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May 3, 2013

HarborNotes Weekly

Your source for USF St. Petersburg news

Florida lawmakers propose millions for College of Business, digital math



The Florida Legislature, led by Pinellas County lawmakers, was poised to pass a state budget Friday that included \$5 million for a College of Business building to be located at the site of the Piano Man building (photo above). The proposed budget also included \$3 million for the Center for Digital Learning, an initiative of SRI International in which the College of Education and Pinellas County Schools are key partners. Meanwhile, the Legislature the spending plan included \$131,000 for the USFSP Family Study Center, directed by Psychology Department Chair James McHale, Ph.D., which conducts basic and applied research into innovative new projects and initiatives to support co-parenting and children's development, with a special focus on African-American families in Midtown St. Petersburg.

English professor appointed Auburn Eminent Scholar Chair for fall



USF St. Petersburg Associate Professor of English Thomas Hallock, Ph.D., has been named the Daniel F. Breeden Eminent Scholar Chair in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University for Fall 2013. The chair was created in 1989 to provide support for both academic and outreach missions and is awarded to a nationally recognized scholar with outstanding credentials in the arts or humanities. During his semester at Auburn, Hallock will collaborate with faculty and students on projects that combine scholarly and creative research. He will teach, hold public lectures, and be a guest speaker and workshop leader for Auburn's Annual Writers' Conference. Hallock said he follows the dictum "teach where you are," adopting a local model to his work. His ongoing projects at USF St. Petersburg include **a web-based anthology of early Florida literature** and a series of **environmental literature courses** exploring historic and relic waterways in lower Pinellas County. He is part of the highly regarded Florida Studies Program. | Student photo by Aaron Alper, '12.

Nine students participate in Statewide Graduate Research Symposium



Nine USF St. Petersburg students participated recently in the first Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium that brought together graduate students from across Florida to showcase their work. USFSP **Masters of Reading Education** student Kimberly Kopski (photo above) placed second in the education category for her research project, "The Effects of Peer Editing and Response in a First Grade Writer's Workshop." Eight of Florida's 12 public universities participated in this first-ever event hosted by USF Tampa. While the primary purpose of the symposium was to showcase the impressive research by graduate students at Florida universities, it also gave the participating students and faculty members a rare chance to network and to discuss possible research collaborations. "We are extremely proud of our USFSP team," said Norine Noonan, Ph.D., regional vice chancellor for academic affairs, who served as a judge at the symposium.

Therapy dogs return to Poynter Library to ease exam-week stress



In what is becoming a tradition at the **Nelson Poynter Memorial Library**, therapy dogs (above) offered students some much-needed exam-week stress relief on Wednesday. The dogs were from the Pinellas County chapter of Therapy Dogs International, which routinely offers the comfort only a dog can provide at schools, hospitals and nursing homes. "It's honestly awesome," said Marco Gerges, a freshman who had just finished one exam and was preparing for another. "I really love dogs. Now I'm in a really good mood to study." Providing therapy dogs was just one of several ways USFSP helped students during exam week. Other opportunities included extended library hours, tutoring sponsored by the **Academic Success Center** at the **University Student Center**, relaxation and rejuvenation sessions sponsored by the **Wellness Center**, and a free late-night breakfast served by USFSP administrators at **The Reef**.

College of Education seniors, grad students show off their work



Harbor Hall was filled with College of Education seniors and grad students demonstrating their work in local schools.

Seniors and graduate students in the [College of Education](#) demonstrated how they planned and executed a one or two week standards-based instructional unit in local schools Wednesday at Harbor Hall. This was the final project students needed to complete in order to graduate. Undergraduates were working toward a Bachelors of Science in Education with certifications in elementary education and exceptional student education and endorsements in reading and ESOL. Graduate students were working toward a Master of Arts in Elementary Education with ESOL certification. The students were judged on their ability to assess the context of the learning environment, create learning goals that coincide with the Sunshine State Standards/Common Core Curriculum, design instruction, create an assessment plan, deliver instruction, and reflect on the learners' and the candidate's own performance. It's a complex process that impresses upon the students the connection between teaching and learning and the importance of instructional decision making in an authentic classroom environment.

Upcoming Events

[Spring Commencement](#)

6 p.m.
May 5

[Florida Studies](#)

May 17
7 p.m - 9 p.m.

[Florida Poetry Reading](#)

[College of Business](#)

May 18
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[MBA Open House](#)

Undergraduate Admissions

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

May 28

Transfer Information Session