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HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg

USFSP Online MBA Ranked 32 in Nation



KTCOB Interim Dean Gary Patterson announced the ranking at a recent gathering of the faculty.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the Online MBA Program at USFSP among the nation's top 20-percent in its 2015 survey of Best Online MBA Programs. Of 195 universities, USFSP is ranked #32 in the nation and #2 in Florida behind the University of Florida. The rankings were based on five general categories: Student Engagement, Admissions Selectivity, Peer Reputation, Faculty Credentials and Training, and Student Services and Technology. USFSP's program scored especially well in Faculty Credentials and Training, in which it tied at #6 nationally.

"This is indeed an honor and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the talented faculty and staff at our Kate Tiedemann College of Business," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska. "Our program's success is rooted in the flexibility and convenience it offers, particularly for working professionals. This AACSB-accredited program is also grounded in a tradition of quality, with online courses that are

taught by the same highly-credentialed faculty who teach our graduate courses on campus."

[Read the full story.](#)

USFSP to Welcome Back World Affairs Conference

The 3rd Annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs returns to campus February 26-28 and will again tackle critical international issues. Panels of experts will discuss everything from the rise of ISIS to immigration reform.

"This year's conference, as always, will focus on the most timely issues of the day," said Dr. Thomas Smith, director of the USFSP Honors Program and a conference founder. "Panelists will address geopolitical issues of Syria, Cuba, and Ukraine, as well as the challenges of climate change, infectious diseases, and women's rights."



This year's conference will feature more than 30 impressive speakers. Wole Soyinka, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, will be among them. Soyinka's works have been widely translated, his plays performed internationally. He is active on both artistic and human rights organizations such as the International Theatre Institute, the UN Commission on

(left to right) St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, Ambassador Doug McElhaney, Dr. Thomas Smith and presenter and sponsor George Hamilton, Chairman of National Payment Corporation (NatPay)

For the complete schedule of speakers or to register for the conference, please visit stpetersburgintheworld.com/conference.

USFSP Receives Generous New Gifts

USFSP is experiencing tremendous momentum in fundraising, sparked by **Kate Tiedemann's transformational gift** in September to name the College of Business. The university recently received two new gifts to support the Kate Tiedemann College of Business, including one from Pinellas County resident Ellen Cotton, whose contribution will support the student experience.

"We are so pleased and proud to announce the establishment of the Ellen Cotton Fund for Student Engagement," said Alison Watkins, associate dean, KTCOB. "This fund will support our Business student organizations and will be a game-changer for groups like Beta Alpha Psi and the student chapter of the Tampa Bay Technology Forum."



(From left) Campus Board member Judy Mitchell, businesswoman and donor Ellen Cotton, and Campus Board Chair and USF Trustee Debbie Nye Sembler

A new Student Organization Hub will be named for Ms. Cotton. These gifts follow a \$100,000 gift from Smith & Associates in the fall.

Carol Hixson Named to Library Consortium Board



Carol Hixson, dean

Carol Hixson, dean of the **Nelson Poynter Memorial Library**, has been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC). Since 1979, TBLC has worked with member libraries to provide better, faster service to the residents of central Florida.

"The invitation to Dean Hixson to serve on this Board is a reflection of her standing in the community," said Han Reichgelt, regional vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. The TBLC has more than 120 library members.

Also from the Nelson Poynter Library, Tony Stamatoplos, associate librarian for Scholarly Support Services and Special Projects, Library Research and Instruction, was recently named to the editorial board of "Learning Communities Research and Practice." The journal is a major publication for learning communities.

USFSP Makes Impression at MLK Day Parade

USFSP students marked the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday with seven individual events, including a Freedom Rally and the MLK Day Parade in downtown St. Petersburg. Hundreds of

students marched or tossed beads from Student Government's pirate ship float.

On Saturday, the **Office of Multicultural Affairs** will host its last event of the week: an MLK Day of Service. Students are invited to register at 9:00 a.m. at the Student Life Center to participate in community projects slated for the day.



Student Government President Cody Boyer (far left) led a strong showing of student organizations at this week's parade.

Upcoming Events

Downtown Waterfront Master Plan Open House

Wednesday, January 28
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Harbor Hall

Black History Month Kick-off

Monday, February 2
11:00 a.m.
HarborWalk

ORLAN Lecture

Presented by the Multicultural Activities Council
Thursday, February 5
6:30 p.m.
University Student Center

Spring Wellness Week

February 16-20

MBA Information Session

Tuesday, February 17
6:00 p.m.
Science & Technology Center

For more information about these and other USFSP events, please visit our **Public Events Calendar**.

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

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