFSP anthropologists and faculty Drs. Kathryn and John Arthur have made an enduring discovery in Mota Cave in the Ethiopian Gamo highlands: the first complete ancient African genome.



From left: USFSP anthropologists John and Kathy Arthur with Matthew Curtis from Ventura College.

DNA extracted from a skeleton in the cave provides the first human genome sequenced from the African continent. The discovery was published Oct. 8 by the

[National Science Foundation](#) and the prestigious journal *Science*.

"This is an extraordinary discovery, a contribution to the fields of anthropology and archaeology that will be recognized by scientists around the world," said USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "I could not be more proud of the Arthurs' research, of their time and dedication to their field and to USF St. Petersburg."

The Arthurs worked with an international team of researchers and scientists to excavate and analyze the skeletal remains, which they named Bayira -- meaning "first born" in the Gamo language. [Read more](#) about the Arthurs' research and discovery.

USFSP to Host Science Fest, SAW Events Oct. 17



Saturday will be a busy day at USF St. Petersburg. Once again, USFSP's waterfront will serve as the venue for the annual [St. Petersburg Science Festival](#), held in conjunction with [MarineQuest](#), the annual open house of the Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. The events run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Save the Date

St. Petersburg Science Festival and MarineQuest
Saturday, Oct. 17
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Poynter Park

USFSP Alumni Society hosts USF vs. UConn Watch Party
Saturday, Oct. 17
Noon
Three Birds Tavern

[View More Information](#)

Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America
Tuesday, Oct. 20
6-7:30 p.m.
USC Ballroom
[Register Now](#)

Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading
Saturday, Oct. 24
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
USF St. Petersburg

Employee Recovery From Work: Dr. Charlotte Fritz
Monday, Oct. 26
12:30-1:30 p.m.
DAV 130

At the same time, USFSP will host its inaugural [Sustainable Art Work \(SAW\)](#) milling event in Poynter Park. Lumber from trees that were removed to make space for the new Kate Tiedemann College of Business building will be repurposed to create furniture and art work for the building and for donors, graduates and guests. Several milling demonstrations will be held throughout the day. [Learn more about the SAW initiative.](#)

'Food for Thought' Lecture Series Returns Oct. 26



Janet Keeler, coordinator of "Food for Thought."

USF St. Petersburg will host *Saveur* and *National Geographic* photographer Penny De Los Santos as she presents "Food Culture Through the Lens" on Monday, Oct. 26. Her multimedia presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. [RSVP now](#) for this free public event.

"Food photography is about so much more than taking pictures of food on plates," said Janet Keeler, visiting assistant professor and coordinator of the [Food Writing and Photography Certificate Program](#) at USFSP. "Good food photography captures our cultural connections with food and Penny De Los Santos's work exemplifies that."

The presentation is part of the ["Food for Thought"](#) lecture series, a yearlong celebration of food and culture through photography, writing, film and new sunshine state cuisine. It will feature four lectures throughout the academic year. [Learn more.](#)

USFSP Event Speaker to Appear at Reading Fest

USF St. Petersburg will host the 23rd annual [Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading](#) on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the 10th year that the festival has been held at USFSP and, as usual, will feature many of our faculty writers.

In addition to headlining author Judy Blume, the daylong event will feature Cynthia Barnett, an award-winning environmental journalist who has reported on water from the Suwannee River to Singapore.



Cynthia Barnett. Photo courtesy of Cynthia Barnett.

This Tuesday, Barnett will be the featured speaker at a campus event called ["Blue Revolution: A Water Ethic for Florida and America."](#) The event will be held in the University Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. It is co-hosted by the USFSP Environmental Science and Sustainability Club, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Pinellas and the USFSP Florida Studies

Food for Thought Lecture
Monday, Oct. 26
7 p.m.
USC Ballroom

[View All Upcoming Anniversary Events](#)

50 Faces

Each week, throughout the year, USFSP will celebrate those who have made or are making an impact on the university.

[View 50 Faces](#)

Green & Golden

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Program. [Register now](#) to attend.

Education Dean Speaks at Special Ed Symposium

USF St. Petersburg [College of Education](#) Dean [Bill Heller](#) served as the keynote speaker for the [National Urban Special Education Leadership Initiative](#) (NUSELI) Symposium at the University of Central Florida on Sept. 25.

The initiative serves to address the critical gaps between the traditional preparation of urban special education mid-level administrators and the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed for full implementation of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. The collaborative initiative includes UCF, urban school districts from around Florida, and special education leaders from around the U.S.



Bill Heller, College of Education

"I knew after my first year of teaching children with developmental and emotional disabilities that I wanted to be an advocate for all children with disabilities," said Dr. Heller, who shared about his path to success in special education and highlights from throughout his special education career that spans half a century.

This email was developed by the USFSP Office of University Advancement.

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