

Education News...

New College Students Set to Study in China

New College of Florida's program in Chinese Language and Culture has seven who have received grants from the Chinese government to study in China next year. Three students will be fully funded for the 2010-2011 academic year, and four will be studying in the spring 2011 term. All have received full scholarships, including tuition, board and stipend. The grants were made through the Chinese government's partnership with the Confucius Institute at the University of South Florida.

This is the first time that the Chinese government has offered a full scholarship through USF's Confucius Institute. The Institute is a collaborative effort with China's Office of Chinese Language Council International ("Hanban") under the Ministry of Education and Nankai University, which is USF's designated partner university. All seven New College students who applied were recommended by Dr. Zhaoying Han, the director of the Confucius Institute, and all were accepted.



Dr. Jing Zhang

Kathleen Brindley (Tampa), Rebecca Christoforo (Andover, MA) and Maya Praff (Ellicott City, MD) will be studying in China for the entire 2010-11 academic year, Kathleen at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou and the others at Nankai University in Tianjin. Both are among the top universities in China. Ariel Hensley (Ridgewood, CT), Jacob Long (Marco Island, FL), Lacey Sigmon (Valrico, FL) and Dara Osher (Pompano Beach, FL) will attend the spring 2011 semester-long program at Nankai University.

All of the students are either studying or concentrating in Chinese Language and Culture at New College. The program is led by faculty members Dr. Jing Zhang and Dr. Aijun Zhu, both of whom led the students through the complex application process.

"I am so proud of our students," said Zhang. "We've had a great deal of interest in our program, not only because it is unique and new, but also because the College doesn't currently have any other areas of concentration that deal with Asia. China has been attracting a lot of attention in recent years, and in that respect it's quite a pragmatic language." She noted that 35 percent of the students have studied or plan to study in China.

Zhang said that while Chinese is considered one of the most difficult languages to master because of its unique writing system, it is the artistic, calligraphic aspect of the lettering that students enjoy most. "They have quite a sense of achievement with the characters," she said, "and find it both challenging and satisfying."

The Chinese Language and Culture program at New College offers courses at all levels of Chinese language as well as courses and tutorials on Chinese language, literature and culture in English translation. Language courses are offered regularly, and cultural content courses change each year covering both surveys and special topics.

Happy 50th to New College

New College is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010-11. New College offers a liberal arts education in the designated honors college of the State of Florida.

In 1960 the college was founded as a response to calls from local civic leaders who felt that Sarasota needed a college to complement its state art museum, symphony orchestra, art school and thriving artists' and writers' colonies. More information can be found at www.ncf.edu. The site includes all the planned festivities to mark the College's anniversary.

USF Sarasota-Manatee Under Construction in North Port

Charlotte Construction is hard at work on the 6,400 square foot University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) location in North Port. The interior was designed by Debbie Graves of Fleischman-Garcia Architecture, Sarasota. The USFSM portion of the building in the Pan American Professional Center on U.S 41 will be complete well before classes begin in the fall.

The new location will host more than 500 students plus faculty, offer a variety of courses and will set the foundation for future growth.

"This move is a great example of community, private sector and government working together to create a much needed facility," said Jeff Charlotte. The City of North Port agreed to provide incentive dollars annually for the first five years. North Port officials also waived all city impact fees, building permit fees and will help with additional parking and security. IBERIABANK provided the best possible lease agreement for USFSM and the estimating and planning team for Jeff Charlotte Construction Corp. worked diligently with trade partners to create a proposal within the budget guidelines. Classrooms should be ready when the fall class schedule begins.

The final build out will have four classrooms, seminar space, student workspace and office space. USF Sarasota-Manatee has served the Venice, Englewood, North Port and surrounding areas for the past six years with courses that include undergraduate coursework in business, criminology, interdisciplinary social science, elementary education and psychology.



The City of North Port Commissioners welcomed USF Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM) and Dr. Arthur Guilford, to its new location in North Port. Classes will begin in August 2010.

At the Master's level students may pursue a degree in Educational Leadership. Due to the tremendous growth in enrollment, they are relocating to this new location and will be providing additional courses and programs including the General Business major.

USF Sarasota-Manatee prepares future educators for careers in teaching

More than 50 students who recently graduated from the College of Education heard a motivational presentation by Megan Allen, the 2010 Florida Department of Education and Macy's Teacher of the Year. Allen's presentation was entitled "Teaching with Soul: Words of Wisdom for Beginning Teachers Taught through Motown and Soul."

"I've been working in retail for awhile and am excited about hitting the pavement and looking for a job as a teacher," said Pamela Melton, who received her Master of Arts in Teaching. "Some people are saying it's rough right now to find a job, but others say that it won't be that bad, that the schools are always looking for great teachers. I'll be excited even to substitute now and get to work with the kids."

Allen reminded the USFSM students that being a teacher was among the noblest of professions, and that not many people get the opportunity to do what they are passionate about. She quoted Howard Thurman by saying, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

A fourth grade teacher at Cleveland Elementary School in Hillsborough County and graduate of USF St. Petersburg's Education program, Allen has been traveling the state as the Christa McAuliffe

Ambassador for Education, representing Florida's more than 180,000 teachers to both the state and nation. She meets with lawmakers, education officials, and will wave to the crowd in New York City at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She is also one of the four finalists for National Teacher of the Year.

Students who want to take the "fast track" can receive their Master of Arts in Teaching in two years. USFSM also offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and three master's degree programs for students who have an undergraduate degree in Education—The Master of Arts in Reading, Master of Arts in Elementary Education, and Master of Education in Educational Leadership.

For more information, visit www.sarasota.usf.edu or call 359-4330.



(l to r) Pamela Melton and Kelli Shephard, who received their Master of Arts in Teaching this May, a USF professor (no name provided) with Megan Allen, the 2010 Florida Department of Education and Macy's Teacher of the Year. Allen gave a presentation to Education students in their final semester at USF Sarasota-Manatee, inspiring them to make a difference in their students and communities.

McCracken Educators Scholarship at USF Sarasota-Manatee helps students

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee awarded the McCracken Educators Scholarship to three students in the College of Education. The goal of the scholarship program is to encourage undergraduate and graduate students who are residents of Manatee County to actively pursue degrees and careers in education.

Scholarship awardees for the 2010-2011 school year are Nicholas Graham, Yuliana Bernal, and Nikki Yates. Graham is an Elementary Education major who works part-time at the Hyatt and coaches baseball at State College of Florida. Bernal is an Elementary Education major who substitute teaches at Orange Ridge Elementary and tutors children in Manatee County. Yates is also an Elementary Education major who works with children at the 4H Club and donates her time to several charities.

For information, go to www.sarasota.usf.edu or call 359-4459.

New College Has a Seventh Fulbright Winner for 2010-2011

Having already garnered six Fulbright scholars for 2010-2011, New College of Florida has announced that a seventh student has won the prestigious award, bringing the College's total to 57 Fulbright recipients. The College had a record eight recipients in 2009-2010.



Anna Osborne Hamilton

Anna Osborne Hamilton, a Humanities major from Saint Augustine, Florida, will be traveling to Mauritius next year under a full grant to study and analyze the increasing use and availability of information and communication technologies. Under the guidance of Christina Meetoo at the University of Mauritius, her anthropology-related project will focus on Mauritian youth, non-government organizations and agricultural cooperatives. Hamilton hopes to supplement her fieldwork with classes in the communication and French departments at the University of Mauritius.

On returning to the U.S., Hamilton plans to pursue a graduate degree in radio journalism and wants to work for National Public Radio as an in-depth, investigative radio journalist and as a university professor in creative journalism. While at New College, she did podcasting, reporting and editing for WSLR, and was also an intern for the Association for Independents in Radio in Boston. She studied sound art at Massachusetts College of Art and Design and spent a semester at sea in 2008 through the University of Virginia.

This year's awards—all from the 2010 graduating class—reinforce the College's ranking as one of the Top 10 liberal arts colleges in terms of per-capita Fulbright production. Since 2001 New College has produced 44 Fulbright scholars.

As previously announced, the six other Fulbright recipients are: Alice Abernathy of Naples, FL (full grant, Spain); Mary Barnes of Houston, TX (English Language Teaching Assistantship, Indonesia); Corianne Etheredge of Beaverton, OR (English Language Teaching Assistantship, South Korea); Taylor Kennedy of Albuquerque, NM (English Language Teaching Assistantship, South Korea); Lauren White of Grosse Pointe Woods, MI (English Language Teaching Assistantship to Germany); and Hannah Woerner of Sarasota, (English Language Teaching Assistantship to Germany).

SCF Bradenton Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Achieves Five Star Status

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) Bradenton Nu Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society was recognized by the SCF District Board of Trustees for achieving Five Star Chapter Development status at the International Convention held in Orlando back in April.

The five star status is the highest level awarded to Phi Theta Kappa chapters. The five star program serves as a guide to develop strong chapters that earns local, regional, and international recognition. Chapters also enhance their working relationship with the college administration by becoming active on the campus and in the community.

Officers who attended the conference were Rafael Ayala, president; Ashley Cranston, executive vice president; Zena Pirnot, vice president

of scholarship; Becca Cook, vice president of leadership; Nellie Woodson, vice president of service; Laura Shade, vice president of fellowship; Roxanna McLeod, public relations secretary; and Rachel Roach, recording secretary. Other members who attended the conference were Willie Braswell, Hayley Durham, Raul Sabala and Alyx Hesser.

The Nu Zeta chapter has been active in community service projects. Members hosted a flea market to raise \$600 for Haitian relief efforts and participated in a local food drive in March. Members joined 100 volunteers to pack 101,000 bags of food for local families during the Community Food Packing Day to benefit All Faiths Food Bank. David Nezelek, instructor, mathematics, was the SCF Nu Zeta adviser.

MTI Wins Big

For the seventh straight year, Manatee Technical Institute students won more medals than any other school in the nation at the 46th Annual SkillsUSA Championships. Of the 942 medal awarded, Florida students took home 109 of them. MTI students alone won 61.

MTI brought home 25 gold, 23 silver and 13 bronze medals. The SkillsUSA Championships are a showcase for the best career and technical education students in the nation. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like air conditioning, entrepreneurship, criminal justice, and web design. According to students who compete, the SkillsUSA Championships are like the Olympics for career and technical education.

One of the five new contests this year was Welding Art Sculpture, and MTI student Wesley Johnson took the bronze.

The SkillsUSA Championships began in 1967 and has grown to over 5,600 students competing in 96 different skill, technical and leadership fields. Nearly 1,500 judges and contest organizers from labor and management make the national contests possible.

MTI launches new Pharmacy Technician Training Program

A near-fatal medication overdose administered to the infant twins of famous actor and writer, Dennis Quaid, resulted in a national focus on medication errors and the need for improved training of pharmacy technicians. This and other recently highly publicized medication errors prompted the Florida Board of Pharmacy to require training and subsequent registration of all pharmacy technicians by January 2011.



Occupational Health & Safety GOLD-MTI students Arika McCormack, Sonia Molina, Christopher Ryan, and Jose Rodriguez won first in the nation in the college/postsecondary category of the Occupational Health and Safety – Single competition.



Entrepreneurship SILVER-MTI students Ricardo Fontanez, Cedanio Bacon, Jason Hrnak, and Joshua Barber won second in the nation in the college/postsecondary category of the Entrepreneurship competition. They plan to open their web design business in Bradenton next month.

In response to this increased public interest in eliminating such errors and increasing technical training, Manatee Technical Institute will launch a new Pharmacy Technician training program at its East Campus beginning in August.

The field is one of only a few that the US Department of Labor and the Occupational Outlook Handbook—a national source that predicts the

potential growth of certain occupations—predict will experience a 32 percent growth within the next five years. Florida's growing senior citizen population also makes it an ideal candidate for increased growth in this field.

This one-school-year, 1050-hour program, will prepare students for jobs as pharmacy technicians in hospitals, retail pharmacies, and other providers. Pharmacy technicians in Florida earn a beginning wage of \$12 to \$16 per hour.

The program will be held at the MTI East Campus, 5520 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. For more information, call 941-751-8479 ext. 2038.

New Director at Webster

Mary Ellis has been named Director of the Sarasota, Manatee and St. Petersburg campuses of Webster University. Ellis has over two decades of higher education administration experience with Webster University, including six years in the Sarasota area. She has expertise with small military campuses as well as large metropolitan campuses and has facilitated the opening of new campuses within the Webster system.

Mary earned her bachelor's of science degree in business administration from Limestone College and her master of arts degree in management and leadership from Webster University. She is currently pursuing a second master's degree in security management, with expected conferral in December 2010. Ellis is a member of the American Business Women's Association, South Shore Chapter, and a member of the Board of Directors of Coastal Behavioral Healthcare. ☺



(l to r) SCF Board Chairman Steve Harner, Roxanna McLeod, Rafael Ayala, Hayley Durham, Becca Cook, Zena Pirnot, Rachel Roach, David Nezelek, Laura Shade and SCF President Dr. Lars A. Hafner.