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Three Faculty Recognized by USF World for Global Research

Drs. Kathryn Arthur, in grey, and Tiffany Chenneville, in black, were recognized at the award reception on Nov. 18. Others in the photo include Dr. Roger Brindley, USF System vice president, USF World; Dr. Judy Genshaft, president, USF System; and Dr. Ralph Wilcox, provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs. Photo: Ryan Nune.

A photo of Dr. Hemant Merchant, in green, being recognized by Dr. Roger Brindley, USF System vice president, USF World; Dr. Judy Genshaft, president, USF System; and Dr. Ralph Wilcox, provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs. Photo: Ryan Nune.

Dr. Kathryn Arthur, associate professor of Anthropology, received the award for her heritage work in southern Ethiopia that led to the discovery of the earliest known complete African genome. The findings brought international recognition to the university and were published in numerous prestigious publications. Arthur was the principal investigator for the National Science Foundation grant that supported the research, which included an international team from Ethiopia, Italy, England, Ireland, and Korea.

Dr. Tiffany Chenneville, associate professor of Psychology and Graduate Program director, also received the 2016 Faculty Award for Outstanding Global Research. Chenneville was recognized for her work in Kenya, specifically for her HIV SEER (Sigmoidal reduction through Education, Empowerment, and Research) project, a collaborative initiative between USFSP and Springs of Hope Kenya, an orphanage for children affected by HIV. In 2015 and 2016, Chenneville traveled to Kenya to work on the project, and since then the program has been delivered to nearly 2,000 youths between the ages of 13 and 24 in the local schools and communities.

"It is very meaningful to me as a scholar to see the HIV SEERs Project recognized by the USF System," said Chenneville, who also credited Molly Ball, director of Springs of Hope Kenya, and HIV SEER trainers who contributed to the project's design and delivery. "So, while I am named on the plaque, this award is shared by many, and that is the most exciting part of receiving it. I feel like it recognizes the contributions of everyone involved with this project."

"I am proud to be a part of a university that understands the importance of global partnerships, and USF World symbolizes our institution's dedication to global work," Chenneville added.

Arthur said she was particularly excited to see two women recognized in the area of science research.

"Unfortunately, women are too often overlooked for their contributions to science, particularly international work that may have a collaborative element," said Arthur. "Dr. Chenneville's project and my own project require the blending of the social sciences with the natural sciences. Both projects recognize the importance of a humanistic approach in privileging issues concerning basic human rights and vulnerable populations, and seeking solutions through science."

USFSP's Dr. Hemant Merchant, professor of Global Business, received a certificate of global achievement for his "outstanding contributions to the USF System's mission to ensure student success in a global environment." Merchant said he believes these achievements encompass a broad range of academic activities, including helping to develop the Global Business programs in the Kate Tiedemann College of Business. He also has served on a number of international panels, including a United Nations Experts panel on corporate governance in multinational corporations. In 2013, Merchant ranked as the 10th most prolific International Management scholar worldwide.

"Kathy, Tiffany and Hemant are great representatives of the research faculty members we are fortunate to have at USFSP," said Dr. Martin Tadlock, regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at USFSP. "Their work is internationally recognized by their professional peers and the global awards within the USF System are further confirmation of that recognition. We are extremely proud of them and their research accomplishments."
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Three USF St. Petersburg faculty were among those recognized by USF World as the 2016 Global Achievement Award (GAA) recipients at a reception in Tampa earlier this month. The awards are given to recognize the remarkable work of faculty, staff, administrators and university organizations that contributes to enhancing the global reputation of the USF System.

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