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James Anthony Schnur: Green and Golden

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Archivist, author, faculty, public speaker – Jim Schnur rarely takes a break from his sundry creative labors! For nearly 25 years, Jim has made significant contributions to USFSP, first, as a tireless student leader, and currently, as a respected faculty member in the Poynter Library.

As Special Collections librarian, Jim plays an essential role in both preserving USFSP's colorful institutional history as well as documenting our regional community's past. His curatorial expertise is parlayed into cataloguing materials in the USFSP Digital Archive, assessing historical artifacts, and designing exhibitions. An articulate and coveted lecturer, Jim gives dozens of engaging presentations around the state each year, chronicling subjects as diverse as Pinellas County history, Florida's culture, and archival preservation. Celebrated by his colleagues, Jim was honored as the 2015 Presidential Citation recipient for the Florida Historical Society (FHS).

An active member of FHS, having served as an editor and board member, Jim is presently editor of an annual bibliography in the Florida Historical Quarterly known as “Florida's History in Publications.” Jim also guides the Pinellas County Historical Society as its multi-term president.

Off duty, Jim is a prolific author, having written five books since 2011 – and donated proceeds from a book on St. Petersburg's history back to the USFSP Digital Archive. Students have always been the centerpiece of Jim's commitment to academics. He is teacher and mentor to many,
As a graduate student, Jim was significantly involved in researching and preparing data enabling USFSP to obtain grants from the Bureau of Historic Preservation for our historic Snell and Williams Houses. He was Chair of the Campus Lecture Series and helmed USFSP's symposia celebrating Florida's Sesquicentennial in 1995. Jim was also a popular member of the prestigious USF Ambassadors. A staunch Tampa Bay Rays fan from day one, Jim was inducted into the Rays Wall of Fame in 2010.

Few have rendered with such vigor, talent and consistency the stellar, selfless service that Jim Schnur has given to USF St. Petersburg. In 2005, Jim was the inaugural recipient of the Lester Tuttle Award from the USF Pinellas County Alumni Chapter – an honor he continues to earn day after day.

“I started attending what we then knew as the USF Bayboro Campus in the autumn of 1986. Although I also took many courses at USF Tampa during my USF academic career, I enjoyed the smaller classes and dedicated faculty that taught at USFSP at that time. Professors such as Harry Schaleman inspired generations of students. Although Harry never completed his doctorate, he and the other faculty at the St. Petersburg campus always put their students first. I also benefited from the student leadership opportunities made available through the Division of Student Affairs and the tireless efforts of J.M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer, the heart and soul of our campus. During the early 1990s, I became a student leader who chaired the USFSP Campus Lecture Series, became involved in clubs and Student Government, and twice won the USF Golden Signet Service Award for student leadership. The skills I gained in the classroom and the student leadership opportunities available to me at University of South Florida have allowed me to serve USFSP and USF System students as a librarian, researcher, and faculty member.”

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