

[USFSP News Center »](#) **Research Month spotlights work of students and faculty**

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A scene from last year's Undergraduate Research Symposium.

April is Research Month at USF St. Petersburg, when the ongoing work of students and faculty is highlighted in myriad ways.

This year's theme is "The Politics of Food: Rethinking Local Systems." Events related to the theme include presentations by student journalists from the Neighborhood News Bureau, a lecture on the subject of urban food deserts, a discussion of the slow food movement and talk on the personal nature of food choices.

“Research Month is always a high point of the academic year,” said Norine Noonan, vice chancellor of academic affairs. “It highlights one of the distinguishing features of USF St. Petersburg – the many opportunities for high quality scholarship by both our students and our faculty.”

Two highlights of Research Month are the 10th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and the first Faculty Research Lightning Talks.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium celebrates the innovative research and creative work that USF St. Petersburg undergraduate students have produced during the year under with the help and support of the university’s faculty. The symposium is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 11 at the University Student Center Ballroom. The USFSP [Department of Psychology](#), the [Office of Research](#), and the USFSP [Honors Program](#) are the co-sponsors of the Symposium.

The faculty, meanwhile, will have a chance to show their own work during the first Faculty Research Lightning Talks April 3, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. The event will feature five-minute talks by 15 USFSP professors in disciplines that include environmental science, visual and verbal arts, marketing, education, psychology, information systems and anthropology.

Here are details about some of the events during Research Month:

- **Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives** Called “the most transformational film of 2012,” this documentary examines the controversy surrounding genetically engineered foods. [Watch it online for free](#). It will be discussed during the “World Café,” April 10 a.m. to noon, Coquina Club.
- **What is Slow Food: An Overview of a Movement** A talk by Gail Eggeman, a founder of the St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market. Slow Food is an international movement promoted as an alternative to fast food which seeks to preserve traditional and regional foodways and encourages local farming. April 10, 10 a.m. to Noon, STG 114.
- **Microbe-We-Beasties Local Living Soil** A presentation by Hillsborough County folk herbalist Willow LaMonte, a longtime organic gardener. April 12, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., STG 113.
- **GELS/C-SPACE Research Symposium** A daylong symposium sponsored by the Green Energy Living Systems (GELS) and the Center for Science & Policy Application featuring panel discussions, presentations and exhibits by faculty and students. April 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Clam Bayou Marine Education Center, 4240 35th Ave. S., St. Petersburg
- **The Subject is Food** Presentations by student journalists from the USFSP Neighborhood News Bureau. April 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., James B. Sanderlin Family Center, 2335 22nd Ave S, St. Petersburg.
- **Tell Me What You Eat and I will Tell You Who You Are** A lecture by USFSP History Professor Emeritus Gary Mormino on the personal choices we make about food and what they say about us. April 17, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bay 220.
- **Food Deserts Mapping David Padgett**, associate professor of geography at Tennessee State University, discussed the research he has done in Nashville on so-called food deserts, a timely topic in St. Petersburg where a grocery store closing in Midtown has stirred community concern. April 18, 6 p.m., Harbor Hall Community Room.

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