

8-26-2016

## Harbor Notes : 2016 : 08 : 26

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### Scholar Commons Citation

University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Office of University Advancement., "Harbor Notes : 2016 : 08 : 26" (2016). *Harbor Notes*. 110.

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# harbor notes.

## 5 Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg



Aug. 26, 2016

Dear Readers,

HarborNotes returns from summer hiatus with news about some of the exciting things that have happened at USF St. Petersburg recently. Enjoy!

### USFSP Marine Biologist Continues DEEPEND Gulf of Mexico Research

[Dr. Heather Judkins](#), assistant professor of Biology, recently returned from a cruise with researchers from institutions around the U.S. as part of the [Deep-Pelagic Nekton Dynamics \(DEEPEND\) Consortium](#).

"As a marine biologist, the DEEPEND project as well as the other fieldwork opportunities I have taken part in over the years, have allowed me to explore, analyze, and publish on many aspects of cephalopod systematics, biogeography and other collaborative effects," said Judkins. "Long-term projects such as DEEPEND are vitally important to understanding the biological, chemical and physical dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico in the face of possible future natural or man-made catastrophes."



Dr. Heather Judkins and teacher-at-sea Chris Valdes speak to a Florida Aquarium summer camp group via Skype. Photo credit: DEEPEND Consortium.

[Read more](#) about Judkins' research and the DEEPEND Consortium initiative.

### Durand Named APA President-Elect Designate for District 33



Dr. V. Mark Durand

Beginning in January, [Dr. V. Mark Durand](#), professor of Psychology, will serve as President-Elect of Division 33 in the American Psychological Association. The division is focused on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

"It is an honor to be elected as president of the division," said Durand, who has served as an APA Fellow since 1999 and also is a member of Division 25, which focuses on Behavior Analysis. His work and research primarily focus on autism and related behavioral disorders. [Learn more](#) about his appointment.

### Education Alumni Take Leading Roles in Tampa Bay Area Schools

Six [College of Education](#) alumni have taken new leadership positions as principals and assistant principals at local schools.

The new assistant principals include Nikishia Dixon at Melrose Elementary in St. Petersburg, Salima Lakhani at Largo Middle School, and Robyn Oyer at Countryside High School. The new principals include Jennifer Mekler at Brooker Creek Elementary in Tarpon Springs, Kristy Moody at Fairmount Park Elementary, and Kristen Storm-Taylor at the newly opened SouthShore Charter Academy. [Learn more](#) about these educator alumni.

"The quality of the Educational Leadership program prepares the candidate to meet the highly rigorous criteria for administrative selection in school systems, both public and private," said Dr. Olivia Hodges, associate dean in the College of Education. "The program is aligned to state standards, and the College works in collaboration with neighboring school systems to prepare our future school leaders."



Nikishia Dixon. Photo by: Nikishia Dixon.

## USFSP Students Part of Winning Team in Tech Forum Boot Camp



Participants in the Summer 2016 TBTF Exploratory Labs Boot Camp. Photo by Pat Gehant.

Two students from the [Kate Tiedemann College of Business](#) ranked as part of the winning team in the Tampa Bay Technology Forum's (TBTF) third Exploratory Labs Boot Camp. The students participated in the six-week training experience and completed final business plan presentations. They also were able to network with other students from USF and St. Petersburg College, and with professionals from Tech Data, AgileThought, and Valpak.

[Read more](#) about the summer Exploratory Labs Boot Camp.

## USFSP Hosts Bestselling Author Michael Koryta



As a final hurrah before the start of the semester, USFSP's new Open Partnership Education Network (OPEN) hosted a book signing and conversation with *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Koryta about his new book "Rise the Dark." He was joined by Colette Bancroft, book editor for the *Tampa Bay Times*. [Learn more about his visit](#) to USFSP.

Koryta will be one of the featured authors during the 24th annual [Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading](#) to be hosted at USFSP on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Author Michael Koryta. Photo credit: Little, Brown and Company.

## Upcoming Events at USFSP

Check out a list of upcoming events that will take place at USF St. Petersburg. All events are free unless otherwise specified.

### **Part-Time Job Fair**

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 12-4 p.m.  
University Student Center Ballroom  
[Learn more](#)

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences: Recognized and Addressed in Family Court**

Friday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
University Student Center, Room 200  
\$50, includes breakfast, lunch, a reception, and CLE/CEUs  
[Register online](#)

### **Pinellas County College Fair**

Sunday, Sept. 18, 1-3 p.m.  
University Student Center  
[Learn more](#)

### **St. Petersburg Science Festival**

Oct. 21-22  
USF St. Petersburg  
[Learn more](#)

### **Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading**

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
USF St. Petersburg  
[View the schedule](#)

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