NEW INITIATIVES SPELL STUDENT SUCCESS

USFSP MAKES PRINCETON REVIEW “GUIDE TO GREEN COLLEGES”

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION’S NEW DEAN
Following a year of discovery by a national branding firm, the tenets of USFSP’s brand showed themselves in an exciting new campaign that inspires students to ask themselves, “Who Will I Be?”

Through fresh messaging and engaging visuals, the campaign differentiates USFSP among other universities by emphasizing a student’s many possibilities. Messaging underscores academic excellence, the waterfront campus, contributions to research and a promise that student success is at the core of an educational experience at USF St. Petersburg.
16. | College of Arts and Sciences
20. | Kate Tiedemann College of Business
24. | College of Education
USFSP IS RANKED #24 AMONG TOP REGIONAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE SOUTH — U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
Building on our Accomplishments to Ensure Each Student’s Success

Our success as a university is measured by the success of our students, and the success of our students is dependent upon how well the University of South Florida St. Petersburg functions as a community. After 36 years in education, I have seen time after time that the success of a middle school, high school, college or university is dependent upon those who dedicate themselves to the success of others. The success of USFSP is rooted in the work of each one of us.

USFSP has accomplished a lot over the last few years, and we continue to build on that good work. It shows in the members of the Class of 2021, one of our largest, most talented and most diverse freshmen classes to date.

We remain in the Top 25 of U.S. News and World Report’s ranking of Southern Regional Public Universities and moved up six spots among all public and private regional universities in the south from the previous year, a testament to our academic rigor, student profile and student support services. We also made new lists, such as being one of only 375 colleges and universities across the country included in The Princeton Review’s “Guide to 375 Green Colleges,” showcasing our commitment to sustainability and care for our natural environment.

Physically, we marked the opening of Lynn Pippenger Hall, the stunning new home for our Kate Tiedemann College of Business. We are also near final approval for construction of a new residence hall, which will add another beautiful and much needed cornerstone to our campus by Fall 2020.

Civically, we are entering into renewal of our Carnegie designation as a Community Engaged University. One reason we earned this national honor is due to our community-based programs and engagement with local elementary school children, teachers and parents by our College of Education. This work garnered them a nomination for a prestigious WEDU People’s Choice Award.

Academically, the Kate Tiedemann College of Business is preparing for reaccreditation of both its business and accounting programs by AACSB International, a distinction held by less than two percent of business schools globally. The College of Arts & Sciences continues to excel with faculty garnering research grants to explore deep canyons in the Gulf of Mexico, students receiving community hero awards and alumni earning Pulitzer Prizes for their work.

As we move forward, our relationships in the community will become even more important. At USFSP, our students already have unique opportunities to engage in learning outside the classroom, whether that’s participating in research, internships, civic engagement or study abroad. We are expanding those opportunities. Building additional partnerships within and outside our community will ensure that experiential learning opportunities remain a key component of what this university is known for.

Looking back over the last year, I believe the most important of all our successes is that our students continue to tell us that USFSP was their first choice. The rise in our retention and graduation rates is evidence of how much students want to come here and stay here throughout their college experience.

We are committed to ensuring that this is the case with every student who walks onto our campus. USFSP is an incredible place for students to realize their dreams and for faculty and staff to grow professionally, serving as mentors and leaders. We look forward to a new year and building on the tremendous successes of the past.

Martin Tadlock,
Interim Regional Chancellor
The home of USF St. Petersburg’s Kate Tiedemann College of Business, Lynn Pippenger Hall, received a Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This is the third building at USFSP to receive LEED Gold certification, the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

“The more we can construct buildings that meet the highest of environmental standards, we not only improve the health of our college community but it pays in the long run with greater energy savings and lower day-to-day costs,” said Joe Trubacz, Regional Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Financial Services at USFSP.

During the certification process, the building received high marks for water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and innovation. Additionally, the project received praise for its access to public transportation and concerted efforts to reduce pollution and recycling waste during construction.

Lynn Pippenger Hall is a four-story building that boasts more than 68,000 square feet of classroom, office and common spaces. Features include a Wealth Management Center where students apply real-world investment skills in managing clients’ wealth, a Consumer Insight Lab that teaches marketing students about focus groups and a 200-seat auditorium. A digital stock ticker scrawls across the atrium and abundant natural light fills the building.

These features garnered the building an American Institute of Architects’ Tampa Bay Chapter 2017 Honor Award, which recognizes buildings with the highest standards of architectural design, innovation and excellence. Lynn Pippenger Hall is home to the Kate Tiedemann College of Business, one of the few business schools worldwide to have earned AACSB accreditation in both business and accounting.

USFSP UNVEILS PLANS FOR NEW RESIDENCE HALL

USFSP has selected the development firm of EdR to build its third residence hall, a proposed 538-bed facility that would include a dining hall. Pending approval from the USF Board of Trustees and approval from the Florida Board of Governors, the building will be constructed at Third Street South and Sixth Avenue South in time for 2020 classes. EdR is one of the nation’s largest developers, owners and managers of high-quality collegiate housing communities.

The new residence hall would feature single- and double-occupancy units, providing financially accessible options for many students who currently must live off campus. It will nearly double the number of beds currently available in Residence Hall One and the University Student Center.
As someone working in finance today, I can tell you that the students who are graduating from the Kate Tiedemann College of Business are top-tier.

— Stephanie Goforth, USF Trustee and USFSP Campus Board Chair
DEDICATED TEAMS FOCUS ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, PERSISTENCE

Over the course of the last year, USFSP’s Strategic Enrollment Management team (SEM) created a new set of institution-wide priorities with one common theme: students first. Representing departments from across campus, the SEM team named Performance-Based Funding Champions to develop and lead new initiatives aimed at providing greater support to students. The champions are focused on promoting student persistence, and ultimately, helping to ensure that USFSP meets ten benchmarks necessary to qualify for critical funding allocated by the Florida Board of Governors. Among those benchmarks are goals around Academic Progress Rate and Four and Six-Year Graduation Rate.

With SEM goals in mind, the Compass First-Year Experience team, including Peer Coaches, created new programs to foster student engagement. Now in its third year, Compass re-imagined the Week of Welcome and First-Year Convocation for new students, to include a Move-In Weekend that offers more social, wellness, residential and recreational events. “The teams brought our students to the center of the conversation again and again,” said Martin Tadlock, interim regional chancellor “with each working to address the question, ‘How is this in the best interest of our students?’”

“**At USF St. Petersburg we are committed to helping students succeed through creative learning opportunities that enrich their university experience.**”

— Jake Diaz, Dean of Students
The Edge, USFSP’s newest waterfront destination

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

19:1

USFSP PILOTS NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM

USFSP students were the first in the USF System to experience a new online tool called Schedule Planner. The technology simplifies the registration process by allowing students to build class schedules that best meet their individual needs. Even better, Schedule Planner allows students to plan for the classes they’ll need to take as they progress toward an on-time graduation.

“Since joining the university last year, I have had the pleasure of working with staff and faculty who are passionate about improving services for students and helping them to succeed in their degrees,” said Shari Schwartz, registrar. “This new registration tool is just one of many benefits for our students.”

STUDENTS HELP DESIGN NEW WATERFRONT AREA “THE EDGE”

USFSP unveiled an exciting new renovation project, providing students with an area in which they can enjoy both academic and recreational activities. Waterfront spaces in Coquina Hall, adjacent to the pool, have been transformed to include a study lounge, game room, program rooms and event spaces. Designed to leverage waterfront views, the project features outdoor gathering spaces, including a large deck and pergola. Students had input into the overall design of the space, which includes natural finishes and environmentally-friendly fixtures, like LED lighting.

The project aims to help students “find their place on campus.” Just next door to the Compass First-Year Experience offices, the new space offers a tour room for prospective students and families and a chance for them to experience USFSP’s student life during daily tours and orientation sessions. This new gathering spot is just steps away from Academic Advising and the Debbie Nye Sembler Student Success Center, and forms the third point in a triangle of student unions, complementing the University Student Center and the Student Life Center.
USFSP FEATURED IN PRINCETON REVIEW’S GUIDE TO GREEN COLLEGES

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) made The Princeton Review’s “Guide to 375 Green Colleges, 2017.” The publication highlights colleges with the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students. The Princeton Review selected its list based on “Green Rating” scores for 629 colleges using data from a 2016-17 survey of school administrators. The survey asked schools to report on their sustainability-related policies, practices and programs. More than 25 data points were weighted in the assessment, such as having a sustainability committee and percentage of food budget spent on local/organic food. Schools with Green Rating scores of 80-99 qualified for the guide. USFSP received a score of 95.

“It is quite an honor to be selected for this distinguished publication,” said Martin Tadlock, interim regional chancellor. “This recognition shows our commitment to sustainability and improving our natural environment, one of the core values of USF St. Petersburg.”

Spearheaded by an active student body and faculty, the USFSP community is investing in solar panels and energy efficient buildings, leading innovative research in sustainability and incorporating environmental stewardship into many planning decisions on campus. USFSP’s Climate Action Plan sets out to reduce the university’s baseline greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Students play a lead role in sustainability efforts. The Student Green Energy Fund is financed through a $1 fee per credit hour voted on by students every three years. Students working with the Green Energy Fund consider projects that reduce energy costs through conservation and the use of renewable energy to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The Clean Energy and Resource Conservation Committee (CERCC) works with USFSP Administration and Student Government to recommend investments that will most effectively reduce the university’s carbon footprint while improving facilities.

USFSP RECOGNIZED AT 2017 GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

At the third annual Global Achievement Awards, USFSP’s Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock and Director of Global Initiatives Wendy Baker were part of a select group across the USF System recognized for setting high standards of excellence and innovation in global initiatives.

“It was a great pleasure that USF St. Petersburg received one of the very competitive USF World Global Achievement Awards,” said Roger Brindley, USF System Vice President for USF World.

The recognition is a testament to USFSP’s commitment to globalizing students’ experiences by creating affordable education abroad opportunities while providing regular international and diverse cultural experiences on campus.
PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHES WEEKLY CHALLENGER ARCHIVE

The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, in collaboration with The Weekly Challenger newspaper and The Poynter Institute, recently celebrated a partnership that will establish a physical and digital archive of the 50 year-old community publication.

“It’s a treasure trove of our history, and when I say our history, I don’t mean just black people—I mean the entire city of St. Petersburg is chronicled in these pages and in these stories that the paper has told,” said Fla. Sen. Darryl Rouson, who helped to secure state legislative funding for the project. “And I’m elated that USF St. Petersburg has dedicated students, faculty, and resources to making this happen.”

ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS RETURNS TO USFSP

USF St. Petersburg will host the sixth annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs in February 2018. The conference brings together distinguished diplomats, military, academic and real-world experts to discuss issues that most affect and influence the world today. At last year’s conference – also hosted by USF St. Petersburg – more than 25 panel discussions and presentations helped to broaden and enhance perspectives on critical world matters. Discussion topics included: President Trump’s Foreign Policy: From Tweets to Reality; The Arab Spring: Is It Now December?; and After Ukraine, Georgia and Crimea, Where Is Putin’s Next Land Grab?

“This event focuses on the most pertinent and significant issues of the day. The conference features local, national and international panelists who share their knowledge and insights gained through years of experience in their respective fields,” said Thomas Smith, director of the USFSP Honors Program and conference co-founder.

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Partnerships

USFSP UNEARTHS TREASURE TROVE OF FLORIDA’S DISTANT PAST

USFSP has embarked upon a groundbreaking journey into Florida’s Spanish Colonial past, launching a bold initiative that will put the state’s rich history and early development into unparalleled perspective on the national and world stage.

La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas – created by J. Michael Francis, the Hough Family Endowed Chair of Florida Studies at USFSP – provides an interactive, multidisciplinary and comprehensive vision of Florida that brings a previously hazy picture of Spanish exploration of the state into sharp focus. Francis has spent years combing through thousands of documents, notes and images, chronicling distant lives and events that gradually formed Florida’s unique history.

As a gauge of the work’s academic value, the USFSP project has already attracted substantial interest and support from academic and cultural institutions in Spain, as well as support from the Hough Family Foundation and the Duckwall Foundation. In the summer, Hough family members joined Francis and student researchers at the Mezquita in Cordoba to formalize an agreement with Spanish partners.

In 2017 Francis was also prominently featured in the PBS documentary Secrets of Spanish Florida.

ARESTY FAMILY FOUNDATION MAKES GENEROUS GIFT

USFSP announced a significant gift in support of its groundbreaking new program, the Open Partnership Education Network. OPEN, which partnered with St. Pete’s Et Cultura Festival in November, showcases expert national and local speakers and themed events on a wide range of topics – with the ultimate goal of building a vital, better educated and more connected community.

The innovative initiative – inspired by the renowned Aspen Institute – was made possible by the generosity of the Aresty Family Foundation and the vision of philanthropist and founding donor Jim Aresty.

“OPEN is about intellectual stimulation,” Aresty said. “St. Petersburg is at an intellectual tipping point, ready to catapult to another level. I firmly believe that people have a desire to keep their minds active. In my view, St. Petersburg wants to be the best it can be – and I want to be part of making that happen.”

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Our donors and their generous support are the foundation of our future.

— Deborah Read, Regional Vice Chancellor, University Advancement

Sustainable Funding

From left: Students Zoghanno Richardson, Philip Belcastro, Trevor Bryant, Meta Daniel, Rachel Sanderson, Hannah Tweet
ELLEN COTTON FUND SPURS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The Ellen Cotton Fund for Student Engagement, created in 2014, continues to support numerous activities and outside-the-classroom learning for USFSP students. Over the past three years, this fund has provided more than $20,000 for student travel to conferences that build professional development, participation in competitions solving real-world problems, training for faculty advisors and support for student clubs. These rewarding opportunities enhance the overall student experience at USFSP.

The Fund allowed several USFSP Kate Tiedemann College of Business students to attend a LEAD Conference. The conference provided the opportunity for students to receive coaching on life skills and the chance to build their support network with other professionals. The Fund also supported an Innovation Overnight design-a-thon, which brought together students and local business leaders. During 20 straight hours, entrepreneurial students solved real-world problems pitched by managers from Jabil, Valpak and the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Finally, the Fund supported the work of the Entrepreneurship Club over the past year, allowing students to compete in sales competitions and meet with Fortune 500 recruiters. One such competition was the National Collegiate Sales Competition where USFSP finished second out of 70 schools.

“\nOne of the most impactful lessons I’ve learned at LEAD was the importance of kindness and outreach to others. It is more valuable to put your energy towards making valuable connections with others, versus tearing others down in the climb to success."

— Emily Harris, Economics major and scholarship recipient
Experiential Learning

By providing exceptional opportunities for students to learn inside and outside of the classroom, USFSP is building on the strengths unique to this generation of students. Among those strengths is a desire to share their personal talents and make an impact in their communities. While many universities take an interest in service learning, USFSP has a special commitment to do so. In fact, it is one of only 170 institutions in the country to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s designation for community engagement. Students at USFSP are involved in countless community programs, faculty research, study abroad programs and internships with some of Tampa Bay’s most respected corporate leaders, including Raymond James Financial and Tech Data.

“Higher education is about the growth and development of students in a holistic sense, incorporating not just intellectual growth, but social, emotional and cultural development as well,” said Martin Tadlock, interim regional chancellor. “Through experiential learning, students get the sense that their efforts can lead to genuine improvements in the quality of life.”
15. USFSP.edu
Last spring, USFSP announced its new Master of Science in Conservation Biology degree program, which launched in the fall. The addition of the new graduate program—the only M.S. thesis-based degree of its kind in the State University System—complements the institution’s thriving undergraduate degree program in biology, which has grown to nearly 800 enrolled students since its Fall 2012 inception. The increase in biology majors aligns with the state’s goals to prepare more graduates for fields in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

“This new program prepares students to become leaders in creating and leading community, state, national and international efforts in conservation and sustainability,” said Martin Tadlock, USFSP’s interim regional chancellor. “We have tremendous faculty members engaged in this work, and highly supportive community partnerships to help us in that preparation.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and O*Net OnLine, the median salary for careers in conservation biology ranges from $59,000 to $75,000 with an anticipated job growth rate of 2-13 percent between 2014 to 2024.

STUDENTS EMBRACE NEW SCIENCE LABS

USFSP students are enjoying new Biology and Chemistry Labs. What was a Greyhound bus warehouse adjacent to the Kate Tiedemann College of Business is now a state-of-the-art, sustainable facility for science majors. A new solar array powers about 15 percent of the Labs. Looking ahead, the university will remain focused on STEM careers — enhancing employment opportunities for STEM graduates, and strengthening linkages with the STEM community to create jobs and attract more high-tech industry to the area.
USF SYSTEM CREATES NURSING PARTNERSHIP

A new USF College of Nursing partnership with USFSP and USF Sarasota-Manatee will allow eligible students to complete two bachelor of science degrees — one in biology and another in nursing — in five years.

The new program creates an opportunity for students from USFSP and USFSM to earn an undergraduate degree in biology from their respective institutions, followed by a seamless transition to the USF College of Nursing’s accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. This joint effort by USF System institutions combines a science-focused background in the discipline of biology with the academic and clinical rigor of a baccalaureate nursing degree.

“This collaboration will allow us to begin addressing the need for highly qualified, well prepared nurses in Pinellas County. Also, the accelerated pathway, in combination with the low tuition of a state university, substantially reduces costs for students,” said Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore, associate professor and department chair of Biology.

ALUM RECEIVES PULITZER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Eric Eyre, a USF St. Petersburg journalism alumnus, was named a 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner. The prestigious award in the category of Investigative Reporting was bestowed on him for a series on the opioid drug crisis and related overdoses in West Virginia.

“It’s really a testament to years of grinding it out as a beat reporter doing investigative projects on the side over the course of 25-plus years,” said Eyre, a statehouse reporter for the Charleston Gazette-Mail in Charleston, W.Va. Eyre began working there after receiving a master’s degree in mass communication from USFSP in 1998. He has reported on education, health, business, and state government and legislature. “So many people, including the professors at USFSP, have helped shape my reporting.”
KATHRYN ARTHUR WINS WLP RESEARCH AWARD

USFSP anthropologist Kathryn Arthur was a recipient of the 2017 USF Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Faculty Research Award. She’ll use the grant to create a children’s book that documents the oral histories of a small community in the Gamo region of Ethiopia. Arthur says understanding and telling the histories of women has been a lifelong goal for her. She focuses on living cultures and creating a link between the past and the present. Kathryn and her husband, fellow anthropologist John Arthur, made history recently when they unearthed a skeleton containing the world’s oldest complete African genome.

MARINE BIOLOGY PROFESSOR TO EXPLORE GULF’S DEEP CANYONS

Even today, the deep sea and the marine life it contains is still largely mysterious. USFSP Marine Biology Professor Heather Judkins and a team of researchers were awarded a NOAA Ocean Exploration Grant to reveal a bit of that mystery and explore never-before-reached canyons in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The team will spend two and a half weeks aboard a research vessel in the summer of 2019 conducting bioluminescence experiments and collecting rare and potentially new species from the deep ocean.

“The techniques and knowledge I will learn from this experience and from my colleagues makes this such an incredible opportunity,” said Judkins. “We will explore one part of the deepest areas in the Gulf of Mexico – the Sigsbee Deep Escarpment approximately 200 miles southeast of Texas – and possibly discover new marine life and findings related to how animals use bioluminescence.”
Matt Hennessey

USFSP graphic design senior Matt Hennessey was the recipient of regional and national awards in visual arts from the National Society of Arts and Letters. Among other honors, he was awarded a scholarship for a two-week apprenticeship in silkscreen printing with master printer Erik Hougen at the renowned Lower East Side Print Shop in New York City.

“I was very excited to have received this award,” said Hennessey. For as long as he can remember, Hennessey said, he has had a love for art. “I’m glad the NSAL enjoyed my piece as much as I did making it.”

His prize-winning piece is an eight-page book that is a study of various silkscreen techniques. Hennessey said he made the book while he was learning to use silkscreen processes for the first time. Engaging in the use of stencils, drawings, and black-and-white and color photography, the art becomes increasingly more detailed with each page.

“Half of her award will go towards continuing her education. About $8,000 will improve the African American Heritage and Culture collection, which will bring in more books targeted to children and young adults. The remaining funds will go to the Create to Innovate Lab, and be used to purchase music production equipment and software, two Mac computers, sewing machines and other equipment for residents to use for creative pursuits. It will be the only library in Pinellas County to have such a lab.”

— Erika Greenberg-Schneider, Assistant Professor, Graphic Design
Early in 2017, hundreds of community members, legislators and university students, faculty and staff gathered outside the east entrance of Lynn Pippenger Hall to celebrate the official opening of the newest building to grace USF St. Petersburg. The Hall is the new home of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business (KTCOB), which is dually accredited by AACSB International in both Business and Accounting, a distinction held by less than two percent of business colleges in the world. The 68,000 square-foot building supports award-winning programs by extending traditional classroom spaces into diverse learning environments.

KTCOB continued to serve the region this year by educating over 1,000 undergraduate students in eight majors and over 300 graduate students within Business Administration and Accountancy programs. Strides in online education earned the College a #3 ranking for Online M.B.A programs in Florida due to the high level of engagement by well credentialed faculty. This year, the College also set up a Dean’s Advisory Board consisting of high-level business and community leaders from the region to provide critical insight to enhance curriculum that best prepares students for business careers. Harry Sideris, Florida Market President for Duke Energy, serves as the Board Chair.

Finally, Lynn Pippenger, the former chief financial officer of Raymond James and the namesake of the USFSP Kate Tiedemann College of Business building, was selected as the Philanthropist of the Year by the Suncoast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2016, Pippenger, who attended USFSP during the 1980s, donated a $5 million gift to the university to support merit scholarships for full- and part-time undergraduate students who are studying accounting and finance.

Students apply real-world investment skills in the KTCOB’s new Wealth Management Center. Soon after the opening of Lynn Pippenger Hall, donors Kate Tiedemann and Lynn Pippenger announced new contributions of $250,000 each to help fund the Center. Their contributions will be used as real capital as students practice managing an IRA, trading stocks and managing a client’s wealth.

“Our students gain an understanding of personal and professional financial planning strategies by working with mentors from some of the area’s most well respected firms,” said Dean Sridhar Sundaram.

“They’re learning market analysis and an ability to project timing in markets like real estate, as well as skills necessary to succeed in banking, insurance and corporate finance.”

WILL YOU BE... A FINANCIER?
“USFSP means community. The staff, professors, administrators and students all work together towards a common goal, and happily I might add! Much like St. Pete is a city on the rise, USFSP is an educational institution on the rise, working together to enhance student experience.”

-Nina Mahmoudi, MBA
BUSINESS STUDENTS ASSIST SIERRA CLUB IN SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Eighty students in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business collaborated with the Suncoast Sierra Club and its 100% St. Pete campaign, a local extension of the national “Ready for 100” campaign. The initiative aims to power the City of St. Petersburg with 100 percent renewable energy by raising public awareness of renewable energy and the energy industry, and by developing pilot programs with partner organizations. Under the guidance of Stephen Diasio, instructor of Management, students worked together to use strategic thinking skills and tools learned in class to develop tactics to get citizens interested and involved in climate action planning.

ALUM NAMED TO TAMPA BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL’S “UP AND COMERS UNDER 30”

Hannibal Baldwin, a 2011 graduate of USFSP and co-founder and co-CEO of SiteZeus, was named to the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s “Up & Comers Under 30” 2017 class. SiteZeus analyzes big data on demographics and geospatial technology to help businesses find future locations with the best revenue potential.

Baldwin chose USFSP because of its distinctive look and feel and the opportunity to work more closely with professors. “The layout, location and vibe all together attracted me here. The classes were far smaller, which meant more one-to-one with the professors. This was a large perk that you don’t receive and experience at larger schools. Downtown St. Pete also meant there were a ton of fun places to eat, walk and enjoy between classes.”

Baldwin hopes SiteZeus continues to see exponential growth, becoming a powerhouse for machine learning and artificial intelligence technology; supporting the work of organizations as diverse as Subway to the Centers for Disease Control to Hillsborough County Property Appraisers.
USFSP, BANK OF THE OZARKS CONTINUE MANAGEMENT TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

For the fifth year, faculty in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business are teaching online and face-to-face courses as part of a partnership between USFSP and Bank of the Ozarks, formerly C1 Bank.

In 2017, five management associates were enrolled in the 15-week training program. The program consists of coursework that focuses on business creation and innovation, data analytics, accounting, financial analysis, business law and other related areas.

“We focus on meeting the needs of the client,” said Gary Patterson, KTCOB associate dean of Finance, Economics and Entrepreneurship, adding that the program is tailored according to specifications made by the bank’s leadership.

BUSINESS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Linda Hoyt

MBA student Linda Hoyt is making a lasting impression in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. As a USFSP undergraduate, she was a leader in the honors organization, Beta Alpha Psi, which provided her with valuable experiences outside the classroom. Just before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in the Spring of 2016, Hoyt addressed students and community partners at the Achievement Celebration for the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. “Beta Alpha Psi helps you to navigate all of your potential opportunities. The support and encouragement of our faculty has given me the courage to stand before you today as its President.”

Most recently, Hoyt completed an audit internship with Frazier & Deeter, LLC. She plans to finish the MBA program and sit for the CPA exams before June 2018.

“Linda jumps right in and works incredibly hard to achieve her goals. She inspires students to ‘give back’ to the university and community.”

— Patricia Gaukel, Instructor, Accounting
Since her graduation in December 2016, Emily Tanner has been living and working in Weifang City, which is located in China’s Shandong Province. Tanner, along with Rebecca Pirie, who lived and worked in China during the Spring 2017 semester, are the first USFSP students to accept an offer to teach at the AMERICAN International Academy in China. During their time in China, they both taught classes managed by American and Chinese principals. They also shared a classroom with an experienced Chinese teacher, with all of the courses taught in English.

Tanner is a Pinellas County native who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science. She teaches drama and music classes at AIA and English at a few other area schools due to her strong musical background.

“My time at the AMERI-CAN International Academy has been very good for me, and I have learned a lot from the kids,” said Tanner. “Teaching abroad is an amazing way to grow as a person—to help others and to meet lifelong friends,” Tanner said.
USFSP HOSTS PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS STEM EXPO

Once again, the USFSP College of Education hosted the Fourth Annual Pinellas County Schools STEM Expo. The Expo attracted more than 3,200 people to the campus for speakers, campus tours and interactive displays. Pinellas County STEM Academy students showcased over 180 engineering design inquiry projects. The Expo highlights how vital it is to engage students, teachers and community members in STEM careers.

EDUCATION ALUM WINS NATIONAL MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

USF St. Petersburg alumnus Lukas Hefty, a science and math magnet program coordinator at Douglas L. Jamerson Elementary School and adjunct instructor in the College of Education, was recognized in 2017 as the recipient of the national Milken Educator Award, known as the “Oscar of Teaching.” He is only the second Pinellas County educator to receive the honor in the award’s 30-year history.

“Lukas was a great student and is also a wonderful person,” said Bill Heller, director of the Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership and former dean of the College of Education. “In an effort to upgrade our science offerings, we sought his expertise as an adjunct professor, and his evaluations by students clearly support that in doing so we achieved our goal.”

Hefty, who received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in Fall 2004 and a master’s degree in elementary education in Spring 2008, is passionate about helping others learn about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Under his leadership, the number of fifth graders at the elementary school who passed the state standardized science test rose from 48 percent in 2011 to 81 percent in 2015.

“Earning a bachelor’s degree from USF St. Petersburg laid the foundation for my success as an educator. The master’s program specializing in Mathematics and Science Education gave me the confidence to take on leadership roles within the school and district.”
STUDENTS HELP HIGH SCHOOLERS WRITE HUMAN RIGHTS BOOK

USFSP graduate students Trace Taylor and Nicole Darbois are making a difference in the lives of 65 local high school students with the guidance of faculty member AnnMarie Alberton Gunn. The trio designed and implemented a human rights writing workshop with ninth graders at Boca Ciega High School. The resulting content was published in a book. The project was born from Taylor and Darbois, who were enrolled in independent studies with Gunn.

“They shared a lot of the same goals, so I introduced them and we all met to discuss the idea of completing a joint project,” said Gunn. “They talked about their expectations and designed a writing curriculum that focused on universal design for learning and social justice issues.”

Darbois, a high school teacher at Boca Ciega High School, and Taylor met in mid-January and developed a plan for the workshop. By early February, they were teaching the curriculum to Darbois’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students.

The high school students studied and researched topics relating to human rights and engaged in college-level conversations via an online discussion board. They watched videos and read articles and books relating to the human rights topic of their choice.

EDUCATION
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hannah Fernandez

Hannah Fernandez is a junior in the College of Education. She says she found her passion when she entered the college, and she’s taken every opportunity to maximize her experience by participating in civic learning. She became certified as a children’s yoga instructor and, over the summer, worked as head counselor at USFSP’s academic and enrichment summer camp for rising fifth grade students, a project funded by the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board. The camp emphasizes knowledge and skills in the areas of Science, Math, Art, Reading, and Technology (SMART), as well as building leadership skills and character.

“I’ve truly enjoyed helping to develop our summer camp programs through mentoring and tutoring, and sharing with these young students what a difference they can make by serving as role models among their own peers.” said Fernandez.

“Hannah’s careful preparation and leadership in class made her stand out as someone who will understand her students and offer them the best education she possibly can.”

— Deanna Michael, Associate Professor, Education
The St. Petersburg community is a cherished city for my family. As a young child, my father shared stories about his uncle and taught my sister and me by example the importance of advocacy for others.

**Q:** What is your vision for the College of Education?
*I see the USFSP College of Education as the premier center for excellence and innovation in teaching. Our faculty bring a wealth of content expertise and practical experience. We are at the forefront of what will shape the teacher workforce in the coming years. Looking ahead, we’ll increase the teacher pipeline by continuing to partner with our local and state districts; work to increase the number of privately funded scholarships to support our students and faculty; and launch an “Innovation STEM Lab for Immersive Technology.”*

**Q:** Why should aspiring teachers choose USFSP?
*At USFSP, we know that students will learn in an environment which provides a highly-engaging, content-rich curriculum. Our faculty are nationally recognized for their research in STEM, Literacy, Exceptional Student Education and Leadership. We offer a variety of experiential learning for all needs through our online and face-to-face programs. We are reflective, collaborative, and professional practitioners; we develop individuals who will embody excellence and innovation. Our focus is on potential, possibility and promise.*

**Q:** What are some of the trends in education and how do they relate to your work?
*K-12 schools and districts across the nation have demonstrated a continued need for excellent teachers and leaders. This reality is often underscored by the stories in media expressing concern for teacher shortage and emergency certification. We want to meet that need and be a proactive partner within Pinellas and other counties. The trends across the country indicate that now, more than ever, teachers need to meet the needs of students and meet them where they are as learners. We’re ready.*