USF anthropologist helps police with unsolved murders

USF anthropologist Erin Kimmerle has been contacted by police to assist with ongoing criminal investigations of murder victims. Kimmerle is an expert in helping law enforcement identify skeletonized remains. In the first case, Kimmerle is assisting with the murder investigation of millionaire lottery winner Abraham Shakespeare, found buried under a Plant City, Florida home. That story was covered by CNN, CNN International, KSDK News Channel 5, WIBW, WCBD, Lottery Post and various other media outlets. In the second case Kimmerle is assisting with the exhumation of three unidentified St. Petersburg murder victims. Their graves, all located at Memorial Park cemetery, and being exhumed at the cemetery’s expense, is occurring with the hope of not only solving their murders but to bring closure to the families involved. This story was covered by the St. Petersburg Times, 10 Connects, Tampa Tribune, TMCnet.com and various other outlets.

Top Stories

USF School of Global Sustainability event
USF’s new School of Global Sustainability is holding a major conference featuring some of the world’s leading researchers in climate change, the environment and health. Well known speakers will present at the conference in addition to USF researchers holding a panel discussion on climate change and rising sea levels. The School of Global Sustainability will admit its first students this year. The story was covered by MSN Money, Tree Hugger, Creative Loafing Tampa (blog), Wichita Business Journal, San Francisco Business Times and the Tampa Bay Business Journal.

Ocean acidification research
USF College of Marine Science chemist, Robert H. Byrne is the lead author of a new study which shows that rising acidification in the world’s oceans is widespread. It points out that carbon dioxide does more than cause global warming, it’s also an ocean acidifier. This new study which took Pacific Ocean water pH readings in 1991 and again in 2006, was published in the American Geophysical Union’s journal Geophysical Research Letters and was covered by Scientific American.

Calatrava designs new USF Polytechnic campus
Famed architect Santiago Calatrava was recently profiled for his upcoming work on the site of the New York World Trade Center, stage designs for the New York City Ballet and on USF Polytechnic’s new campus. The story, detailing this “starchitect’s” projects ran in BusinessWeek.

Memory and neuron expertise
Paul Sanberg, Director of the USF Center of Excellence for Aging and Brain Repair and Associate Vice President for Research was quoted on stories on research about turning mouse skin cells into nerve cells and how to boost memory. Both stories cited Sanberg and how this latest research could impact medicine. The study on nerve cells was covered by more than 130 media outlets nationwide including U.S. News & World Report, Health Day, Discovery Health, MSN Health & Fitness, MedBroadcast, Science News and the Palm Beach Post. The story on boosting memory was covered by various outlets including U.S. News & World Report, the National Library of Medicine, Yahoo! News, Discovery Health, Health Blogs, Dayton Daily News, Health Day, MedBroadcast, Health Finder, The Pulse-Journal, EmpowHer (blog), Health.com and WAFB CBS-9.

More coverage on animal that is also a plant
Sidney Pierce’s research on the sea slug Ellysia chlorotica which is half-animal, half-plant received more media coverage. The slug which steals enough genes to make chlorophyll like a plant was covered by the Santa Barbara Independent and was the subject of a catchy jingle written by Minnesota Public Radio’s, Sanden Totten, and ran on their program “In the Loop.”