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POINTS OF PRIDE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS NEWS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Letter from the Interim RVCAA



Commencement!!!

One of my favorite Chinese proverbs is, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." For more than 500 USF St. Petersburg students, that first step culminates in their graduation as they walk the stage on Sunday, May 6. 412 of those students will receive bachelor's degrees, and 93 will be awarded master's degrees. We celebrate with these students and their families, and are extremely proud of their achievements.

I had several opportunities to meet with students during the biweekly Table Talk sessions. The goal of the Table Talk sessions was to get to know our students and to engage them in candid conversations about their experiences at USFSP. Every encounter reminded me of the reason why we are here, and the importance that students remain at the center of what we do. The students were articulate, smart and confident, and for the most part positive about their experiences here. You will hear directly from the students in the section of this publication titled, *Student Voices*.

Commencement is about transitions and new beginnings. As the semester ends, we also celebrate milestones in the lives of our faculty and administration. Dr. Frank Biafora, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences for over a decade will be stepping down from that position at the end of June. Dean Biafora's exemplary service to the institution is marked by several highlights that include serving as Chair of the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan, overseeing the formation of academic departments in the College with its current Chair leadership structure, leading the planning and development of six undergraduate programs, four graduate programs and four certificate programs; and working closely with faculty and staff from the USF Foundation to help double the college endowment in support of strategic priorities supporting faculty excellence and student success.

Dr. Magali Michael will take over as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on July 1. Dr. Michael comes to us from Duquesne University where she was a professor and Associate Dean, College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts.

Also, in an email to the campus community on April 18, Dean Allyson Watson announced the retirement of Dr. Olivia Hodges, Associate Dean of the College of Education, effective end of June 2018. Dean Watson expressed deep gratitude and

appreciation for "all the wonderful work Dr. Hodges has done for not only me and USFSP's College of Education, but for the students over the last eleven years." Dr. Hodges accomplishments in her years at USFSP include spearheading the first 100% online Master's program at the university. The program is tailored to address a real need for leaders in the community. As Program Coordinator for the Educational Leadership Master Program, Dr. Hodges has been an integral part in our college enrollment increases and success.

Other departures are noted in the profile section of this Newsletter.

We wish our departing faculty and staff, and all our graduating students, the very best in the next phase of their journey. And to all our returning faculty and staff, we wish you a safe and fulfilling summer. See you back in August.

Sincerely,
Dr. Olufunke Fontenot

Student Voices

Amongst talking about other things, student Brian Goff gave a shout out for Dr. Varol Kayhan, from the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. Dr. Kayhan has "provided relevant and up-to-date material for his students. Professor Kayhan went above and beyond to make sure that we understood complex concepts by making himself available outside of office hours and providing constructive feedback on all assignments. While he cares about students' growth in his classroom, Dr. Kayhan also wants to see his students grow professional and has often reached out to share opportunities for advanced learning or employment with students in his class based upon where they showed interest or excelled. Because of his compassion for what he teaches he inspired me to take more courses in his field, which have proven invaluable in my career. I'm appreciative of what he has taught me and highly recommend his classes to any and all students."

Table Talk



Table Talk with Brian Goff, Dr. Olufunke Fontenot, and Pete Villafana



From left to right: Roni Gabaldon, Ranki Patel, Nisuka Williams, Dr. Fontenot, and Stephen Hortsman

I was more than thrilled to see the email come giving students the opportunity to speak with Dr. Fontenot, our Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at USFSP. Being a collegiate student you can easily feel like you are at the bottom of the totem pole and that your voice is just another whisper in the hall. But with this platform Dr. Fontenot has introduced, and science has backed, ythat it is extremely important and constructive to have open communication in any environment where people are collaborating for a common end goal. With this, I hope our discussion regarding parking services on our campus and the consolidation will serve as a student perspective for future changes that can be made at our beloved University.



Thank you!
Roni Gabaldon

It was with great honor and pleasure that I was able to be included for the table talk. Our lunch was most comfortable and Dr. Fontenot created such a kind atmosphere. We discussed a modern approach to campus parking. Keeping our campus accessible and tight was what I came away form this small event with.



Thanks to Dr. Fontenot and Ms. Polis for the nice luncheon.

Thanks, **Stephen Shack Horstman**

A quick summary of some of the topics we discussed over lunch was an introduction of our self, why we chose USFSP, what we like about USFSP in comparison to other university, ways we can improve USFSP, how the education at USFSP will benefit us in the future, and lastly what are thoughts are on the USF Consolidation.

Thank You,
Janki Patel



USF System STEM High Impact Practice Workshop

Twenty-two faculty and staff from USFSP attended the USF High-Impact Practice Workshop held at USF Tampa on April 13, 2018. The workshop with about 140 registrants focused on Study Abroad, Community Engagement, Undergraduate Research, Internships and Collaborative Learning. Dr. Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, Associate Professor of Political Science and Founding Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at USFSP served on the panel on Community Engagement.



A group of USFSP Faculty and Staff at the STEM High Impact Practices Workshop



Dr. Olufunke Fontenot introduces the luncheon Keynote Speaker

Staff Spotlight: Mia Culbertson

Academic Program Specialist for Psychology and Society, Culture & Language in the College of Arts & Sciences

Mia is a wonderful staff member with strong leadership skills, friendly demeanor, and a quick wit. Mia takes initiative to develop cost-effective and efficient solutions for the College and the faculty whom she supports. She is very talented in the area of graphic design and takes on additional marketing projects for the College to showcase our outstanding faculty achievements and special events on or off-campus. As proud USFSP alumni, Mia is passionate about helping the University stand out as a provider of high-quality education and her efforts within the College greatly supports that goal.



An Academic Program Specialist performs specialized administrative work in support of an academic department. This position provides administrative coordination for assigned undergraduate and/or graduate programs, serving as a point of contact to students, prospective students and faculty on matters related to course management and enrollment, program requirements, policies and procedures and other administrative matters.

Dr. Frank Biafora nominated Mia for this spotlight.

Profile

This month the USFSP Advising Center takes pride in the accomplishments of Jamie Bennett, USFSP's first Academic Success Coordinator. Ms. Bennett has spent the last year molding the newly created position of Success Coordinator to enhance all undergraduate students' retention and timely degree completion. USFSP's FTIC student academic progress rate increased 10% points due to the combined efforts of many, but several initiatives were coordinated by Jamie's data research and tireless outreach efforts. She served as the USFSP liaison on the implementation of Archivum and successfully led USFSP's Archivum teams with innovation. Jamie provided a fresh perspective on many existing processes. Through her insightful observations, we have enhanced a number of processes that affect students experiencing academic difficulties. She is passionate about helping. Students, faculty, and staff have benefited from this passion, and I am sorry that I must add that this will be her last month at USFSP. I congratulate Jamie on her new career with the foster care system. We will all miss her dedication and contributions to making USFSP a better place for all, and we celebrate the many accomplishments she made while working at USFSP.



Jamie Bennett

Heba's Going Away Reception



Heba el-Tall, the Center for Civic Engagement Program Assistant for nearly 2 years, has accepted a position in the Office of Community Partnerships at USF Tampa. Heba assisted with the CCE's Civic Engagement Inventory, identifying the Citizen Scholar courses, updating the Citizen Scholar Course Catalog and administering surveys for the students enrolled in those courses so we could assess the Citizen Scholar Program and its impact on students. She helped organize our Civic Engagement Fair every semester, and she updated our Community Partner and Service Learning Placement Directory. She helped to administer our CCE Faculty Course Development Grant Program. And, she was a part of our Carnegie Community Engagement Re-Classification Steering Committee, and she helped coordinate the larger Carnegie Task Force. We were so fortunate to have her on our team! Heba is a dedicated professional - always exceeding expectations. Of course she was the "Employee of the Month" - but this honor does not capture the depth of our appreciation for her contributions to the CCE.

Updates on Master Academic Plan 2017/2018

This section highlights progress on the [Master Academic Plan \(MAP\)](#) priorities chosen by the Deans Council for this academic year, with a focus on activities within the purview of Academic Affairs. View the [MAP Work Plan](#) here.

A1. Overtly live democratic principles of inclusion

- On March 29th the KTCOB hosted "Empowering Women at Work". Industry leaders shared insights about the different psychological approaches and experiences women face. Over 185 students and community members attended this engaging discussion
- On March 1st, KTCOB and OPEN proudly presented "Bitcoin, Blockchain and the Future" of Finance to 215+ audience members. Thought-leader Charlie Shrem educated the audience about the history and impact of Bitcoin, and Jimmy Song alongside fin.tech leaders gave a detailed Q&A about the Future of Finance.
- The Office of Academic Affairs hosted two "Delicious Dialogue" events (March and April) which provided an example of diplomatic debate regarding issues of the gender pay gap and neutrality in the classroom.

A2. Personalize student experience

- Ex Labs Boot Camp was held March 12-16. Twenty USFSP students participated in a competitive alternative spring break in which they were exposed to new careers in technology and experiential problem solving in partnership with Tech Data. Small groups with guidance from a mentor created a business valuation plan for a new IoT (internet of things) product. The boot camp culminated in a presentation to industry leaders. One team won advanced training from Cisco valued at 2,300 each. An additional Ex Labs Boot Camp will be held in June: www.usfsp.edu/exlab

A.4 Increase external recognition of distinctive identity

- La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas was developed by Dr. Michael Francis and included contributions by many USFSP students. This interactive and user-friendly website, launched on March 15, covers Spanish Florida history, enabling users to search the database and filter results by factors such as expedition, country of origin, occupation, gender etc.
- The documentary film on water pollution issues of St. Petersburg developed by a student team (i.e. Caroline Smith, Melissa Isaacs, Luke Cross, Justine Ortiz, Shelby Hylton, Kelly Lewis, Victoria Warner, Ridley Roberts and Jaycie Newton) from Dr. Brandon Shuler's Environmental Law class was selected for streaming at the Gasparilla International Film Festival 2018 and won the Audience Choice Award for a Florida Production.
- A USFSP team led by Dr. Judithanne McLauchlan (Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, Associate Professor of Political Science) in partnership with Florida YMCA, co-submitted a proposal on civic literacy as part of the YMCA Youth in Government (YIG) program. Participating high-school students from throughout Florida will earn 3-6 USFSP credits in courses designed and supervised at USFSP. The State has contributed \$263,458 to develop the program and to support the tuition of the first cohort.
- The Center for Civic Engagement hosted the regional meeting of Florida Campus Compact, fostering a dialogue among community engagement educators from across Southwest Florida on campus.
- Five COE faculty members are presenting at the AERA conference: Dr. Zafar Unal, Dr. Charles Vanover, Dr. AnnMarie Gunn, Dr. Karen Ramlackahan, and Dr. Susan "Chicago Butoh" by Dr. Charles Vanover is a performance event that combines words taken verbatim from an interview with a first year teacher in the Chicago Public Schools with choreography inspired by Chicago Hip Hop and the Japanese dance form, Butoh. This work was presented as part of the "Assessing Arts-Based Research" Symposium in New York and will be presented at Studio@620 this coming October.
- OLITS Team members Karla Morris, Steph Fuhr, and Ricky Zager presented at the Florida Teaching Online Preparation (TOPKit) Workshop, discussing "Improving Content Accessibility through Collaboration and Professional Development
- Ricky Zager presented at the USF Learning Design Group meeting on the topic of "Get Your Face in the Video." Ricky shared strategies for increasing engagement in online courses through Faculty video to all online learning professionals in the USF System.
- Deanna Michael's course Schools & Society, and Glen Stewart's course School Law, both COE faculty members, received Quality Matters Certification for their online.
- Professor Carl Pacini presented a paper at the AAA Forensic Accounting Section Midyear meeting in Dallas, TX. entitled "The Role of Shell Entities in Fraud and Other Financial Crimes".

B.5 Create affordable international opportunities for students

- The office of Global Partnerships completed Feasibility Studies for potential partnerships in China in preparation for Dr. Tadlock's upcoming trip to China.
- The Center for Civic Engagement and the USFSP Planned Parenthood Generation Action group co-sponsored a Women's HERStory Month Event featuring a guest speaker from Macedonia Professor Karolina Ristova-Aasterud (UKIM in Skopje) who presented "Defending Women's Reproductive Rights and Freedoms: The Curious Case of the Macedonian Abortion Law of 2013."
- As a complement to the Keynote Speaker, students in Dr. Judithanne McLauchlan's Women and the Law class presented research posters about women's reproductive rights in the US and Europe and several community partners (Planned Parenthood, NOW, Business and Professional Women of St. Pete/Pinellas) tabled at the event. For more see [Women's Herstory Month Posters](#)

- Professor Blerim Reka of South East European University (SEEU) will be visiting USFSP to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Students in Dr. Judithanne McLauchlan's Constitutional Law class are partnering with students at SEEU this semester on comparative legal research projects, examining decisions of the US Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights.
- USFSP and SEEU students presented jointly via Skype videoconference from the US Embassy American Corner in Skopje, Macedonia. For more about this global classroom, see <https://comparativelegalresearch.blogspot.com/>

D.1 Become the partner of choice for education, business, non-profits, and governmental entities in Pinellas County



- The Brewing Arts Program brings together USFSP academics and local brewing experts to educate and train a workforce for this growing industry. Program alums Micheil McElvey of Mastery's Brewing Co. and Jay Jones of 81Bay Brewing Co. released a new Brett Farmhouse ale 'Champagne Sweets' on March 6, combined with an open house for the Brewing Arts Program.
- The March 1st was the unveiling of the Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Center. KTCOB honored a \$500k gift from BOA ML by revealing the new name of the Wealth Management Center. The WMC will provide financial literacy courses to the community at large, as well as high-school students. The gift also supports several new financial tracks for USFSP students including a Certified Financial Analyst Track and a Certified Financial Planning track.
- On March 29th the KTCOB hosted a second Data Analytics Roundtable with Health Care IQ to discuss data visualization software and the educational/ employment needs of the industry. Industry leaders and the EDC attended. A second session tailored for students took place immediately following.

D.3 Develop academic programming sensitive to the needs of regional businesses, governmental and non-profit agencies, and academic institutions

- There is a new and improved 12 credit hour Leadership Studies Minor! With courses on Teams, Conflict, Communication, and Ethics, the revised minor emphasizes interactive learning strategies and portfolio building assignments, so students can illustrate their leadership experience. Employers, students, and USFSP staff validated our work at each step in the process. The minor is available to all majors. The requirements can be found at usf.edu/bishop/minor.
- USF Board of Trustees approved the proposed major in Computational and Applied Mathematics on March 6. The Board of Governors granted approval for this new Bachelor of Science degree. Pending SACSCOCs approval, the degree is expected to be available for enrollment in the spring of 2019.

E.1 Facilitate faculty proposed programs that will drive enrollment and meet BOT and BOG identified critical needs for the state

- During the recent legislative session \$375,000 was granted for the "Literacy for the Incarcerated" program lead by Dr. Susan Bennett and with assistance from Dr. AnnMarie Gunn.

KUDOS!

Dr. Alejandro Brice, Professor in the College of Education and ASHA Fellow, received a multi-year grant from PCORI for \$225,000 for BRIDGE: Building Research Initiatives by Developing Group Effort.

The Response to SACSCOC for our Referral Report was successfully submitted on March 30, 2018. I'd like to thank the following people who provided support for this effort:

- Mr. David Brodosi & the OLITS team
- Dr. Morgan Gresham
- Dr. Frank Biafora
- Dr. Allyson Watson
- Dr. Sri Sundaram
- Dr. Dan Marlin
- Dr. Lauren Friedman & the IR team
- Dr. Olivia Hodges
- Ms. Becky Olgetree
- Ms. CeCe Edwards
- Dr. Kathleen Gibson-Dee
- Dr. Diane McKinstry
- Dr. Deanna Michael
- Dean Cathi Cardwell
- Ms. Cyndie Collins
- Ms. Tammy Goldberg
- Ms. Brenda Polis
- Mr. Tim Lane
- Institutional Effectiveness Committee Members

Submitted by Michelle Madden, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment



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