RFSA Awards Scholarship to USFSP Student

Congratulations to Melia Hawley, a senior majoring in Management and Organization in USFSP’s Kate Tiedemann College of Business. She is the recipient of RFSA’s annual scholarship. The $1000 award is given for the academic year 2014-15.

Per the scholarship’s requirements, Ms. Hawley is a first generation college student. A full-time student who carries a high GPA, she “has become an expert in time management,” according to her scholarship application. She adds, “I make sure that I am up early to get my school work done - even on the weekends. I have learned to always be busy and always be accomplishing something. This drive, and coffee, is what gets me through most days.” Additionally, Ms. Hawley works, volunteers at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, and mentors her younger sister about the process of pursuing higher education. During the summer, she completed an internship at Van Eck Global, gleaning professional world experiences that she enthusiastically applies to her academic studies.

In a letter of appreciation to RFSA, Ms. Hawley says that “receiving this scholarship has truly been a blessing . . . As always, I will put my all into my education.” She adds, “Your generosity is truly allowing me to live out my dreams. My hope is that one day I can start my own scholarship fund so that I can give back to the community and give hardworking students the financial support they need.”

Special thanks to the RFSA Scholarship Committee for its ongoing good work. Committee members are Steve Micklo (Chair), Les Tuttle, Sonia Helton, Herm Brames, and Jerry Notaro.

Information, Please!

RFSA is updating its database and needs current contact information for some of our former colleagues.

Do you have information regarding: Marilyn Brace, Robert Brown, Al Christian, Cliff Holmes, Max Kerlin, Evelyn Mohler, Randy Rankin, Wes Shaw, Bill Stover, or Melvin Webb?

If you can provide any data, please advise Alexis Searfoss, Associate Director of Constituent Development in University Advancement, at asearfoss@usfsp.edu or call her at 727-873-4519.
RFSA Reps Meet with Chancellor Wisniewska
— Mike Killenberg

Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska welcomed the opportunity to meet with officers of the Retired Faculty and Staff Association and pledged to help the RFSA strengthen its bonds with USFSP.

The May 2014 meeting in the chancellor’s conference room has headed by co-chairs Winston Bridges and Stephen Micklo, who were joined by board members Michael Killenberg and Margaret Hewitt.

Prior to the meeting Wisniewska and other university officials received a list of RFSA proposals that covered five points:

— Clarify procedures for faculty and staff as they transition to retirement
— Expand information on retiree benefits for easy access on the Human Resources web page
— Revise the emeritus policy to honor distinguished staff and administrators as well as faculty
— Build connections between the RFSA and USFSP’s alumni group
— Enhance archival data that to showcase and preserve the history of USFSP

Under each point, a half dozen or more suggestions were included, among them to expedite on-campus parking passes for retirees; provide campus e-mail accounts for retirees; and commission a 50th anniversary history of USFSP.

Bridges plans for the group to meet again with the chancellor in 2015 to review progress on the RFSA proposals. He said an update would be included in the next RFSA newsletter.

Our Colleague and Friend - Fran Seagrave

It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of FRAN SEAGRAVE in Kingwood, Texas, on November 30. Fran is remembered fondly as a consummate professional who was dedicated to students. She possessed a razor wit and a ready smile. Fran willingly shared her expertise, worked to build student services, and was a cherished colleague.

Originally from Detroit, Fran attended Wayne State University and received her Master of Education degree in 1952. She worked in the Ferndale School District as a teacher, then as elementary principal at Roosevelt School from 1955 to 1971. In 1959 she co-authored and published a reading program called Listen to the Letters.

Fran and her husband Jerry moved to St. Petersburg in the early 1970s. She was valued institutional pioneer at USF St. Petersburg, serving as the Financial Aid/Career Counseling director in Student Affairs. Fran retired from academia and moved to Texas in 1992. But, she continued to lend her considerable talents while working at Lone State College Library and volunteering at the Northeast Medical Center.

You Are Needed in Preserving USF St. Petersburg’s History

As you know, preliminary plans are underway to celebrate USFSP’s 50th anniversary year, July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

Your favorite stories about the life and times of USFSP are essential to our shared institutional history.

THANKS to Sonia Helton and Renee Hoffman for providing delightful reflections!

Please take a moment to jot down your thoughts and mail/email to Sudsy - or call and leave a voice message.

You may also bring them to the RFSA LUNCHEON on Feb. 10.

Are there names of students you recall?

Contact Sudsy at: tschider@mail.usf.edu or (727) 873-4842.

USFSP’s Recreation Field to Benefit Students and Rowdies

Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska has announced a new collaboration with the Tampa Bay Rowdies to provide limited field access to the team. In exchange, the Rowdies will improve and maintain the USFSP recreational field, located on 3rd St. S., between 5th and 6th Aves. S., to professional standards – and USFSP intramural teams will enjoy a renovated space, complete with new turf, fencing and lighting. Trees cleared from the site will be replaced with new ones on campus.

She adds, “This latest collaboration with the Rowdies underscores our commitment to student success, building the University’s infrastructure and engaging in strategic partnerships that serve both our students and the community.”