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## Scene & Herd : 2016 : 05 : 06

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**Scene & Herd: May Internal News From USF St. Petersburg**

1 message

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Fri, May 6, 2016 at 9:49 AM

[www.usfsp.edu](http://www.usfsp.edu)

Friday, May 6

**Summer Fun Means 'Storm-Ready'**

Chief David Hendry

As you prepare for the fun activities of the summer, be sure to take time to prepare for the storm season as well. A little preparation goes a long way when the weather reports predict a nasty storm.

Review the [University Police Department Safety and Preparedness](#) website for useful resources and actions that can be done in advance of any threatening weather conditions to be prepared at work and at home. You also will find the most current [Hurricane Planning Guide](#).

**Human Resources Info to Know****Featured Employee of the Month:****Kay Riggins**

Kay Riggins

University.

Meet Kateka "Kay" Riggins, administrative specialist to the Director of Student Life and Engagement at the Student Life Center. Born in Chicago, Kay is the first on her paternal side of the family to graduate from high school. She also received a bachelor's degree in Professional Studies with a specialization in Human Resources from Barry

University. Kay has been a guardian ad litem in Pinellas County for several years, representing the children in the foster care system. She also is a member of the NAACP Education Board and is a community liaison. She enjoys camping, snorkeling, traveling, and watching sunsets each Sunday evening. [Learn more](#) about Kay.

**Featured Student of the Month**[Kania Davis](#)**Handy Links From Human Resources:**

[New Hires, Promotions](#)  
[Featured Perk of the Month](#)

**Quality Matters Recognizes Faculty**

Drs. [Mark Durand](#) and [Vikki Gaskin-Butler](#) received Quality Matters recognition for their online courses. Durand received QM Certification for his Abnormal Psychology course CLP 4143, and Gaskin-Butler received it for her Personality Psychology course, PPE 4003.

**Commencement '16:  
Two ceremonies to be held on May 8**

For the first time, USFSP will host two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, May 8 to accommodate our growing class of graduates. The 2 p.m. ceremony will be for graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences. Graduates from the College of Business and College of Education will walk at 6 p.m.

We'd like to congratulate the two Spring 2016 King O'Neal Scholars --Corey Yeung and Julia Strauss. Corey will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Finance with a minor in International Business. Julia, who also is the Spring 2016 Outstanding Graduate, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

We look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday, as we congratulate our new graduates!

**Keep in touch this summer!**

Are you doing exciting research or taking students on a class trip this summer? While *Scene & Herd* will go on hiatus over the summer, we'll continue to publish USFSP news online. Please contact [Casey Crane](#), communications officer, if you have a story you'd like us to consider.

**Faculty Accolades,****Achievements**

[Dr. Thomas Hallock](#), associate professor of Literature, published "A" is

Through the peer review process, both of the courses received the maximum score of 99 points. The QM certification, which ensures that instructors offer quality online learning course design, consists of a peer review guided by a research-based rubric.

Dr. Mark Durand



Dr. Vikki Gaskin-Butler

Their courses will be listed on the [QM database of award-winning courses](#) from colleges and universities across the U.S. The QM Seal of Recognition also will be displayed in their online courses to express their commitment to high quality online teaching and learning.

### Annual Awards Luncheon Celebrates Contributions of Employees

USFSP celebrated the contributions of its staff, administrative employees, and faculty with an awards luncheon on April 13. Employees were recognized for their work and dedication to students, their research, their length of service at the university, and for their generosity in giving to the Faculty and Staff Annual Giving Campaign.



Dr. Martine Wagner received one of the Regional Chancellor's awards.

### Sustainability Has New Campus Leader



Brian Pullen

Meet Brian Pullen, sustainability planner in the Office of Sustainability. A native of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Pullen received a bachelor's degree in Organizational Communications from Boise State University in 2013 and a master's degree in Global Sustainability from USF in 2015. He also works as Development Associate for the nonprofit Sustainability

International, helping to alleviate poverty in Nigeria through oil spill cleanup efforts.

Pullen's love for the environment began at a young age as a child who often played outdoors. "I became really concerned about climate change and its effect on the ecosystem," he said. "So I knew around then that I wanted to pursue a master's degree and career in sustainability.

"My biggest hopes for this year are to complete our campus Climate Action Plan, improve our sustainability-related curriculum and research, and implement new sustainable initiatives on campus that will speak loudly about USFSP's commitment to sustainability," Pullen said. "Long term, my goal is to help make sure USFSP reduces our environmental footprint to the point that we are a national figure for our sustainable efforts."

for Acronym: Teaching Hawthorne in a Performance Based World," in *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*. This essay kicks off *ESQ's* brand new "Provocations" series.

#### [Dr. Jill McCracken](#),

associate professor of Rhetoric & Writing Studies, presented in San Francisco on March 30 at a special session of the American Association of Geographers' Conference, Sex and the City: Reactionism, Resistance and Revolt -- Navigating Risk and Violence. Her presentation "To Name is to Resist: Bridging Reactionism to Decrease Violence in the Sex Industry," explores the relationships between discursive and material violence that occurs against individuals in the sex industry.

**Anda Peterson**, an adjunct instructor of Creative Writing and professional writing courses, recently published a book *Walks with Yogi: The Enlightenment Experiment*.

[Jim Schnur](#), special collections librarian in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, served as one of three panelists in a forum on April 11 at USF Tampa on academic freedom that stemmed from conversations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the end of the Johns Committee.

Check out other faculty awards and highlights in the [Faculty Stacks](#). Once you have clicked the link, scroll down to the Faculty Stacks feature section.

### USFSP Launches LinkedIn School Page

If you received a degree from USFSP or are you currently taking classes, be sure to join USFSP's [official LinkedIn university page](#). The page helps alumni and current students connect, and also features student and alumni related stories.



USFSP also has a [company page](#), which is geared more for employee, faculty, and corporate audiences. The page features news stories relating to the university, faculty, employees, and community partnerships.

### Join Us on Social



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