USFSP State of the Campus
August 26, 2016

Good afternoon! I’m delighted to see you all here. I hope you enjoyed the summer, and that you are refreshed and ready to begin what will be an exciting new year at USFSP.

NEW LEADERS

At the end of the spring, we announced that we had wrapped up four national searches. Our searches ended very successfully, and these new leaders joined us in June and July. I’d like to take this opportunity to officially introduce you to them.

Martin Tadlock is our new Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Prior to joining USFSP, Martin served as Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College in northern Minnesota. Previously he was Assistant Vice Chancellor at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and Provost at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma. Among many things, Martin created BSU’s first master academic plan and secured new partner universities as part of an initiative to globalize the university.
I asked Martin this week what it was that drew him to us. For him, it’s all about the people. He says our talent and enthusiasm clinched it for him. From what I know about Martin, he’s very intuitive!

Patricia Helton is Regional Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Patti comes to USFSP from the University of Denver, where she was Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life. She joined DU in 2003 as associate provost for Campus Life while teaching in the University’s Morgridge College of Education. During her tenure, Patti led or co-led several strategic planning initiatives, including the creation of an Office for Student Outreach and a Task Force on Inclusive Hiring and Recruiting.

Patti says she decided to join us because our students are smart. They are proud and excited to be here – and she’s convinced that she has the best job on campus. But here’s my favorite part, Patti says she’d take a BULL-ET for me. Patti, I hope you never have to, but it’s great to know you’re there!

Sridhar Sundaram is the new dean of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. Sri was with the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Centers, and Academic Director of the Executive MBA and Full-Time Integrated MBA program. Additionally, Sri served as Chair of the Finance Department for seven years. His research has been published in a number of national journals.
Sri’s reasons for joining us are a little more serious: He says he’s here to help develop innovative programs, to grow our community engagement and our impact on the region, and to brand the Kate Tiedemann College of Business alongside USFSP. Sheesh! You know the weather had something to do with it!

And, we welcome Catherine Cardwell as Dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Cathi served as Director of Libraries at Ohio Wesleyan University for more than four years. Prior to that, she was a librarian and administrator at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Throughout her career, Cathi has been active in OhioLINK, the statewide library consortium.

Cathi says the momentum and energy of the campus, our commitment to excellence and the positive interactions she had with students, faculty and staff led her to us. And, Cathi, we are so glad you’re here.

NEW CDO

Over the next few weeks, we hope to hire a Chief Diversity Officer. The CDO, also a Cabinet-level position, will intersect with all areas of the institution, including academic affairs, human resources, student affairs and enrollment management. Our CDO will Chair the Chancellor's Advisory Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and serve as a liaison to System Diversity officers. If you have an opportunity to meet the final candidates as they visit campus, please do. This will be a key position for us.
NEW FACULTY HIRES

As we start a new academic year, we welcome 19 new faculty members who offer a wide array of talent and experience. Over half of our new faculty reflect domestic and global diversity. And they all have a cool story to tell. Here are two of my favorites:

Dr. Bahaa Gameel joins USFSP as an Assistant Professor of Journalism and Media Studies. Dr. Gameel is originally from Egypt. He recently received his Ph.D. from the Department of Radio, Television and Film at the Moody College of Communications at the University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Gameel told me that he chose USFSP because we offer the unique curriculum he wants to teach. Welcome!

Dr. Max Owens joins us as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. Dr. Owens earned his Masters degree from Oxford University in 2008. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of London in 2012. Prior to moving to England, Dr. Owens was studying Abnormal Psychology with Mark Durand as a student of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, where he earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology. Welcome home, Dr. Owens!

We have a number of new staff members in the room today as well. Welcome, everyone!
STRATEGIC PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS

And now, I’d like to take a few minutes to brag! Over the last year, we made significant progress on a number of our Strategic Planning Goals:

We increased our retention numbers by 10-percentage points from 2012-13, and 5 points from this time last year;

We rose in the number of Bachelor’s degrees awarded without excess hours, up from 67% to 69%. Indeed, we lead the System on this Board of Governors benchmark;

We increased the number of our graduates who are employed full-time or will attend graduate school;

We opened a new, Military and Veterans Center, which serves more than 300 students. Many thanks to Milton White for his experience and leadership in getting the center up and running;

We created a new, First-Year Experience. COMPASS is a comprehensive program designed to integrate new students into the academic and socio-cultural communities of USFSP. Many thanks to Holly Kickliter, Carolina Nutt and their staffs for truly making a difference for our freshmen.
Holly also led the launch of the FUSE academic partnership with St. Petersburg College. Prospective students who don’t quite meet our admissions requirements are offered an opportunity to begin their academic careers at SPC, with guaranteed acceptance to USFSP if they earn an AA and maintain the required GPA. This is a win-win for both institutions, and these students.

With legislative funding – thank you, Helen Levine – we established the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. Mark Durand, David Brodosi and their teams were instrumental in launching the Center. Mark also led the way on the development of a new Minority Post-Doctoral Program. Jennifer O'Brien and Tiffany Chenneville will coordinate the program for the coming academic year, and we look forward to recruiting outstanding post-doctoral fellows to USFSP;

And, we moved ever closer to completion of Lynn Pippenger Hall at the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. We expect the building to open later this fall. Many thanks to Joe Trubacz, Gary Patterson and all those who have worked to make this dream a reality.

RANKINGS

One of our Strategic Planning goals was to rise in the rankings that make a difference as students and parents consider colleges. As we start this new academic year, USF St. Petersburg is ranked at 23 by U.S. News & World Report among Southern, Regional Public Universities. Our Online MBA is ranked by the magazine at #15 in the U.S. and #2 in Florida. USFSP’s program scored especially
well in Faculty Credentials and Training, in which it tied at #3 nationally. The magazine also ranked the program among the top 20 percent of Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans at No. 27 in the nation and No. 1 in Florida.

Additionally, USFSP recently earned a position among the country’s “Top 105 Smartest Colleges” in Yahoo Finance rankings. And, Affordable Schools.net ranked USFSP among its 25 Most Exclusive Public Bachelor’s Colleges by Admission Rate. What’s interesting about this ranking is the company we’re keeping: Other universities ranked among the top 25 include the United States Naval Academy, University of California Berkeley, University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Colorado School of Mines. The list is based on the most recent undergraduate applications and admissions data reported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

ADMISSIONS

Last weekend, we welcomed new members of the Class of 2020 during Fall Convocation. This Fall class is one of our most academically talented yet, with an average GPA of 3.85, an average SAT of 1144 and an average ACT of 26. I have truly enjoyed meeting these students. They come to us from more than 200 high schools and numerous states. For many of these new freshmen, USFSP was their first choice – and it shows.
From Grad Studies, Donna Knudsen reports that we have 200 new students for Summer/Fall, representing a 3-percent increase in enrollment over last year. Additionally, we have 79 students seeking graduate certificates.

EDUCATION ABROAD/GLOBALIZATION

A number of our faculty spent part of their summer leading students through education abroad programs. We were in France, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Guatemala and Vietnam. Thanks to Janet Keeler, Margarita Altuna, Richard Burnette, Dan Marlin, Hemant Merchant, Wendy Baker, Karin Braunsberger, Michael Francis and Dean Frank Biafora for participating in these transformative experiences.

Looking ahead, we’ll consider a number of ways we might expand on our education abroad programs. As I mentioned, our new provost brings with him deep experience in globalization initiatives. Martin has already shared a number of ideas with me, including the possibility of a visiting scholars program, affordable semesters abroad, and the development of articulation agreements with partner universities. Through these agreements, we’d create two-way teaching and learning opportunities for faculty and students. Ultimately, our goal is to attract international students to St. Petersburg. We’ll have more to report on these efforts over the next few months.

When Martin isn’t dreaming of universities in locales more exotic than our own, he’ll be working on a Master Academic Plan. The plan, which will take us through
the next 3 to 5 years, will include an assessment of programs and delivery. We’ll take a look at ways to grow interdisciplinary options for our students. We’ll consider the creation of a signature experience for ALL students, and we’ll take a hard look at scheduling as we determine how we can best serve our students.

NEW PROGRAMS

As we write an academic plan, we’ll explore new programs, particularly in the areas of healthcare – programs designed to prepare students for high-demand fields. Among these programs is a B.S. degree in Nursing, which we hope to offer through a unique partnership with USF Tampa. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to enroll in an accelerated course sequence, while fulfilling clinical requirements in St. Petersburg. Other programs will support emerging fields in healthcare administration and big data.

A new M.S. in Conservation Biology will address the regional demand for biologists with expertise in conservation, organismal biology and taxonomy to protect Florida's natural resources, particularly along the Gulf Coast. Additionally, we’ll continue to support the development of programs within our new Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

Our Admissions teams have done a great job in attracting high quality students; it’s up to ALL of us to keep them here. Our freshman retention numbers are improving. Now we need to look at graduation rate. We have some work to do to ensure that our new students are with us at Commencement in May of 2014.
RESIDENCE HALL

We know there is a direct link between the numbers of students who live on campus and higher numbers of on-time graduation. With our students in mind, we presented a proposal this week to members of the Board of Trustees for a new residence hall. Committee members praised our plan and voted unanimously to move forward.

Our plan calls for a residence hall with 550 beds to be constructed adjacent to the recreation field at Third Street South and Fifth Avenue South. The new residence hall would feature single- and double-occupancy units, providing financially accessible options for many students who currently must live off campus. The proposed building would also include a dining facility and a 1000-square foot conference center on the top floor. A conference center would allow us to expand campus events, like career fairs, research symposia, faculty-sponsored meetings, and business and community conferences.

Working closely with our demand study consultants, we’ll continue to move through the approval processes this fall, and hope to complete the project in 2019.

INNOVATION DISTRICT/FACULTY RESEARCH

As our campus evolves, the City’s new Innovation District grows around us. As you may know, USFSP has taken a lead role in the district – an important opportunity
to work closely with neighboring research agencies and institutions, like Johns
Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, USGS and Poynter.

To a large degree, it’s the research coming out of our own institution that has
enabled USFSP to lead. I’ll cite just a few examples:

In addition to a $2.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health last year,
Jamie McHale's Infant Family Mental Health Center was recently awarded new
grants from the Juvenile Welfare Board and Pinellas County. The Family Study
Center received new funding from the Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete.

Judithanne Scourfield McLaughlin has been named a Fulbright Scholar for a
second time and hopes to travel to Macedonia in 2017. Congratulations,
Judithanne.

Heather Judkins will continue her work as part of the research consortium that
was formed in 2015 through Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. The scientists are
studying the effects of the 2010 Gulf Oil spill and its long-term effects on deep sea
biodiversity, including cephalopods – Heather’s area of expertise.

Through a new grant, Thomas Whitmore and Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore will
study the ancient lakes of Osceola County, and Barnali Dixon has received a
second grant to continue an analysis of Geospatial Capacity for the Seminole Tribe
of Florida.
Representing the College of Business, Rebecca Harris will study Land Use and Fiscal Sustainability in beachfront communities.

Dean Bill Heller will continue to work with the Juvenile Welfare Board on a funded project titled "Prep for Middle School Success."

Journalism Chair Deni Elliott will collaborate with Harvard, Stanford and the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics on a national ethics project funded by the Spencer Foundation.

And, fresh off his year as serving as interim provost, Mark Durand has been named a President-Elect Designate for the American Psychological Association. Starting in January, he’ll lead the APA’s District 33, which is focused on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

As I state in the new “Year in Review” publication you have at your place settings, I begin my fourth year as Regional Chancellor feeling very proud. We have accomplished so much, and with new leaders in place, I can’t wait to see what we’ll do next.

In closing, I invite you to join us next Thursday, September 1st, when we’ll host the USF Board of Trustees. The meeting will be held here in this ballroom at 9:30. Following the regular agenda, which includes a research presentation by Marketing Professor Phil Trocchia, we’ll provide Trustees with a chance to tour Lynn Pippenger Hall at the Kate Tiedemann College of Business.
I hope you've enjoyed being together this afternoon. I’m happy to answer any questions.