Message from the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With the official opening of the Confucius Institute (USF CI) on March 2, 2008, USF once again positions itself at the forefront of global engagement and commitment. Over two hundred people representing the university and Tampa Bay communities joined dignitaries from China, Houston, and Washington, D.C. to celebrate this momentous occasion. With a university-wide effort extending from USF Health, to every college, and regional campus, USF became the first university in Florida and one of only 42 in the United States and 240 worldwide to receive approval for a Confucius Institute.

With the Confucius Institute, USF and Nankai University, institutional partners for nearly 25 years, begin a new relationship that will deepen and extend our understanding of Chinese language and culture, and will open up new opportunities for faculty and student exchanges as well as international research initiatives.

The USF CI could not have been implemented without the outstanding support of the Tampa Bay Chinese community in the planning and development of the Institute. Their participation at all levels has been warmly welcomed. We feel confident that their commitment to the success of the Confucius Institute will ensure a vibrant and lasting partnership with our friends both in the local community and in China.

The humanitarian crisis that has befallen China with the May 12 earthquake has left the university community in shock and sorrow. Our hearts go out to the tens of thousands of victims and their families that have faced unprecedented pain and hardship over the last weeks. Through the Confucius Institute and other means, we will continue to engage with our institutional partners in China to provide whatever support we can during this most tragic period for the people of China. Please view our web site (www.global.usf.edu/confucius/earthquake.php) for a listing of organizations, including local Tampa Bay groups, which continue to accept relief funds in support of the victims.

USF faculty and students continue to embrace and expand the boundaries of international programming on campus and across the globe. Events sponsored by World Languages such as the State of Taste conference are a true testament to the varied ways in which USF maintains itself as a global academic leader. International Week, a collaboration among numerous campus organizations, speaks to a student body that appreciates and celebrates its multicultural and international diversity. And enjoy our 2007 award winning photographs by USF faculty and students. They provide a breathtaking visual presentation into the breath and depth of USF International.

Dr. María Crummett
Dean of International Affairs

Touchdown!

In Fall 2007, Mr. Pic Jordan, a former USF student now employed with the U.S. Commercial Service in South Africa donated twelve Tampa Bay Buccaneer tickets to USF international students. These tickets allowed international students to attend an NFL game and to enjoy a quintessential American past time.

“International Services presents great opportunities for international students to experience American culture. Watching the game live with 50,000 fans was one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had in my life. Go Bucs!!! & Go Bulls!!!”

-Anuj Puri
Ph.D. student, India
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Global Leadership Awards

At the 2007 Fall commencement ceremony President Judy Genshaft presented Dr. Juan Vázquez, President of the Universidad de Oviedo, and Carol Bellamy, President and CEO of World Learning, with the President's Global Leadership Award. This award is presented to individuals who have achieved exemplary accomplishments in international leadership or global relations.

Dr. Juan Vázquez is an international leader in higher education. He is the author of 150 publications and has participated in over 125 congressional and scientific seminars. While at USF, Dr. Vázquez was the special guest of the USF Libraries Dean, Dr. Derrie Perez and Dr. Mark Greenberg, Director of the Special Collections Department and Florida Studies Center. To coincide with Dr. Vázquez’s visit, the Tampa Library hosted an exhibition exploring Asturian immigration to the U.S. The exhibit was curated by the Fundación Archivo de Indianos.

Carol Bellamy previously served as the executive director of UNICEF. From 1993 to 1995, Bellamy was the director of the Peace Corps.

Peruvian Ambassador Visits USF

On January 9, 2008, USF hosted the United States Ambassador to Peru, Michael McKinley. Ambassador McKinley joined a group of faculty and staff for lunch from International Affairs, the Institute for the Study of Latin America & the Caribbean, the Patel Center for Global Solutions, and Government and International Affairs. While on campus, Ambassador McKinley spoke to Dr. Jorge Nef’s class, “Globalization and Insecurity in the Americas: A North-South Perspective.” His talk entitled “The Case for Prosperity, Security and Democracy in the Americas,” focused on trade issues facing Peru and other Latin American countries. The Ambassador was also interviewed by the Spanish-language Univision network.

World Peace Symposium

On February 23, 2008, local Rotary District 8690 held a symposium focused on World Peace. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to hear a panel of speakers discuss international understanding and peace. The symposium was lead by seven key note speakers. Among them, Mr. Walter Andrusyszyn, former director of the National Security Council for Northern and Eastern European Affairs at the White House, and H.E. Maurice Williams, former State Department Under Secretary for International Development in the Near East and South Asia. Dr. Donna Petersen, Dean of the USF College of Public Health, was a featured panelist at the event. Dr. María Crummett, Dean of International Affairs, and event speaker commented, “These events are especially important because they bring together the community, USF, and the world.”

From left to right: Dr. Ignacio Villaverde, Vice-Rector for Institutional Relations, University of Oviedo; Dr. Juan Vázquez, Rector, University of Oviedo; Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, USF; and Dr. Javier Mato, Vice-Rector, University of Oviedo
International Photo Competition 2007

Peter Young
“Village Party”
Kachien, Kenya
Grand Prize - Portrait

Alison Thom
“Concrete & Calm Sea”
Awaji Island, Japan
Grand Prize - Seascape

Robert Bair
“Long Day”
Manaus, Brazil
Grand Prize - Overall

Sunita Goel
“In Love With the Eiffel Tower”
Paris, France
Grand Prize - Study Abroad
Dr. John Sinnott
“Do You Have What it Takes?”
Macau, China

Marlow Gum
“Batad Rice Terrace”
Batad, Philippines

Patrick MacIves
“Gentleman”
La Sabana, Dominican Republic

Susan Thomas
“A Child Monk”
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Danish Ahmad
“Bienvenidos”
El Siebo, Dominican Republic

Lindsay Mackay
“Fountain of the Third”
Paris, France

Honorable Mention
On March 2, 2008 over 215 people from around the country came to celebrate the opening of the USF Confucius Institute. The ceremony marks a historic day at USF as the Confucius Institute will help further USF’s strategic goal to become a global institution. USF International Affairs hosted several delegations and dignitaries during the event, including a delegation from Nankai University led by First Vice President Hong Chen. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C., Mr. Jun Fang, the First Secretary for Education, read a letter from the Chinese Ambassador. Consul General Qiao Hong, from the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Houston, was also in attendance.

During the ceremony President Judy Genshaft and Provost Ralph Wilcox addressed USF’s commitment to offering global educational opportunities for students and faculty. First Vice President Chen presented a scroll of Confucius to the newly formed institute from renowned Chinese artist Fan Zeng. President Genshaft presented First Vice President Chen a globe, highlighting the unity of the two universities. The event ended with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and a plaque presented to the Confucius Institute from the Chinese government.

The evening concluded with four unique performances including a high school choral rendition of the “Jasmine” song, a traditional Chinese folk instrument featuring the Erhu, a traditional Chinese dance, and a magician. The Tampa Bay Chinese community, USF Health, USF Student Government, the Florida China Association, and Teasdale Worldwide sponsored the event.

Confucius Institutes’ are non-profit educational organizations sponsored by the Chinese government whose mission is to promote Chinese culture and language. USF is the first university in Florida and the first major public research university in the Southeastern U.S. to establish a Confucius Institute. As part of the initial five year agreement the University of South Florida and partner Nankai University will build on more than 20 years of existing faculty and student exchange programs.

Nankai is a multidisciplinary and research-oriented university directly under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education. Nankai University is located in Tianjin on the border of the sea of Bohai and was founded in 1919 by well known
From left to right: Honglu He, Xiaonong Zhang, María Crummett, Dajin Peng, Amanda Gilmer, Jianhui Teng, and Lu Fubo at the Opening Ceremony of the Confucius Institute, March 2, 2008. Painting of Confucius generously donated by famed Chinese artist Fan Zeng.

The USF Confucius Institute will offer expanded opportunities for research and collaboration between scholars and scientists at the two universities. The Institute offers Chinese language and culture classes year round. It will also focus on educational initiatives related to tourism, trade, and sustainable healthy communities.

In conjunction with the College of Education the Confucius Institute completed a one week training seminar for teachers from Hillsborough County June 16-20th. Over thirty teachers and coordinators attended the workshop. Melissa Morgado, a coordinator from the School District of Hillsborough County remarked, “My teachers were very pleased with the workshop and they felt it was time well spent. I am excited to have this wonderful partnership with the Confucius Institute at the University of South Florida and I am looking forward to many more projects together to promote the Chinese language and culture in our schools.”

For information on classes and events, please visit the USF Confucius Institute website at: www.global.usf.edu/confucius.

The Dean of International Affairs, Dr. María Crummett, and the entire USF community extend their deepest sympathy to the Chinese students and scholars at USF in the wake of the May 12th earthquake in Sichuan province. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and it is our sincere hope that your family and friends are safe. As members of the USF family we want to share your sorrow and support the victims of this terrible tragedy. Please be assured that USF supports you as we come to terms with the enormity of this humanitarian crisis and pay tribute to the thousands of people that have lost their loved ones, their homes, and entire communities.

To support disaster relief in China, please contact one of the following local organizations: China Earthquake Relief Fund - Tampa Area Chinese Associations or the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay. Additional resources can be found at: www.global.usf.edu/confucius/earthquake.php.
The Princeton Review’s 2008 Guide ranks the University of South Florida number 17 among the Best 366 Colleges in the nation for diversity. International week is a celebration of USF’s diverse student body.

MONDAY, April 14th
The week’s Kick Off Event began with live music by student performers and an array of ethnic food. Almost 300 students participated in the opening celebration.

TUESDAY, April 15th
The parade of flags and showcase was one of the most widely attended events during International Week. The USF marching band led the parade followed by international students carrying their home country flags. Over 130 countries are represented at USF. The parade ended at the MLK Plaza where several student groups performed.

WEDNESDAY, April 16th
International Affairs, the Career Center and the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) invited author and speaker Jean-Marc Hachey to USF for three International Career Seminars. Jean-Marc is the author of “The Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas.”

THURSDAY, April 17th
Samar Dahmash-Jarrah, a Kuwaiti born Palestinian-American speaker, journalist, and educator, spoke to students in the USF TECO room about Islamic culture and religion. Samar is a contributor to CNN World Report; news editor and reporter for Jordan Television; editor and reporter for Jordan Weekly; and co-host of True Talk, a Tampa radio show on WMNF.

FRIDAY, April 18th
The Night of Cultural Diversity was hosted by the GPSC. The event provided artistic expression of various cultures through dance, music, and food. Over 200 students, faculty, and staff attended.

International Week is sponsored by: International Affairs, Diversity and Equal Opportunity Office, English Language Institute, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Student Government, The Career Center, Graduate and Professional Student Council, USF Health, Caribbean Culture Exchange, Friends of Internationals, STA Travel, and USF Dining.
USF Welcomes Amanda Maurer as the new Director of Education Abroad. Amanda comes to USF from Columbia University School of Law where she held the position of Senior Director of International Programs. Amanda shares her past experiences and her vision for USF Education Abroad.

“We are obligated to give students a strong international perspective and education. As technology strengthens our connection to the rest of the world, as energy becomes more limited, and as global warming changes our earth, the need to provide students an international and comparative education, and global experience is imperative… I think the guiding principal in my study abroad vision is that study abroad should not be a stand-alone program that has little to no relationship to the rest of the student’s academic life. Students should be given a comparative context throughout their studies. In doing so, we encourage students to engage in a more sophisticated and dynamic level of study.”

Amanda’s vision is shaped by her own study abroad experiences which started with a 1-week program in Paris France during high-school. This program ignited a love for languages which she pursued in her undergraduate and Master’s degree in Russian language and literature. While in college she studied in Yugoslavia focusing on Serbo-Croatian language and contemporary issues in Yugoslavian economy and constitution, and then in the Former Soviet Union studying Russian. These experiences led her to work for a small NGO organizing conferences in the USSR and PRC for more than four years. This combined with her thirteen years at Columbia Law School has given her more than 17 years of experience in international educational programming.

Education Abroad offers many options for students including: study abroad and exchange programs, international internships, service learning, and dual degree programs. For more information visit: www.global.usf.edu/studyabroad.

During International Week, world renowned author and speaker Jean-Mark Hachey visited USF for a three part lecture series. Over 200 faculty, staff and students came to learn about the skills required to embark on an international career. The comments of two USF academic advisors summarize the critical importance of the lecture series.

“I think this should be required for all incoming freshman. It would change their entire college career!”

“There was so many great ideas for fostering international experiences for students.”

Jean-Mark is the author of “The Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas,” a comprehensive book that gives insight into living, working, interning, traveling, and teaching abroad. Since 1990, he has been mentoring students, recent graduates, and others interested in pursuing opportunities abroad. Jean-Marc has also consulted on international job skills for the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, NAFSA and numerous NGOs and universities.

“One of the wonderful aspects of being the author of a successful international career guide is hearing how it so profoundly affects people’s lives. Whether you are volunteering, backpacking, studying or interning, you can be assured that your first experiences overseas will be life changing.”

-Jean-Marc Hachey
On February 28, 2008, International Affairs hosted a reception for all USF Fulbright participants. Faculty and student Fulbrights shared their learning experiences and academic interests.

Each year, Fulbright students and faculty from all over the world come to study at USF, bringing with them new ideas and cultures, making USF a more diverse and culturally rich academic institution. Likewise, USF faculty and students travel to universities throughout the world taking a part of USF to its international partners. Since 1990-91, 38 Fulbright awards have been presented to USF faculty and 11 USF student Fulbright awards have been given since 1998. As of Fall 2004, USF has received 22 international Fulbright students from around the globe.

“Since its inception five decades ago, the Fulbright Program has been a vital and positive force for peace. Many of our world’s finest leaders, educators, and artists from more than 140 nations have benefited from this special experience.”

-President Bill Clinton

Two USF international students share their Fulbright experience and illustrate how the program has benefited their educational enrichment.

“I am grateful to have received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue my Ph.D. at USF in the Department of Adult, Career, and Higher Education with a concentration in Higher Education Administration. I have enjoyed my exciting learning experiences at USF. The professors are highly experienced in their field and I truly benefit from the opportunity to exchange ideas and thoughts about U.S. and Indonesian higher education practices. Additionally, the course materials are practical and applicable for my future career. As I learn more about U.S. higher education, I am sure that my additional knowledge will benefit my future career upon returning to my country. USF provides not only a supportive learning environment, but a fun and friendly social environment. I know I have made an excellent decision by choosing USF among other universities in the U.S.”

“The Fulbright Program changed my life and has impacted the lives of others. I received my medical degree from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in 2001. I worked in primary health care for underserved rural populations in Nicaragua as a team coordinator for a community health service project. I also served as a resident in the Pediatrics/Pediatrics Surgery at the Children’s Hospital Manuel de Jesus Rivera. With the help of this grant I will be one of the first Fulbright students from Nicaragua to pursue a doctorate degree in Public Health.”

For additional Fulbright information:
Students: http://www.iie.org
Faculty: http://www.cies.org
In 1948 Congress passed the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act, to “promote a better understanding of the United States and other countries, and to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Under this act the University of South Florida has been designated by the Department of State to operate a J-1 Exchange Visitor Program to bring scholars in the categories of Researcher, Professor, Short Term, and Specialist to USF.

The Scholar Program allows international faculty, post-doctoral researchers, scientists, and other professionals to spend time at the University of South Florida participating in activities including research, lecturing, and observing. USF hosted 190 scholars during the 2007-2008 academic year.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts hosted two international scholars the week of February 11, 2008. Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey are two widely acclaimed English artists. Both studied fine arts in the United Kingdom. Heather attended Manchester Metropolitan University in Cheshire, and Dan attended Cardiff College of Art in Wales and Royal College of Art in London. Their work is representative of a cross disciplinary approach to expression, encompassing art, sculpture, environmental science, architecture, and economics. Although both work with several mediums, grass is the inspiration behind the majority of their pieces. When asked about using the natural element, Heather said, “Grass is a dynamic element, both subtle and versatile. It provokes thought and inquiries in art, science, economics, and many other disciplines.” Grass is also the fastest growing seed, allowing them to convey a message about life through both growth and decay.

During their visit, both artists hosted a workshop and a lecture in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Students were given the opportunity to learn about photosynthesis through stenciling and work with plaster exposed to erosion. Their USF lecture, entitled “Between a Rock and a Melting Place”, focused on their recent trip to Antarctica and the melting of the ice caps. Through their work, they address environmental issues, evoking thought about environmental change. According to Heather, “To be awake about the issue is one thing, but to be aware is another level of lucidity.” Heather and Dan enjoyed their experience at USF and felt that their interaction and conversation with students provided a forum of thoughts and cross fertilization of ideas.
The State of Taste, a two day International Conference held on March 28-29, 2008 was organized by Dr. Gaëtan Brulotte, Distinguished Professor of French & Francophone Literature, in conjunction with USF World Languages. The State of Taste explored the integrative concept of taste in all its various meanings. It also focused on the ways taste interacts between the sensorial, social, aesthetic and moral elements of life. Throughout the conference several thought provoking questions were posed and individuals discussed how taste governs behavior. The conference also focused how “taste” has evolved over time.

The State of Taste was sponsored by World Languages, USF Polytechnic, English Language Institute, Humanities Institute, International Affairs, Alliance Française de Tampa, and numerous organizations including Pelagia Trattoria, Renaissance Hotel, FRAMCO, and the University of Bourgogne.