12-13-2002


University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/872
Dec. 13, 2002

Dr. Ralph Wilcox, interim Vice President and Campus Executive Officer, today announced USF St. Petersburg’s Inaugural Programs of Distinction.

In announcing the programs, Wilcox said, “It is my expectation that the programs will, collectively, help to create a distinctive regional and national identity to which the campus, USF, our immediate community, and the State of Florida can look with immense pride.”

The announcement is the result of a semester-long process during which faculty were asked to submit proposals that will establish a focus on distinctive academic excellence. Ten proposals were submitted. The chosen proposals will represent a substantive strategic investment of resources as the campus makes a multi-million dollar investment in academic support.

The Programs of Distinction will focus on how USF St. Petersburg can complement and strengthen USF’s role as a premier national urban Research 1 university, while offering destination programs with options for students not offered elsewhere. The selection of these Programs of Distinction underlines the campus missions, values, vision and goals, and capitalizes upon the strengths and opportunities at USF St. Petersburg.

“While it has forced us to look carefully at prioritizing our needs, we are convinced that the potential return on each one of these significant, strategic investments will contribute to a changed and greatly enhanced identity for USF St. Petersburg,” said Wilcox. “Our decisions have not been made lightly and carry with them clear and extensive outcome expectations that will form the basis of regular and systematic program assessment.”

-more-
Selected Programs of Distinction

Journalism and Media Studies

Under the leadership of Professor Michael Killenberg, *Journalism and Media Studies* has, since its inception just 10 years ago, enjoyed an emerging and positive reputation—particularly with regard to its focus on ethical and social responsibility in the media. Offering graduate and undergraduate degrees in journalism, with emphases in news-editorial, magazine and visual communications, it is home to USF’s only MA degree in journalism, which is one of just 41 programs accredited nationwide. From the outset, the *St. Petersburg Times* and the Poynter Institute have been active supporters of the program and it is expected that a stronger, mutually beneficial and sustained partnership will emerge in the future.

New funding for *Journalism and Media Studies* will support the hiring of new professors in visual communications and science journalism, provide state-of-the-art computer technology and cameras, graduate student stipends, the strengthening of science journalism, visual communication and media convergence, along with added support for the Neighborhood News Bureau.

For information, contact Dr. Mike Killenberg, Director of Journalism Studies, at (727) 553-1174

Environmental Science and Policy

The *Environmental Science and Policy* proposal, coordinated by Dr. Rebecca Johns, brings together an impressive talent pool of faculty from biology, chemistry, geography, geology, mathematics, and political science. Promising an exciting and essential mix of scientific research, policy analysis, social and cultural analysis, as well as geographic information and remote sensing – the program will be guided by a recent consultant’s report that highlighted the extraordinary opportunities presented by the campus’ proximal location to lakes, rivers, estuaries, tidal and freshwater wetlands, the Everglades, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean – an arena where answers to national and global groundwater, and healthy and clean beaches issues will most likely emerge.

-more-
The success of this program will depend on sustained and productive collaboration with two campus neighbors – USF's College of Marine Science and the United States Geological Survey. Newly allocated resources will support additional faculty positions, research laboratory support, graduate assistants, and technology enhancements.

For information, contact Dr. Rebecca Johns, Assistant Professor of Geography, at (727) 553-1556.

Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting

Led by Professor Jerry Lander, and building upon the university’s national reputation in accounting, faculty across the USF St. Petersburg College of Business (including accounting, information systems and decision sciences, management, and marketing) will develop a distinctive program that focuses on management and marketing ethics and fraud prevention and detection as it seeks to respond to growing national and global corporate needs for controllers, certified fraud examiners, and forensic accountants in the wake of Enron, WorldCom and other scandals that have rocked the global financial markets in recent years.

Funding awarded to this proposal will be used to support new faculty positions, technology enhancements, and corporate outreach activities. Regional, national, and multinational corporate partners will be essential to the success of this unique program – one that quite clearly places USF St. Petersburg in a potentially exciting leadership position.

For information, contact Dr. Jerry Lander, Professor of Accounting, at (727) 553-1185.

Florida Studies

Professor Ray Arsenault has provided leadership for development of the Florida Studies program. This interdisciplinary initiative draws together scholars from anthropology, geography, history, economics, political science and related fields. The program will explore the state’s history, culture, political economy and changing identity. Allocated funds will support new faculty positions, graduate assistants, and operating costs. With strong commitments of support from The Florida Humanities Council, the Florida Center for Teachers, and this university’s Florida Studies Center, the Florida Studies program promises to fill an important void in higher education’s attention to matters of local and regional significance.

For information, contact Dr. Ray Arsenault, John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History, at (727) 553-1555.

-more-
Faculty Recipients of “New Investigator Research Grants,” were also announced. Funding for these programs comes in part from indirect costs generated by externally sponsored contract and grant activity at USFSP during the previous year.

- Barnali Dixon (geography) – “Determining Impacts of Spatial Variability”
- Mary Matthews (Environmental Science and Policy) – “Calming the Waters: Geopolitics and the Regional Sea Environment Programmes”
- Mark Pezzo (Psychology) – “Factors Affecting the Transmission of and Belief in Rumors”
- Sarah Partan (psychology) – “Multisensory Communication in Macaques”
- Thomas Smith (government and international affairs) – “Protecting Civilians in Wartime: Humanitarian Law and the Ethics of Rescue”
- George Watson (Management) – “Examining the Relationship between Moral Reasoning and Behavior”
- Ethlyn Williams (management) – “Ethical Climate: The Context in Which Employees Derive Cues that Affect Work Attitudes and Outcomes”
- George Yanev (mathematics) – “Statistical Analysis of Coral Reef Cover in the Florida Keys”

“Senior Investigator Research Grants” were also awarded to provide full-time, tenure-eligible faculty at USF St. Petersburg with additional support to conduct high quality research and scholarly activity.

- Gerald Lander (accounting) – “An Empirical Analysis: Do Good Companies Make Good Investments?”
- Jay Sokolovsky (anthropology) – “Globalization and the Transformation of an Indigenous Region in Central Mexico”

###