12-9-1987

Intercom : 1987 : 12 : 09

University of South Florida.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/inside_usf

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/inside_usf/322

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inside USF by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Fuson's research on Christopher Columbus has brought him fame the world 'round

The mystery surrounding Christopher Columbus, his past and his voyages, has been the focus of USF geography Prof. Robert Fuson's career. And now, a new book about Columbus has brought Fuson national recognition, including a Columbus Day appearance on "Good Morning America."

"The Log of Christopher Columbus," Fuson's new translation of Columbus' journal from his first voyage, will be the Book-of-the-Month Club selection for January, and a Dolphin Book Club selection. The Library Journal has nominated it for the Best Book of the Year for 1987.

Fuson says Columbus deliberately distorted his past. Scholars aren't sure where he was born, how long he lived or where he was buried. Besides, Fuson says, he made his first landing at Samana Cay, not on the island of San Salvador.

Fuson came to those conclusions after 33 years of studying the 33-day voyage of Columbus, which he thought was on his way to Japan to visit the Great Khan.

Fuson's book was published Oct. 12, on the 495th anniversary of Columbus' first landing.

Published by the International Marine Publishing Co. of Camden, Maine, the book is a lively translation of the log of Columbus. Fuson has put the observations and adventures of Columbus into readable, vivid language, and has added information picked up from his years of research.

"Columbus has been an obsession of mine for over 30 years," said Fuson. He is a charter member of the USF faculty. "I've been gathering material here and there. When I got involved in the debate about where he landed, I had to go back to the original material in Columbus' journal and into the history of the journal."

Fuson agrees with the finding of the National Geographic Society that Columbus landed on Samana Cay, not San Salvador. He acted as a consultant for the National Geographic during the Society's five-year study of the voyage.

Fuson is regarded internationally as one of the foremost Columbus scholars and has been honored many times for his accomplishments. But from Mondays through Thursdays, he's at USF, where he teaches his students not only that the world is round but that it's a fascinating place to explore.

"The Log of Christopher Columbus" is available at Hyde Park Book Shop in Tampa and Half a Mile Book Store in St. Petersburg. Other book stores can special-order the book.

Book by USF professor reexamines history

The Final Four

At press time on Dec. 1, the list of candidates still in the running for president of the University of South Florida stood at four:

Francis T. Borkowski - As executive vice president at the University of South Carolina, Borkowski has traveled extensively to build USC's international ties, including the controversial move of bringing Jihan Sadat, the widow of slain Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, to USC as a visiting scholar. Trained as a clarinetist at Oberlin and Indiana universities, Borkowski, 51, maintains his music studies and has conducted the South Carolina Philharmonic.

Mark S. Auburn - The 47-year-old administrative and financial officer at the University of Arkansas, Auburn, the youngest candidate in the field, received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, taught at Ohio State and is currently working on an Oxford edition of the works of George Villers, the second duke of Buckingham.

Israel Tribble - The 47-year-old assistant professor for the multi-million dollar McKnight Foundation scholarships for black postgraduate students began his career as the first black teacher at Plainfield (New Jersey) High School. He has since received his doctorate at Stanford University and once worked as an assistant to former U.S. Secretary of Education Shirley Hufstedler.

The University ParK, published in a recent bulletin for educators, ranks USF's College of Education among the most influential in the country.

Dean William H. Georgiades, writing in the National Association of Secondary School Principals Leadership Bulletin, ranks USF's College of Education 14th, on the basis of articles by USF faculty members in journals most often read by school administrators.

"The most significant COE's (colleges of education) are those whose faculties publish in journals and textbooks read by practitioners," Georgiades writes.

USF is the highest-ranking school from the Southeast on the list. The University of Florida, the only other Florida school in the top 25, is ranked 16th.

Georgiades bases his rankings on the number of articles faculty members wrote between 1979 and 1983 for the five journals that are most widely read among school administrators: Phi Delta Kappan, Educational Leadership, The Principal, The School Administrator and The NASSP Bulletin.

"The five journals listed in this study constitute a primary means of communication," Georgiades writes. "If one of the purposes of university research is to disseminate it, it is essential to acknowledge those institutions and faculties that communicate most consistently with practitioners."

USF faculty had 15.2 articles in those journals. (The fraction indicates some articles were co-written by people other than USF faculty.) The highest-ranking school, Indiana University, had 28 articles in the journals. The University of Florida had 14.8.