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## Harbor Notes : 2019 : 09

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# HARBOR NOTES NEWS

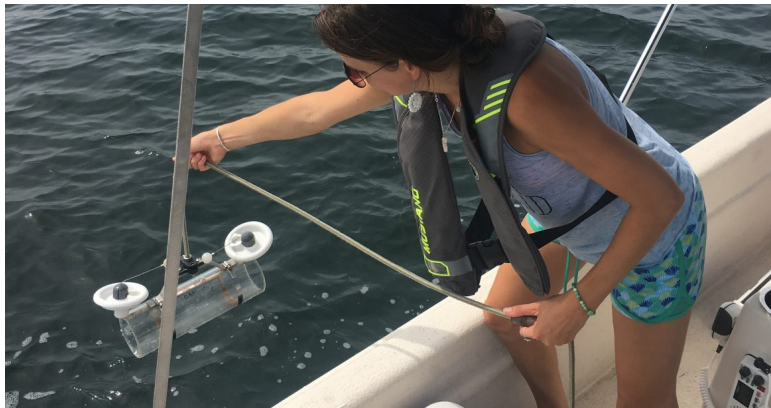
SEPTEMBER 2019 | HARBOR NOTES NEWS | USF ST. PETERSBURG

## MICROPLASTICS EVERYWHERE

### New Study Reveals 4 Billion Particles of Microplastics in Tampa Bay Waters

A new study from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and Eckerd College estimates the waters of Tampa Bay contain four billion particles of microplastics, raising new questions about the impact of pollution on marine life in this vital ecosystem.

This is the first measurement of microplastic abundance and distribution in the region. Researchers hope the findings will provide necessary data to inform the debate around policies to reduce plastic in the marine environment. [READ MORE](#)



## DETECTING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

### USF St. Petersburg Awarded \$5.5 Million to Support K-12 Mental Health Awareness Training

Thousands of K-12 school personnel - from principals to teachers to bus drivers - will be trained on how to recognize and refer students

with emotional or mental health difficulties thanks to a \$5.5-million grant awarded to USF St. Petersburg's College of Education. The funding is part of a larger legislative initiative developed from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, passed in the wake of the tragic school shooting in south Florida. [READ MORE](#)



## ELIMINATING FOOD WASTE

### Students Invest in Innovative Biodigester Technology to Eliminate Food Waste and Reduce Carbon Emissions



Food waste is a major environmental issue that can largely go unnoticed and unaddressed. But students at USF St. Petersburg are tackling the problem by installing an innovative system that will naturally break down non-edible food on campus – the first of its kind at a Florida university.

The system, funded by the university's student green energy fund, will be able to break down as much as 15 pounds of food an hour and could divert more than 2,000 pounds of the

university's food waste per year from landfills. [READ MORE](#)

## STEM WOMEN OF COLOR

### Five Florida Universities Create Alliance to Increase Minority Women Faculty in STEM Fields

Though the number of aspiring women of color in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields has gained traction in recent years, national data shows they are still largely underrepresented in tenured faculty positions at universities.

A new alliance among several Florida universities, and spearheaded by the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, seeks to reverse that statistic by accelerating the advancement of women of color in STEM tenure-track positions and those earning doctorates across the state's higher education ecosystem. [READ MORE](#)



## A RISING STAR

### Alum Named an Adobe *Rising Star of Photography*



USF St. Petersburg alum Kelly Stefanski has been named one of Adobe's 2019 Rising Stars of Photography, a distinction shared with only 10 other up-and-coming photographers from around the world.

Stefanski is a landscape and wildlife photographer, as well as an ecosystems restoration engineer, who explores human's relationship with nature by capturing stunning features of Earth. Stefanski came to USFSP in 2013 and graduated in 2016 as a biology major. She credits the university with opening many doors for her. [READ MORE](#)

## CLASSIFYING ANIMALS

### Biology Professor Presents Innovative Model for Classifying Animal Species

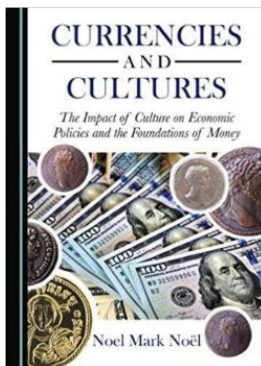
Why do some fish spawn millions of offspring but whales give birth to just one at a time? Why do elephants spend decades caring for their young, while sea turtles abandon their offspring after laying eggs? And what do ant colonies and human societies have in common?

These are the questions probed by Biology Professor Deby Cassill in a scientific paper that presents an innovative model to classify animal species. [READ MORE](#)



## ORIGINS OF MONEY

### New Book by Business Professor Explores the Origins of Money



Currency has spurred economic and social development, fostered trade, built civilizations, equipped armies and even helped create the Industrial Revolution. But how much is known about the origins of currency, itself, and its evolution?

Noel Mark Noël, an adjunct professor at USF St. Petersburg and a business professor at USF Sarasota-Manatee, explores these questions and investigates currency's impact across the spectrum of social development in his new book "Currencies and Cultures: The Impact of Culture on Economic Policies and the Foundations of Money." [READ MORE](#)

## USFSP IN THE NEWS

[Tampa Bay Times: 4 Billion Particles of Tiny Plastics Pollute Tampa Bay](#)

[Tallahassee Democrat: \\$2.4 Million Grant to Increase Number of Women of Color Teaching in STEM Fields](#)

[WUSF News: Drinking Can Be a Problem for Couples, Research Shows There Are](#)



[Ways to Work it Out](#)

[Tampa Bay Times: Slavery Took Hold in Florida Under the Spanish in the 'Forgotten Century' of 1492-1619](#)

[The Catalyst: Meet the 'Most Valuable Burger' and 10 other Good Burgers for 2019](#)

[Tampa Bay Business Journal: USF St. Pete will Use \\$5.5 Million for Mental Health Services in School](#)

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