Pilot course displays cutting-edge technology

Irena Milasinovic
Features Editor

In a departure from the traditional distance-learning classes previously offered at USF St. Petersburg, a pilot course on autism is using cutting-edge technology that will allow students to watch classes anytime, anywhere.

Mark Durand, psychology professor and dean of the college of arts and sciences, is the first on campus to use Microsoft Windows Creative Zen Portable Media Centers. The hand-held device, released in September 2004, is much like an iPod with video.

Most students currently take Durand's Autism I course on CD-ROM and access it on the computer or laptop. Only one student in the class is using the new technology.

Stacey Solza, a 38-year-old mother of three, said that the Portable Media Center is easy to use and more convenient than a traditional computer or a laptop. She said that the portable center helps her hectic life.

"This unit goes everywhere I go—from soccer to baseball, gymnastics to ballet," said Solza, who is also the mother of a child with autism.

Durand's Abnormal Psychology course, a distance-learning class which he is teaching this semester in the Nelson Poynter Library's video studio, will be available for students to take via CD-ROMs or Portable Media Centers in the fall 2005. He said that he plans to have three to four new classes that use the technology for the fall semester.

See TECHNOLOGY Page 6

Rajiv Parikh of New Monsoon performs at Skippers Smokehouse, in Tampa, Fla., in October 2004. New Monsoon will perform at Langerado Music Festival March 12 and 13 in Sunrise, Fla.

Genessa Poth
Senior Staff Writer

What's in your CD player right now? Is it 50 Cent, Blink 182 or Kelly Clarkson? Could it be Jennifer Lopez, Lindsay Lohan or Nelly? Chances are, if your flavor of the week is soaring on the Top 40 charts, you might be what I call a "mainstream subscriber."

Those who subscribe to mainstream music often tune in to MTV, VH1, BET or their favorite radio station to get their music fix.

But another group of music lovers exists those who rarely listen to mainstream music. These music fans subscribe to an eclectic genre of music dubbed "jam." Their CD collections usually consist of particular shows rather than platinum albums. Their favorite songs may have no words or may be upwards of 30 minutes long. Their choice of music is not only a preference, but also a lifestyle.

While many mainstream music fans can't afford to see all of their favorite artists live in concert, jam fans often see several shows or festivals a year. Jam shows are often half the price of a mainstream concert because jam bands cater to their fans more than they cater to the dollar or a certain level of status.

Sophomore Phil Conner says that he likes to go to shows because they are once in a lifetime experiences, rather than just a regurgitation of the album.

"Improvisational music is a far more valuable form of cultural capital in my opinion in that when an artist presses a CD and you go see them live, that show is never going to be the same twice. They're not just playing straight from the disc," Conner said. "If you go see Britney Spears on tour, that show is going to be exactly the same no matter what city it's in. It's going to sound exactly like her albums, and the dance moves are all going to be the same. You're getting a lot of eye candy as opposed to aural candy."

Conner thinks that shows like "American Idol" are great examples of what society values or prioritizes when it comes to the music of today.

"You're not getting a lot of originality," Conner said. "These kids go on a television show, sing a cover, and mostly depending on their looks, we give them multi-million-dollar contracts. And yet the musician who's been going to school and taking eight years of theory doesn't get any exposure."

Conner says that one of the best ways to catch all of the bands that you like is at a festival.

"I've been to Bonnaroo. It was fantastic. You meet a whole bunch of really similar-minded, very open people and you just have a great time," Conner said. "It's like an interesting party for days at a time. You get to hear some of the best bands around."

Conner is also looking forward to attending Florida festivals sometime in the future.

One of the most talked about Florida music events is the Langerado Music Festival, which is being held this year during the weekend of March 12-13 in Sunrise, Fla. The third annual Langerado, featuring more than 25 bands, conveniently coincides with spring break for USF students.

On of the musicians playing at Langerado is Keller Williams, the one-man act whose music

See LANGERADO Page 6

* The stairs are coming down in Davis Lobby to make more space for students and a second-floor classroom.

* Listening for the sound of a new song? Check out music from the CD collection at Poynter Memorial Library.

* An imagined meeting between Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X gives a USF St. Petersburg audience something to think about.

* Eclectic fare and an intimate setting flavor the India Grill, a downtown St. Petersburg restaurant.
Bill to withhold U.N. dues raises questions

Jonathan J. Huckill
Daily Collegian
(Pennsylvania State University)

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Some student and community leaders are considering a bill introduced by U.S. senators to withhold annual dues from the United Nations will not have much of an effect on international relations.

College Republicans Chairman Andy Banducci said that the withdrawal of dues would not change the relationship between the United States and its allies in any way.

"Hopefully, our European allies will recognize our sovereignty," Banducci said.

U.S. senators recently signed a bill to withhold paying annual dues to the United Nations because of a perceived Oil-for-Food program scandal.

Eleven U.S. Senators, including Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., signed a bill that would withhold funds from the United Nations until the organization cooperates with the United States.

According to the Library of Congress Web site, thomas.loc.gov, the United Nations Accountability Act of 2005 addresses the alleged fraud and mismanagement of funds in the U.N. Oil-for-Food program.

The program, which allowed Iraq to sell oil in exchange for food, faces charges that funds were illegally diverted to the Iraqi government while Saddam Hussein was in power.

Because of the alleged fraud, the U.S. government would withhold 10 percent of the total amount of U.S. dues from the United Nations for 2006 and 20 percent of total U.S. dues for 2007.

"The U.N. needs to be accountable with their resources, and they haven’t been," Santorum said.

Lindsey Fox, head delegate for Penn State Model United Nations, said she does not agree with the congressional investigation of the Oil-for-Food program.

"It is not our responsibility because the U.S. has not complied with the U.N.," she said. "We need an international investigatory commission to make up of many countries," Fox said.

Mohini Valdivia, Political Science Association president, said she believes the United Nations’ investigation is not unusual.

"Since the U.S. has such a big role in the U.N., it is not surprising that they are conducting investigations," Valdivia said. "The U.N. is cluttered with problems."

U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said the United States has stopped paying their dues before, but added that the last time an agreement was reached between the United States and the United Nations, it took about a year.

Haq added that there are consequences for withholding U.N. dues.

"If a country pays none of its dues for two straight years, it loses its voting rights in the U.N. General Assembly," Haq said.

Political Science Professor Scott Bennett said the United Nations scandal will hurt the relationship between the two. "It gives ammunition to those people who say the U.N. is not worth the trouble," Bennett said.

College Democrats President Megan Green said the United States undecided what changes are needed in the United Nations, withholding funding from the organization is a mistake.

"It sends the wrong message to the rest of the world," Green said.

Banducci said he thinks the possible withdrawal does not signal a permanent change in U.S. policy.

"This is temporary, he said. "There have been no overtures for the United States to withdraw from the U.N."

Bennett said the United States is just trying to send a message.

"This rhetoric is nothing new, he said. "The U.S. will probably not cut back funding to the U.N."

Valdivia said she doubts the effectiveness of withholding funds.

"I don’t know if it is an appropriate step," she said. "I’m not sure if it would change things."
The Currency of Fear

Media Matters
By Anthony J. Salveggi

In the war room that monitors the moves and countermoves played over President Bush's desire to create private investment accounts in the Social Security program, the computer screens are officially flashing Code Despicable. As the New York Times recently reported, the conservative lobbying group Media Matters for Democracy moves and countermoves played over the war room that monitors the movement of the Reagan and Bush administrations, told the New York Times, "They are the boulder in the middle of the road to personal savings accounts. We are the dynamite that will remove them."

Such an attitude perfectly captures a movement that sees nothing so glorious and justified as the ascension of its own ideas to the exclusion of debate of all others. This assault on the credibility of the AARP is typical of a repulsive brand of conservatism that reveils in using the easy, irrational emotions of few to convince American citizens that opposition to private accounts puts one in shameless league with those who support gay marriage and oppose the war in Iraq. The advertisement reveals the ugliness beneath the beatific pictures of the patron saints of conservatism, adorning the covers of books with titles like "Let Freedom Ring." It also shows that conservatism still fit comfortably in their role as the put-put-spons of society, even as their well-manicured topiaries dominate the media landscape and their patriarchal tones frame the parameters of political discourse.

Perhaps the mainstream media will find the courage to do what it failed to do last year - hold the provocateurs of dirty politics accountable by exposing their ill-timed concepts for all to see and judge. Instead of treating the American citizen as coasquile in the exercise of democracy, purveyors of the ad desir­spect the public by slighting its capacity to be moved by reason. And within that distrust, one finds the misanthropic core of groups such as USA Next.

Citizens are reduced to the choice in a vanity play. They arrive on stage to sing the praises of the hero, and then disappear into the darkness until the next act. Deviations from the script will not be tolerated; anything less than full-throated evoca­tion is unacceptable.

The task is to determine how to purchase public support with the currency of fear - a charlatan's rabble to peddle worthless tokens for what all else. And once the citizens realize what they've been sold, the curt will have long since left town.

Letter to Editor. Salveggi is a graduate student in journalism. He can be reached at salvegg@usf.edu.

USF Tampa student involvement lacking

Editorial
The Oracle (USF Tampa)

If you would ask anyone involved in Student Government at USF Tampa about the student body and its involvement in Student Government elections, their reply would be simple: We need more involvement.

According to an advertising supplement in a recent edition of the Tampa Tribune, there are 42,500 students enrolled at USF Tampa, but not even 10 percent of those students voted in last year's election.

The numbers have been mediocre at best. Last year, 2,500 students voted in the general election and approximately 4,000 voted in the runoff election.

According to The Alligator, the University of Florida student newspaper, UF managed to pull out roughly 10,900 students in a general election and even more in the runoff election.

So why are USF Tampa students not involved?

Student Government controls $8.5 million and allocates it to activities and programs throughout the Tampa campus. USF Tampa students walk aimlessly around the school, never realizing the true voice they could have.

Student Government is very active at USF Tampa, contributing to several resources that students take for granted every day. Students pay activity and parking fees to the university every year. That money provides funding for the Campus Recreation Center, the Phyllis E. Swift Recreation Center, the Eleanor Burns Recreation Center and the University of Florida Student News. According to an advertising supplement in a recent edition of the Tampa Tribune, there are 42,500 students enrolled at USF Tampa, but not even 10 percent of those students voted in last year's election.

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The sound of (unusual) music in the library

Irena Milasnovic
Features Editor

Eliza Costello's "Spike" was one of the first compact discs Jerry Notaro bought for the USF St. Petersburg media collection.

Notaro, university librarian, said that USF St. Petersburg didn't have any movies or CDs when he came to the school in 1985. So he found a few record albums and started to build what is now the library's collection of 431 CDs.

The collection, located on the second floor of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, includes artists such as Joni Mitchell, Ella Fitzgerald and Barbra Streisand. It isn't the Top Ten List, but rather a mix of the international, ethnic, Broadway and foreign music.

"We can be a little risque by what we collect. We don't have to buy Britney Spears or Usher (CDs) because most students already have them," he said. "The main thing is that I would want students to take out something they haven't heard before and be exposed to it."

Notaro, who has a background in music and theater, said he reads many music magazines and reviews.

"I buy things for students if it's edgy, whether I like it or not," he said.

About 60 CDs are checked out monthly, and each CD can be borrowed for one week. Patrons are fined $25 for every day the CD is overdue, but Notaro said CDs are renewable online.

USF St. Petersburg was the first of all the USF campuses to have a CD collection. Both the Tampa and Sarasota campuses followed suit after USF St. Petersburg began loaning CDs. But Notaro said USF St. Petersburg has a broader CD collection that reflects a better sample of the musical spectrum.

Notaro also helped build the library's movie collection, which includes 5,631 videos and DVDs. He said Poynter Memorial Library was the first USF library to have CDs and movies with call numbers. They are treated the same as books, he said.

It wasn't easy for Notaro to build the movie and CD collections. He said he fought to have both movies and CDs classified as books using the Library of Congress requirements, the standard classification system at libraries throughout the world.

Notaro said he was criticized when he first developed the CD collection. Many people thought that CDs weren't going to last or stay on the market for very long, he said.

"This was a brand new technology at the time," he said.

Other library officials were scared the CDs would get damaged or stolen, Notaro said. If a CD is damaged, it is not replaced unless that CD is for the academic curriculum.

About half of the CDs were donated either by students, faculty or Notaro himself.

"This fiscal year, Notaro has a library media budget of $25,000. Although faculty demand and new programs usually drive how he spends the budget, Notaro said the CD collection is a fun area that can be developed with little cash. About $250 in the budget is dedicated to the CD collection.

The collection now accounts for about 5 percent of the library's circulation.

Eliza Costello's "Spike" is still circulating.

"I didn't know that it would be taken out hundreds of times," Notaro said.

Sailing teams enjoy early success

Anthony J. Salveggi
Assignment Editor

Both the coed and women's varsity sailing squads seem to be heading in the right direction as February winds down.

The women's team earned a ninth-place finish at the Charleston Women's International in South Carolina Feb. 12. Kristen Herman and Lee Lee finished seventh in the A division, earning five top-five results in the nine races. In the B division, Abby Ethington and Ashley Wierzbicki came in eighth.

After six races were completed in each division, USF finished seventh overall out of 18 teams. Andrew Bloom and Liz Boy were seventh in B, while Kevin Reali and Ashley Reynolds made fifth in the A division.

Kevin and Ashley have some of the best boat handling in all of sailing, said coed coach Garth Reynolds.

The USF women are currently third in their district, which will send its top two teams to the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association Championship in June. In the meantime, Jolly is focused on improving the team in time for the SABA Women's Championship in April.

"We've got to be better than one of the teams in front of us by April," Jolly said.

CDs

Photos by Jim Grincker

Poynter Memorial Library's collection of CDs includes music from Broadway plays, singers like Ella Fitzgerald and international artists. Jerry Notaro, the USF St. Petersburg librarian who started the CD collection, said he wants to help expose students to music they've never heard before.

The USF sailing team trains in Bayboro Harbor. The coed team finished first at South Points 2 on Feb. 19.

Davis finished second. USF's JV squad also participated, with impressive results. Grant Lockhart and crew Nick Becket finished second in the A division race, just five points behind their teammates. Two recent newcomers to competitive sailing, Dan Rappaport and Skyler More, finished seventh in B after sailing in their first college regatta.

That same weekend, members of the coed team participated in the Charleston Spring Intersectional at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. After six races were completed in each division, USF finished seventh overall out of 18 teams. Andrew Bloom and Liz Boy were seventh in B, while Kevin Reali and Ashley Reynolds made fifth in the A division.

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A performance marks the Grimes Theatre Group’s first presentation of “The Meeting” in Florida.

Wesley Lawrence Taylor portrays Malcolm X as he speaks about gaining African American rights in the dramatic play, “The Meeting,” presented at USF St. Petersburg on Feb. 23. The play focused on an imagined February 1965 meeting of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Anthony Salveaggi  
Assignment Editor

A fictional encounter between two prominent civil rights activists of the 20th century made for an entertaining and thought-provoking evening at USF St. Petersburg.

Actors from the Boston-based Grimes Theatre Group performed “The Meeting” in Davis 130 in front of 50 people Feb. 23. The play, which was presented by Multicultural Affairs, was introduced as the culmination of its celebration of Black History Month.

The occasion also marked the Grimes Theatre Group’s first-ever performance of the play in Florida. Its author, Jeff Stetson, has won eight NAACP Theater Image awards.

Set in a Harlem hotel in February 1965, the 75-minute drama explores the tension between the philosophies of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his contemporary, Malcolm X.

After both men address the audience, the scene shifts to Malcolm X’s suite at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. Rashad, his bodyguard, disagrees with the decision to meet with King, and begs Malcolm to cut back on his speaking engagements. Considered in the context of history, his plea strikes an ominous, fateful chord.

Once King arrives, the two men proceed to question the value of each other’s forms of protest. Malcolm X is more aggressive of the two, railing at King for his endurance of suffering. As they exchange ideas, Malcolm X arguably becomes the central figure of the play, which takes place just a week prior to his assassination.

“Violence never stops violence,” King tells his rival.

“But marches die?” his host responds. For Malcolm, aggression in the name of defense is honorable, not violence. He tells King that his passivity and non-violent stance only encourages more attacks, even from the black men who participate during King’s peaceful sit-ins, only to take out their frustrations on their own families and neighborhoods.

Malcolm also views civil rights legislation cynically, and argues that those in power are simply playing the two men off one another to weaken the movement for equality and justice.

“If I die first,” Malcolm warns King, “you’ll have nothing to barter with. If you die first, they can’t let me live.”

But despite the admonishments, King’s faith in his approach never seems to waver. “Jesus gave me this movement a spirit,” he says. “Gandhi gave it a method.”

Although neither man can condone the other’s tactics, the value in both men uniting their forces is made clear toward the end of the drama. “Imagine if we joined hands and pushed in the same direction,” King says just before leaving.

Malcolm X also shows moments of genuine tenderness and humor. And those moments give the play a complexity and humanity that enriches it. Both men reveal their self-doubt and pride, traits prominently displayed during three amusing arm-wrestling matches staged over the course of their time together. After his guest has left, Malcolm smiles while looking at a doll King gave him as a gift for his daughter.

“You don’t know what love is,” he sings lightheartedly, echoing a sentiment he shared with Rashad earlier in the play, and turning it into a moment of self-realization.

After the performance, the actors took questions from the audience, offering their opinions on the meaning of the play, and its relevance today.

“Every time I look at the script, I find something I hadn’t noticed before,” said Wesley Lawrence Taylor, who portrayed Malcolm X. “It’s an evolving work.”

Despite the importance that such a meeting between King and Malcolm X would have had, Taylor said he doesn’t consider any major themes of the play during his performance.

“When I’m on stage, I’m him; I’m channeling him,” said Taylor, who estimates he has played the character in about 50 performances.

Jeff Robinson, who portrayed Rashad, said he likes the way his character challenges Malcolm X.

“My favorite line is, ‘Malcolm, go home,’” Robinson said, describing Rashad’s desire to protect Malcolm X from harm. For Michael Green, who performed as Dr. King, the value of the play isn’t in its concert of placing two icons on one stage.

“We need to look at these men not to put them on a pedestal, but to see what kind of change we want,” Green said.

Photo by Joe Girone
Wellness Fair coming to St. Pete campus

Chantel Pfanenstiel, 19, gets her blood pressure checked by Sandy Blood, 45, at the Career and Counseling Center on Feb. 23. Blood gives free health assessments to USF St. Petersburg students and staff.

Vision, hearing and blood pressure screenings will be offered at the fair.

Renée Bradley
Contributing Writer

The USF St. Petersburg counseling and career center will host the 2005 Wellness Fair on the Harborside lawn and in Davis lobby Wednesday, March 9 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event will coincide with Spring Fling, which will be held the same week.

"USF St. Petersburg campus does not have its own on-site health facility, so this is a perfect way to gather the latest health information and tips from all the nearby resources in the community," said Sandy Blood, health educator, who is coordinating the counseling and career center.

Over 33 exhibitors will be at the fair, covering massage, acupuncture, hair and skin care, hypnosis, chiropractic and nutrition along with vision, hearing, blood pressure and glucose screening. Blood, who is coordinating the even, said, "Although we don't have our own health facility, we have several health and fitness activities available to students, such as Blood. "Once a month we conduct Ask the Dietitian, in Davis lobby, which consists of blood pressure screenings along with body fat analysis."

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the walking group meets at the fitness center at 12:00 p.m. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the lifestyle group, which combines exercise and nutritional education, meets at the fitness center at 12:30 p.m.

Blood is also available for one-on-one counseling and personal weight management coaching for students that don't feel comfortable participating in group activities. She also offers blood pressure screenings and fitness assessments that include body composition testing, a step test for cardiovascular conditioning and flexibility testing. There is no fee to participate in any of the services.

"My goal is to motivate people to stop and think," Blood said. "One of my students started out in my walking group and then due to scheduling changes had to quit attending. Now she is walking on her own and has already lost 20 pounds. She tells me how much better she feels now that she is exercising. It's so rewarding to get this feedback from students."

People who maintain their health will sleep soundly, think more clearly, and be more productive, Blood said. "Not all about getting a higher degree and a better job" Blood said. "If you end up getting sick because you're not exercising and eating right, none of it matters."

Info box: For more information about the wellness fair or to contact Sandy Blood, call (727) 553-4114.

TEACHNOLOGY from Page 1

Everything so far is working extremely well, said Durand, who adds that there aren't any disadvantages to this type of studying as long as it's not a substitute for those classes where you need a lot of feedback such as writing or math classes.

Because it is easy to fall behind in distance-learning courses, Durand said that he designed his class to keep students on track and avoid procrastination. Classes are broken down into smaller sections with quizzes and tests so that students can keep up with the coursework as in a normal class setting, Durand said.

This is better than traditional web-based courses that usually have poor viewing quality, slow speeds, and less accessibility for students, said Durand, who started developing courses on CD-ROM as a professor at the State University of New York in 1999.

The Portable Media Center has a long battery life and is more portable than a laptop, allowing students to watch up to eight hours of video. The device can be recharged, pause, fast-forward, and can also play music and store pictures.

"It really doesn't feel any different than being in the classroom," said Solar, an interdisciplinary studies major. Solar said the portable media center will attract more classes with the portable media center and opt for buying one.

Durand said that in the future, students will be obligated to buy a Portable Media Center if they decide to take this type of course. The device, which costs $475, has 20GB hard disk memory and a high-quality 3.8-inch color screen.

"Not only do you take a course on it, but you can watch movies, listen to music, download pictures into it and watch television on it," Solar said. "As a student it very handy — and as a mom, it rocks."

TANDOORI from Page 7

exceeds all under $10. For those who like to enjoy alcoho beverages with their meals, India Grill offers the usual collection of beer and wines, but with a couple of imports from the homeland, such as the Taj and Malharra beer.

The only other place one can find food like this is on the streets of New Delhi, where India Grill owners Manoj and Prema Gupta are originally from. This is their first time in the food industry, and they have enjoyed a growing clientele since India Grill opened last September. The couple wanted to share their fusion of exotic foods and flavors with St. Pete patrons.

So far, everyone is asking for more.
LANGERADO from Page 1

style, similar to that of other jam musicians, encompasses many different types of music. Conner is a big fan of Williams. “I have Keller Williams on my MP3 player right now,” Conner said. “Keller is an insane man. He uses a lot of pedals, but his musical knowledge and the way he constructs things is just unreal.”

Williams uses a recording device called a looping machine to build his songs in front of his audience piece by piece, instrument by instrument. Williams has some surprises in store for his next album. “I think that my solo show is going to be my main focus. I’m always going to do gigs as a solo act,” Williams said. “I think that’s what people have come to expect.” This year I’m going to try really hard to have collaboration be a factor as well.

Williams plans on collaborating with people like bluegrass musicians Larry and Jenny Keel, for March 12th and 13th in Sunrise, Florida.

Williams is one of the headliners of the 3rd annual Langerado Festival scheduled for March 12th and 13th in Sunrise, Florida.
Sophomore John Waller, 19, takes a shot during a game of pool on Feb. 23. Waller is killing time before his night class begins at 6 p.m.

Bottom Left: Joe Terrana, 31, (foreground), practices the tai chi sword with fellow classmate Mike Shrader, 41, during a Shorin Ryu class held at the Campus Activities Center on Feb. 25.

Bottom Right: Steve Meyers, 42, the instructor of the Shorin Ryu class, teaches Mike Shrader, 41, proper sword techniques at the

What is in your CD player?

See related story, Page 4

"Nothing, I don't have a CD player."
Ben Rice, 23, senior

"The new American Idiot CD by Green Day."
Rachel Wright, 20, sophomore

"A Modest Mouse CD. I think it's called 'Good News for People Who Love Bad News.'"
Brandon Keith, 25, graduate student

Photos by Paul Nguyen