RFSA Co-Chairs Corner

Happy New Year!

Check out the RFSA website and add it to your Favorites list right now. Go to usfsp.edu/rfsa (or use usfsp.edu, then the A-Z Directory at the top of the page). Click on "Our History" and read the narrative created by Mike Killenberg and Herm Brames. Also look for the Oral Histories done in 1986 and 2006. We hope to persuade the current administration to update and expand the collection. Thanks to Alexis Searfoss for updating the website.

At the January 10 RFSA Board meeting, a committee was formed to pursue and improve these valuable historical elements. Members are Les Tuttle, Herm Brames, Mike Killenberg and Winston Bridges.

A warm and loving THANK YOU was extended to Jackie Shewmaker who stepped down as RFSA Secretary. She served in this position from RFSA’s beginning in 2005. Her minutes are posted on the RFSA website. Margaret Hewitt will take over the responsibilities of Secretary.

Please join us for the Annual RFSA Luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 7 and visit with your friends. We look forward to seeing a draft of the Legacy Book. As always, the RFSA Board welcomes your ideas.

In Memoriam - ROBERT M. THRUSH

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Bob Thrush, one of USFSP’s most beloved employees, on Dec. 26. Always professional and efficient, Bob’s name is synonymous with A/V excellence and a “can-do” attitude - even as he operated A/V as a one-person department for so many years. Greeting everyone with a warm, friendly smile, and dedicated to offering superior service at all times, the campus Dynamic Duo of Bob and Dot Thrush radiated kindness and spirit. RFSA offers condolences to Dot, daughters Linda and Roberta, son-in-law David, and the entire family.

For more news about USF St. Petersburg, please check our website: www.usfsp.edu
USF St. Petersburg Master Academic Plan Under Development

Thanks to Dr. Martin Tadlock, Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, for sharing this information with RFSA about USFSP’s Master Academic Plan.

A draft Master Academic Plan that includes pre-proposals for doubling the number of majors at USFSP over the next five years is under review by faculty and staff. In February, the plan will go to USFSP senior leadership for approval.

The plan is a culmination of an intense semester long review of all existing USFSP academic programs, formulation of plans for changes to those programs, and pre-proposals for new programs. It involved faculty and staff across the university in gathering and reviewing data and holding conversations about the future of academic programming and its connection to the university’s strategic plan.

The plan proposes the following major goal areas for academic programming at USFSP:

A. Create a distinctive university experience for our students
B. Live our commitment to student success
C. Promote excellence in teaching and research
D. Become a steward of place where partnerships and innovation matter
E. Bring the world to St Petersburg and take St Petersburg to the world
F. Build financially sustainable programming and infrastructure

The plan also proposes the following as an Academic Theme for USF St Petersburg:

USFSP’s academic programming supports the university’s role as an innovative, regional steward of place while preparing students to live in a globally interdependent world, embrace diversity, and become leaders of efforts in environmental and organizational sustainability.

USFSP ALUMNI COLLEGE

Saturday, March 25, 2017
USFSP Harbor Hall
1000 Third Street S.
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Parking, breakfast, lunch, learning, networking and a $5 donation to the USFSP Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund are included in the event price of $25.

Registration is not yet available, but interested persons can learn more by visiting www.usfsp.edu/alumni and following the Alumni College link. RFSA members are cordially invited.

USFSP Alumni Society hosted a Watch Party at Caddy’s on Central for the Birmingham Bowl on Dec. 29. Alums celebrated as our USF Bulls beat South Carolina, 46-39, in an exciting game. RFSA members are invited to alumni events to enjoy a chat with former students. Information is available on the USFSP website regarding Alumni Society programs.
College of Education Celebrates in December

The USFSP College of Education honored two of its stars at a reception in December. Bill Heller completed his five year stint as COE Dean and Terry Rose officially retired. A host of colleagues, family, friends and former students saluted the pair and commended their stalwart leadership and dedication.

Another recent COE retiree, Kim Stoddard, also graced the festivities, to the delight of the attendees.

COE staff Jennifer Ivy, Angelica Scarborough, and Ramona Forbes artfully coordinated the celebration.

RFSA welcomes Terry and Kim.

Congrats to More New Retirees

Joyce Morin and Linda Crossman started 2017 as new retirees. Long-time staffer, Joyce came to USFSP in 1991 after working 12 years as the Administrative Assistant in the Law Library at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She departs campus as the Assistant Registrar - her smiling face a fixture for hundreds of students. Linda transferred to USFSP from Savannah State University in 2009 and served as Registrar before her retirement over the holidays.

St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs

The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs is a cooperative venture of a group of civic-minded St. Petersburg residents and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Multiple panels of distinguished diplomats, military, media, and academic experts will discuss critical international issues of the day. The public, including students from USFSP and other area universities, are cordially invited to attend the conference free of charge. Seating will be on a first come, first seated basis.

The launch of the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs in 2013 has been a resounding success. Several thousand local residents and students attend each of the discussions every year. Participants show their support through both financial contributions as well as their overwhelmingly positive comments on the presentations.

The Conference objective is to make available to the people of the Tampa Bay area information, and insights, on foreign affairs issues which are critical to our lives and well-being.

Among this year’s presenters are: Charles King, Professor of International Affairs and Government at Georgetown University. He lectures widely on international affairs, social violence, and ethnic politics, and has worked with major broadcast media such as CNN, National Public Radio, the BBC, the History Channel, and MTV; and Eddy L. Harris, author of critically acclaimed books including Mississippi Solo, Native Stranger, South of Haunted Dreams, and Still Life in Harlem - all of which partake of memoir, adventure tale, travelogue and cultural reportage.

For additional information and to register online: http://stpetersburgconferenceonworldaffairs.com/conference/

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