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HarborNotes Weekly

Five Things to Know About USF St. Petersburg
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World Affairs Conference Draws Over 1,000



From left: Conference co-founder Ambassador Douglas McElhaney; Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka; Dr. Thomas Smith, director of the USFSP Honors Program and conference co-founder; and sponsor George Hamilton, Chairman of National Payment Corporation

The 3rd Annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs has drawn record numbers this year. Multiple panels of distinguished diplomats, military, media, and academic experts have gathered on campus to discuss critical international issues of the day. Organizers estimate that well over a thousand people will have participated in the event by the time it wraps up on Saturday afternoon.

This year's panel topics include terrorism, women's rights, media ethics, sea rise, immigration reform, and international diseases, among many others. An impressive roster of speakers includes Nigerian author and playwright Wole Soyinka, winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature.

"This conference is a true source of pride for USF St. Petersburg," said Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska during opening remarks. "It is recognized as a model partnership between campus and community. Our speakers this year are truly remarkable. It is a privilege to host you all."

The conference is a cooperative venture of USF St. Petersburg and a group of civic-minded St. Petersburg residents. For more information, visit <http://stpetersburgintheworld.com/conference/>.

Cassill, McCracken to Speak at TEDxUSF

USFSP professors **Deby Cassill** and **Jill McCracken** will be among the speakers when TEDx returns to USF on Saturday, March 28. Both Cassill and McCracken will present under the theme of "A World Beyond Ourselves," although they'll focus on dramatically different topics.



Dr. Jill McCracken

"We're being asked to think outside ourselves, so, of course, I will be presenting 'The Inner Lives of Ants,'" said Cassill, associate professor of Biology. "Neuroscience has found that the brain cells of every animal, from ants to fish to mice to humans, talk to each other using the same chemical language--serotonin, melatonin, oxytocin, GABA, dopamine and more. Knowing that the brain cells in ants produce all these 'mood' chemicals strongly suggests that ants have feelings and emotions."



Dr. Deby Cassill

Dr. McCracken, who teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in rhetoric, writing studies, gender and sexuality studies, and feminist theory, will present "Selling Sex: Contradicting Violence with Choice."

"We brush up against worlds 'beyond ourselves' all the time and don't even know it," said McCracken. "This theme is important because we co-inhabit a world with people we might consider to be 'beyond ourselves,' and then we learn they are more like us than we initially thought. It is through venues like this that we can find these connections and similarities, this shared humanness, which enriches all of our lives."

For more information, visit <http://usfweb2.usf.edu/tedx/>

SunLit Festival to Feature USFSP Faculty, Events

The SunLit Festival, a nine-day springtime celebration of literature, will be held in St. Petersburg beginning March 7. On Monday, March 9, Dr. James McHale, director of the USFSP **Family Study Center**, will present "Behind Baby Talk," during which he'll describe the real reason why reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers is so crucial. Also on March 9, Jim Schnur, Special Collections librarian at the **Nelson Poynter Library**, will help mark the 100th anniversary of the Mirror Lake Library.



On Thursday, March 12, USFSP's **Department of Verbal and Visual Arts** will help launch the inaugural season of the St. Petersburg Shakespeare Festival. Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes, associate professor of English, and her former student Veronica Matthews will present "As You Like It." The play, which will be performed in the Williams House Courtyard, will highlight issues of gender and sexuality, as well as the wit and relevance of Shakespeare's works for modern audiences.



Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes

"The festival is a great opportunity for USFSP to connect with the community," said Starks-Estes, who serves as the Festival's textual director. "Many USFSP students and alumni are involved."

"The College of Arts and Sciences is thrilled to be partnering with the SunLit Festival this year," said Dean Frank Biafora. "The creative work of Dr. Jamie McHale, with his investigation of early childhood educational awareness, and Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes, with her passion and knowledge of Shakespeare, promises to showcase two of our exceptional faculty who have ongoing investments in the community."

The SunLit Festival is hosted by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance. For more information about the festival and a complete schedule of events, please visit [the official website](#).

You Pick the Pier



Do you have an opinion about the new Pier? The City of St. Petersburg wants you!

New Pier architectural concepts have been submitted and are currently under consideration. You're invited to participate in any number of public events, or in an online survey which is open until March 6.

"The City has been a wonderful partner to USFSP," said Helen Levine, regional vice chancellor for University Advancement. "This is a great opportunity for our students and faculty to have a voice in the development of the downtown that is so integral to our

campus culture."

For more information or to participate in the online survey, visit www.NewStPetePier.com.

Getting to Know You ... Phil Trocchia

Meet **Dr. Phil Trocchia**, Marketing professor in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. Trocchia joined the faculty in 2003 and enjoys involving his students in developing marketing plans for area businesses. This spring, he and his students are working with six different organizations, including The Shave Cave at the new Sundial center and BabyCycle, a non-profit that supplies food, diapers and clothing to new mothers in need.



What is your favorite book?

"On the Road." Jack Kerouac can paint a picture with words like nobody else.

Where is your favorite destination in the world?

I'd like to visit Sicily, where I have some relatives. I'd also like to visit Tokyo and Hong Kong.

What is your favorite movie?

Not "Lord of the Rings." It took me three months to get through that thing on DVD.

What was your least favorite subject in college?

Material Science.

What skill or talent would you like to have that you don't have?

I'd like to play the piano.

What do you do to relax?

I play online trivia games and quizzes.

What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?

I follow Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, and Michelle Kwan on Twitter. Between the three of them, they seem to cover all the bases.

What USFSP project or activity are you currently working on that excites you the most?

I'm starting a project on how different generations learn about and use technology.

Upcoming Events

Spring Break

March 2-6

Women's HERstory Month Kick-Off

Monday, March 9
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

USFSP Dance Marathon to Benefit All Children's Hospital

Friday, March 13th
4:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
USC Ballroom

Lecture Series: The Great Society in Florida at 50

March 16-23

The Debbie and Brent Sembler Florida Holocaust Museum Lecture: Evgeny Finkel

"Pre-War Politics and Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos"

Tuesday, March 24
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Davis 130

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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