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Jan., 17 2014

HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg

USFSP freshman to compete in Winter Olympics



Freshman Felicia Zhang and partner Nathan Bartholomay will compete in Sochi, Russia.

Freshman **psychology** major Felicia Zhang is headed to Sochi, Russia, to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics as a member of the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team. Zhang, along with her pairs skating partner Nathan Bartholomay, is a two-time U.S. national medalist. They train at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex, where the public can watch them in simulation sessions Jan. 24 and 31 from 1:10 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. Zhang grew up in Plainsboro, N.J., and began skating at age 7. "Time is standing still," she said after being named to the Olympic team. "It hit me pretty hard: We're going to the 2014 Olympics!" The Winter Olympics take place Feb. 7-23.

Florida Studies panel to ponder urban planning



Bruce Stephenson (left to right), Tom Pelham and Karl Nurse

The **Florida Studies Program** will present a trio of distinguished planning experts to discuss the past, present and future of urban and regional planning in Florida and St. Petersburg on Friday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. at Harbor Hall. The program is titled "The (Fading?) Promise of Urban and Regional Planning in Florida." It will feature Rollins College Professor Bruce Stephenson, author of *Visions of Eden: Environmentalism, Urban Planning, and City Building in St. Petersburg, Florida, 1900-1995*; Tom Pelham, former Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs under Governors Bob Martinez and Charlie Crist; and St. Petersburg City Council Chairman Karl Nurse, a USFSP alumnus. The event is free and open to the public. A complimentary buffet dinner will be served and complimentary parking available at the south end of Harbor Hall, 1000 3rd St S, St Petersburg. For more information, call (727) 873-4872. | **How to support the Florida Studies Program.**

Vision 20/20 planning reaches major milestone



Participants in the Community Input Forum discuss ways to engage with USFSP.

The **Vision 20/20** strategic planning process reached a major milestone this week with the successful completion of a series of Input Forums designed to broaden the conversation about the future of USF St. Petersburg. Six Input Forums were held between Monday and Wednesday for students, faculty and staff. A special online forum was also held for distance learning students. Last month, the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership participated in an Input Forum during its quarterly luncheon, held at the University Student Center Ballroom. "Through these forums, I've had the pleasure of hearing some very thoughtful conversations about the future of our institution," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "I am excited about the possibilities and pleased at the level of engagement and enthusiastic participation during the forums." The ideas generated during the forums will inform the final product of the strategic plan, which will be completed by the end of the 2013-14 academic year. The Vision Team will meet again Feb. 28 and March 1 and will discuss the feedback generated at the Input Forums. [Read more.](#) | [View a gallery of photos from the Input Forums.](#)

Honors Program lecture series to Celebrate Liberal Arts



The USF St. Petersburg **Honors Program** is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special lecture series that reflects the theme of the anniversary, "Celebrate the Liberal Arts." Dennis Thompson, Ph.D., the Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy Emeritus at Harvard University, will discuss "Science, Ethics and Democracy" on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m. at the University Student Center Ballroom. Nabil Matar, Ph.D., the Presidential Professor of Arts & Humanities at the University of Minnesota, will discuss "The Arabic Legacy in Western Thought" on Monday, March 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the University Student Center Ballroom. Both lectures are free and open to the public. [Read more.](#)

Students research modern architecture and Spanish history



Florida Studies students Saber Gray (second from left) and Kyle Pierson with their faculty advisers. J. Michael Francis (far left) and Thomas Hallock.

The monthly Student Research Colloquium last week featured presentations by two Florida Studies graduate students on two entirely different subjects. Saber Gray discussed her work with J. Michael Francis, Ph.D., the Hough Family Endowed Chair in Florida Studies, to preserve documents dating back to 1594 at the Diocesan Archive of St. Augustine and to make them accessible to scholars around the world through the internet. The documents, she said, help paint a picture of life in St. Augustine before the founding of Jamestown. Pierson, meanwhile, discussed the research she conducted with faculty adviser Thomas Hallock, Ph.D., associate professor of English, on William Harvard, the architect of the St. Petersburg Pier and a leading proponent of Mid-Century Modern architecture. The Student Research Colloquium, which is free and open to the public, is held the third Wednesday of every month at the **Nelson Poynter Memorial Library**.

Upcoming Events

Florida Studies Program

The (Fading?) Promise of Urban and Regional Planning in Florida
Wednesday, Jan. 22
6 p.m.

Honors Program

Harvard Professor Dennis Thompson: Science, Ethics, and Democracy
Thursday, Jan. 23
4 p.m.

Honors Program

St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs
Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 13-15

[See details and more events on our 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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