5-1-2019

Harbor Notes : 2019 : 05

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO A LONGTIME LEADER

USF St. Petersburg Renames Building in Honor of Bill Heller, Former Dean and Community Leader

For more than a quarter of a century, Bill Heller has been a transformative figure at USF St. Petersburg, filling the roles of campus CEO, dean, professor and advocate. Now the university is recognizing his many years of devoted service by naming the building where he taught in his honor.

Coquina Hall, which houses the College of Education, will now officially be known as H. William Heller Hall. The university marked the occasion with a ceremony on Wednesday, May 15 at the University Student Center. READ MORE
INCREASING STUDENT HOUSING

USF St. Petersburg Celebrates New Residence Hall and Dining Facility at Groundbreaking Ceremony

More than 200 faculty, staff, students and community leaders gathered for a ceremony to mark the groundbreaking of the new residence hall and dining facility at USF St. Petersburg (USFSP).

“This is much more than a facility,” Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock told the assembled crowd. “It will be a place where students hang out in the first-floor lounge, study together, learn from each other, grab a bite to eat and plan a future filled with hope and a promise for a sustainable future and a better tomorrow.”  

READ MORE

LA FLORIDA: THE INTERACTIVE DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF THE AMERICAS

Cross-Campus Team Uses Digital Technology to Reconstruct Historic Cemetery

Researchers from USF St. Petersburg and USF Tampa are employing 3D imaging technology to develop a digital recreation of the historic Tolomato Cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida.

The resulting 3D model will be used by preservationists to assess the current conditions of the site and to serve as a reference to monitor impacts from natural events and pollution, providing guidelines for restoration and reconstruction in the case of damages.  

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MEASURING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

USFSP Professor Part of International Team that Finds Arctic Warming Accelerates Climate Change, Impacting Global Economy by Trillions

Carbon released into the atmosphere by the increasing loss of Arctic permafrost, combined with higher solar absorption by the Earth’s surface due to the melting of sea ice and snow, will accelerate climate change – and have multi-trillion dollar
impacts on the world economy.

USF St. Petersburg (USFSP) Professor Yasin Elshorbany is part of an international team of researchers whose findings were published in April in Nature Communications. Their study reveals a combination of these factors has the potential to increase the long-term economic impact of climate change by just under $70 trillion, based on mitigation levels consistent with current national pledges to cut carbon emissions. READ MORE

ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Alum Develops Predictive Model for Matching Blood Platelet Donors with Patients in Need

Kelley Counts was pursuing his MBA when he was struck by an idea that had the potential to benefit patients in need of critical blood products.

Counts was in a predictive analytics class, learning how to use data to identify patterns and predict future outcomes such as who is likely to buy certain products or pay back loans on time. He wondered if he could use artificial intelligence to develop a model predicting who is likely to donate platelets and blood.

Working at OneBlood, one of the largest blood centers in the country and recognized by their Big Red Buses deployed for blood drives, Counts set up a special project to develop this model with Varol Kayhan, who taught the class and is Associate Professor of Information Systems at USF St. Petersburg. READ MORE

SO GREEN, WE’RE GOLDEN

Sustainability Studies Degree Provides Unique Training for Addressing Environmental Issues

A new Sustainability Studies major to launch this fall at USF St. Petersburg will immerse students in hard science, social science and business to prepare them for careers discovering and implementing solutions that benefit the environment.

The Bachelor of Arts degree will give students the opportunity to study in a variety of fields
related to sustainability, which has imbued everything from entrepreneurship to global conservation. READ MORE

LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Internship Promotes “Field to Fork” Food Systems

Food systems include everything involved in feeding a population, from growing to harvesting to transportation to consumption. A new internship program is providing students a holistic and hands-on understanding of local food systems in order to improve them.

Ten students and recent graduates from USF St. Petersburg and Eckerd College presented their capstone projects last week for the Food Justice and Sustainability Internship (FJSI) program. Students are matched with community-based organizations related to their interests and participate in ongoing efforts to build a more socially just and environmentally sustainable food system. READ MORE

USFSP IN THE NEWS

Bill Heller Once Said 'Teaching Is a Part Of Me.' Now USF Is Putting His Name On a Building

3-D Mapping of Historic Cemetery is Helping Preserve It

USF St. Petersburg Breaks Ground on 'Watershed' Residence Hall

Tampa Bay Economists Say Chinese Tariffs Will Cost All of Us

Melting Permafrost in Arctic Will Have $70 Trillion Climate Impact - Study

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