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USFSP Receives $10 Million Gift to Name the College of Business

Ms. Kate Tiedemann

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) announced today it has received a $10 million gift, the largest single gift in its history, to name the USFSP College of Business. Effective immediately, and with formal approval from the USF System Board of Trustees, the College becomes the Kate Tiedemann College of Business.

"This is truly a momentous day for USF St. Petersburg," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, Ph.D. "When Kate and I met, we connected immediately. Given our backgrounds and immigrant families, we share deep appreciation for the opportunities America afforded us in education and business. Most of all, we share a desire to give back."

Kate Tiedemann, a resident of Pinellas County, is the founder and former CEO of Katena Products, Inc., in Denville, N.J., one of the most successful eye instruments companies in the country.

Tiedemann says she has always had an emotional attachment to learning and education. While she did not attend high school or college, she says she has often wondered what more she might have achieved had she had a formal education. When she visited USFSP, she established a rapport with Regional Chancellor Wisniewska and members of her leadership team. Tiedemann followed her heart again and decided to make this remarkable gift.

"Faculty and students are doing their part. This gift allows me to affirm and accelerate their good work," Tiedemann said. "I was fortunate enough to create a successful business in the U.S. and I feel strongly about creating a long-lasting legacy."

Read the full story.

Six USFSP Faculty Awarded Fulbrights

USFSP is well represented among the global community of Fulbright scholars, with six individuals receiving the coveted award to support their work at institutions around the world.

Marco Ruminelli, Political Science, held the Fulbright-Schuman Chair at the E.U.'s Graduate College of Europe in Belgium last year.
Hallock, English Literature, will teach in Xi’an, China this semester; and Henry Alegria, Chemistry, will teach at Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia in the spring. Deni Elliott, Professor of Journalism and Media Studies, and Donny Smoak, Professor of Geology, were accepted to the Fulbright Roster and await assignment. And Mary Ogundrinde, a graduate student in the College of Education, received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program English Teaching Assistantship grant to teach English in the Dominican Republic for ten months.

"Given that we are still a relatively small university, it is remarkable that we have six Fulbright scholars," said Han Reichgelt, Ph.D., Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. "It is one reflection of the high quality of our faculty and students."

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MBAs Spend Summer in Germany

Hemant Merchant, Ph.D., professor of International Management, led a group of MBA students to Heilbronn, Germany this summer. Dr. Merchant was instrumental in establishing a new exchange program with students at the German Graduate School of Management and Law. The program studies why the region's small and medium-sized companies, like Bosch, dominate the global arena.

Photo, left to right: Dr. Hemant Merchant, Christina Roddey, Sarah Morrow, Simone DeLoach, Tim McNamara, Benjamin Chang, Daniel Boyd and Daphne Cherisol

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USFSP Faculty Publishes New Shakespeare Study

Shakespeare scholar Lisa Starkes-Estes, Associate Professor of English and Director, MLA in Liberal Studies, will be the guest of honor at a book launch celebration on Wednesday, September 10 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. in Harbor Hall.
"Violence, Trauma, and Virtus in Shakespeare's Roman Poems and Plays: Transforming Ovid" is her first scholarly monograph, and it brings together all of the strands of the work she's done over a number of years.

"The divergent paths of my research all connect in this study," said Starkes-Estes, Ph.D. "To be able to publish my main work on Shakespeare in a very competitive field has been really wonderful and rewarding."

"For many years Dr. Starkes-Estes has engaged and inspired her students with her passionate interpretation of Shakespeare's works," said Frank Biafora, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "The completion of this scholarly work is a culminating point."

The Book Launch Celebration is free and open to the public. It will include a surprise performance, book talk, and refreshments.

USFSP Student Teaches Dance in Palestine

Education student Dwayne Scheuneman, co-founder of REVolutions Dance, spent two weeks this summer offering dance instruction to teachers and students at the Sareyyet Community Center in Ramallah, Palestine. REVolutions is a professional dance company that offers education and performance opportunities to dancers with and without disabilities. The Center just started a contemporary dance program five years ago, raising grant money to bring in American European companies to perform and teach. When they decided to open their program to students with disabilities, they contacted Scheuneman.

"My experience there helped me see that dance is not just this beautiful art form that I am blessed enough to share with others, it is a conduit by which I am able to express and share love and joy with other people," said Scheuneman. "Dance is a gift that can inform, inspire and remove barriers."

Scheuneman is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Education with certification in Elementary Education and Exceptional Student Education. "Dwayne is a very special guy and he actualizes the word 'ability' in disability better than anyone I know," said Bill Heller, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education. "He will be a super teacher wherever he goes.

Upcoming Events

Master's Degree Open House
Saturday, Sept. 13
9:00 a.m.

Journalism and Media Studies
Author Presentation, Dr. Tony Silvia
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
Wednesday, Sept. 17
4:00 p.m.
Dali Museum
The Genius Next Door
Thursday, Sept. 18
6:00 p.m.

Dali Museum
Our Town Conversation with Sophia Wisniewska
Thursday, Sept. 25
6:30 p.m.

Department of History and Politics
Lecture Series: Thinking Through... World War I
Tuesday, Sept. 30
4:30 p.m.

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

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