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January 25, 2013

HarborNotes Weekly

Your source for USF St. Petersburg news

Town and Gown draws large crowd to hear tales of La Florida



J. Michael Francis, Ph.D., speaks to the Town and Gown Winter Luncheon at Harbor Hall Gallery.

Nearly 100 people turned out Friday for the Town and Gown Winter Luncheon at Harbor Hall featuring a talk by J. Michael Francis, Ph.D., the Hough Family Endowed Chair in **Florida Studies**. Dr. Francis, one of the nation's leading experts on the Spanish Colonial experience in Florida, discussed some of the important historical figures who passed through Florida in the 1500s, long before the Mayflower or the founding of Jamestown. Among them was Hernando de Soto, who landed at Tampa Bay on May 25, 1539. "Florida's history is richer than any other part of the country," Dr. Francis said, with "incredible archeological sites." But too many Floridians are unaware of the state's rich history. He hopes that begins to change this year as Florida marks the **500th anniversary** of the arrival of Juan Ponce de Leon, the Spanish conquistador who named the land *La Florida*.

Literature professor Julie Armstrong honored for book on lynching



Associate Professor of Literature Julie Armstrong, Ph.D., is also the USFSP Literature Program Coordinator.

USF St. Petersburg Associate Professor of Literature Julie Armstrong, Ph.D., has been honored by The Society for the Study of Southern Literature for her book, *Mary Turner and the Memory of Lynching*. The Holman Honorable Mention Award for 2012 was created specifically to honor her book. The C. Hugh Holman Award is presented annually to the best book of literary criticism or scholarship in southern literature. This year the award goes to Jean W. Cash for *Larry Brown: A Writer's Life*. The voting was so close and the judges were so impressed with Dr. Armstrong's book that they created the Holman Honorable Mention Award to honor it. "For me to be so close was huge," Dr. Armstrong said. [Read more.](#)

A bold new look for the University Student Center and USFSP



Students walk past the east side of the University Student Center.

The University Student Center is sporting a bold new look. Last weekend workers installed new signs on the east and west sides of the USC's residential tower that underscore the building's importance to USF St. Petersburg. The 81,000 square foot University Student Center, which opened in August, includes dining services, a ballroom, meeting space, outdoor basketball courts and a six-story residence hall that is home to some 200 students. It has become a central gathering place for the university and one of the brightest new landmarks in downtown St. Petersburg.

Witnessing history in the nation's capital with a history-maker



Ray Arsenault, Ph.D., poses in front of the Capitol with former Freedom Rider Carol Ruth Silver.

Ray Arsenault, the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at USF St. Petersburg, attended the Inauguration of President Obama on Monday with one of the Freedom Riders whose story he told in an award-winning book. Carol Ruth Silver served 39 days in prison with other Freedom Riders who protested segregation of interstate buses. She was the only Freedom Rider who managed to keep a diary during her time behind bars. She smuggled the diary, written on toilet paper, out of prison when she was released. The diary will be published by the University Press of Mississippi later this year, with an introduction by Arsenault.

It was Arsenault's first Presidential Inauguration and he was happy to share it with Silver and other veterans of the Civil Rights movement. "It was an amazing, unforgettable experience," Dr. Arsenault said. [**Read more.**](#)

Busy weekend: MBA and undergraduate open house events planned



Students and their parents can tour the university during Sunday's Undergraduate Open House.

It's going to be a busy weekend at USF St. Petersburg. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon is the **MBA Open House**. If you are considering a Master's Degree in Business, this is your best chance to get a sneak peek into what graduate-level business school is all about. RSVP **here**. On Sunday at 1 p.m., the **Undergraduate Open House** will let you meet with deans, faculty and current students, attend admissions, financial aid and housing presentations, and tour the university.

Upcoming Events

January 26
10 a.m. - noon
MBA Open House

January 27
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Undergraduate Admissions Open House

January 28
9 a.m.
Regional Chancellor Search Committee Meeting

January 29
9 a.m.
Regional Chancellor Search Committee Meeting

January 29
6 p.m.

Transfer-A-Bull

**February 8
7:30 a.m.**

Walgreens Bayside Business Forum

See More Events on the Things To Do Calendar

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HarborNotes publishes weekly during the fall and spring semesters. To suggest a story, contact the editor:

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