Story of the Week

Link between global sea level and Earth’s climate

Geology professor Bogdan Onac and fellow colleagues from around the world have published research in the journal Science on the current theories of ice accumulation and melting during the Quaternary Period, the time ranging from 2.6 million years ago to the present. The researchers say that the theories may need to be revised because data they collected on speleothem encrustations, a type of mineral deposit, in coastal caves on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca indicate that sea level was about one meter above present-day levels around 81,000 years ago. The finding challenges other data that indicate sea level was as low as 30 meters below present-day levels. The research was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The story was covered by more than 25 media outlets including TIME, Science AAAS, News Guide, Innovations Report, R&D Magazine, PhysOrg.com and Science Daily.

Top Stories

Student Olympian

USF Sarasota-Manatee student, Amanda Evora, will be participating in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games as a pairs figure skater. Evora is one of four skaters from Florida who will represent the U.S. at this year’s games. Evora’s story has been picked up by various news outlets including national networks and GMA News as well as the Tampa Tribune, the St. Petersburg Times, the Bradenton Herald and North West Asian Weekly.

USF School of Global Sustainability

The USF School of Global Sustainability received more media coverage on their conference and the imminent admission of students into the program. The conference and the school were covered by various media outlets including the St. Petersburg Times (2/9 and 2/12), the Tampa Tribune, 83 Degrees, Tree Hugger, 4G Wireless Evolution and Creative Loafing Tampa.

Anthropologist assists with homicide cases

USF anthropologist Erin Kimmerle is helping police and the Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner’s Office exhume the bodies of three murder victims in an effort to match DNA from the bodies with the families of missing people nationwide. The unsolved homicide cases continue to receive media coverage from various media outlets including the St. Petersburg Times, the Tampa Tribune, ABC Action News and eXaminer.com.

Child abuse prevention efforts

USF research was cited recently in a story about the Department of Children and Family’s efforts to track prevention programs aimed at keeping troubled families together and ensuring that guardians are not committing child abuse. USF researchers including Mary Armstrong, a USF child and family studies assistant professor, are studying the program which provided insight for the story covered by more than 12 outlets state wide such as the The Miami Herald, The Star-Banner, Florida Today, Naples News and ABC Action News.

Running safely

Eric Coris, sports medicine specialist and head medical team physician for USF athletics was recently quoted in a story about the importance of taking precautions, and knowing your “heart” health when running long distances. The story was covered by various outlets including New Jersey Online, Alabama Local News, Cleveland.com, Syracuse.com, PennLive.com, MLive.com and the Tampa Tribune.