10-26-2005

Crow's Nest : 2005 : 10 : 26

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Haunted ST. PETE
by WENDY OWEN
senior staff writer

Ever feel like someone is watching you when no one is around? How about a cold brush across your cheek or an intense scent out of nowhere? Do your books fall off the shelves for no reason? Do you hear strange noises or see doors slamming on their own?

You might want to call the SPIRITS of St. Petersburg. The acronym is short for Services Paranormal Investigators Reporting Information Through Study.

The group has offered its psychic and scientific services to Tampa Bay homeowners and businesses five of charge since 2001. Co-founder and president Brad Stark has been investigating the unknown for much longer than that.

A former USF student, Stark has conducted around 300 investigations of homes and businesses in the last 10 years. He has conducted investigations at many of Tampa Bay's popular locales, such as the Tampa Theatre and Haslam's Book Store. According to local lore, the spirit of beat writer Jack Kerouac, who frequented the store, still haunts Haslam's.

Stark said that St. Petersburg is a hot spot for paranormal activity due to its surroundings. "Pinellas County is a peninsula on a peninsula, surrounded by water," Stark said. "We have a lot of naturally occurring energy like tides, water moving and lightning. It is a densely packed county with lots of people and receptors and so many people living and dying."

Recently, Stark did a follow-up investigation of her 2003 visit to the historic Williams House on campus.

Professor criticizes lack of consideration in implementing fitness center fees
by CHRISTINA CASTELLANA
staff writer

The decision to require faculty and staff to pay a fee for use of the fitness center was made over the summer while many faculty members were away—and that tactic has upset at least one professor.

Since Sept. 1, USFSP faculty and staff have had to pay a membership fee for use of the fitness center, a privilege which used to be free. The fees are $20 per month, $80 per semester or $200 per year. Students pay for their use of the center through the Activity and Service fee that is added to their cost of tuition when they enroll for classes. Money from A&S fees was used to cover the facility's recent renovation, which cost about $155,000.

As reported in a previous issue of The Crow's Nest, Student Government President Tom Piccolo said the new fee was not implemented to offset the cost of the upgrades, but rather to alleviate the cost of running various campus facilities.

Although notice of the policy modification was posted around campus at the beginning of the fall semester, Professor Raymond Arsenault, co-director of the Florida Studies Program, said that he and his fellow faculty were not appropriately notified of the change. Arsenault said that he felt "blindsided."
Waterfront may see expansion

by EMMA SYLVESTER
contributing writer

Waterfront Coordinator Jim Stull recently gave his budget proposal to the USFSP Student Government for planned renovations and upgrades to the Waterfront. The requested increase in funding over the current budget is about $30,000.

Stull, who was appointed coordinator in February while he was interim director of Student Life and manager of the fitness center, examined the Waterfront’s programs, budget, staff and future opportunities. He said the facility has been on a downward slide for the last three years and that with the opening of the residence hall in fall 2005, he feels this is the perfect time to turn it around.

With the arrival of the dormitory, Stull wants to increase the Waterfront’s operating hours to accommodate the students living on campus. Stull has plans for adding

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Did you know that USF St. Petersburg Counseling & Career Center offers the following services:

- Counseling Services
- Career Development Services

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BUDGET SUMMARY & PROPOSAL CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Current Annual Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Annual Budget</th>
<th>Proposed One-Time Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convert Senior Clerk to Aquatic Program Coordinator</td>
<td>$25,616</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convert Dock Master to Watersport Program Coordinator</td>
<td>$29,419</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dock Assistants budget request recalculations</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals                                                                 $55,035               $85,200             $4,000

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ST. PETERSBURG

Counseling & Career Center located in Bay 119
(727) 553-4422 or 533-4129

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Rebel without a permit

by WENDY OWEN
senior staff writer

As a student at USF St. Petersburg, every semester I'd ritualistically buy a parking pass. I'd line up in the school parking lots with the other minions, hoping for a spot. Occasionally waving down fellow students looking like they were about to leave for the day to see if I could take their spot.

Well, not anymore. This semester I have rebelled against the parking system, and in more ways than one. Watch out all of you goody-two-shoes permit parkers. A new brand of parking is in town. This semester, I am strictly a meter parker.

Goodbye annoying hang tags and long walks to class, hello parking meters. This semester, I refused to be annoyed by the gold tag parking partners who would park in "non-gold" spots (you know who you are). I learned the joy of coming upon a meter that someone just left, to find a full two hours of free parking time still left on the meter.

Of course, it didn't hurt my decision that my main source of parking near the Florida Center for Teaching Building is being demolished for a future parking garage. What was the point of buying a parking tag when the only area I wanted to park in is no longer available?

While some would have you believe that a parking tag is really the more economically sound route, I would beg to differ. At 25 cents an hour, parking meters are not that bad of a deal, as long as you remember to keep plugging in those coins to avoid a ticket. For part-time students taking only one or two classes, the meters are actually the best way to go.

Let's break it down: In an average semester, a full-time student taking five classes would spend roughly 15 hours a week just parking their vehicle. This comes to about $4 a week for parking at the meter. Let's break it down—roughly $4 a week multiplied by 16 weeks in a semester, you end up paying around $64. Give or take a few sick days or holidays, and compared to the $56.71 per semester for a student parking permit, you can see it's pretty much in the same ball park financially.

If you are a part-time student taking only two classes, you might spend about six hours a week parking on campus. This puts your weekly meter bill at around $1.50. Multiply that by 16 weeks a semester and you are only paying $24 to park. Clearly, meters are the way to go for part-time students.

But wait, it gets better! This semester I have also applied the socially ostracized practice of carpooling into my weekly regimen. Yes, I know it sounds like an ancient method only practiced by urban 1960s businessmen, but in this day and age of parking, I'm all for it.

Save on gas. Share meter costs. Avoid parking lot hassles. Save the environment. It's really a win-win situation. Let's not forget that bicycles, buses, and other modes of transportation are totally acceptable forms of getting yourself to school.

Okay, so I admit that some of my methods are somewhat sneaky. We all know about those secret parking spots and loopholes that border on being illegal. For one thing, after 8 p.m. street parking is free, so you get a little bit of a break if you are taking a night class. But sometimes being sneaky doesn't pay, especially when you are caught and you have city or university parking fines to pay.

In all, finding alternate ways of parking isn't really about showing "the man" that you don't have to abide by bourgeois parking rules. It isn't really about saving a ton of money (well, maybe a little). It's about common sense. Soon enough, our parking situation will be somewhat relieved by a very welcome parking garage.

It may seem like an "every student for themselves" struggle out there in the parking lots, but if we all work together, parking will be less of a hassle for everyone.

Wendy Owen is an undergraduate student in journalism. She can be reached at wendyowen302@yahoo.com.
Waiting on Wilma

by Anthony Salveaggi

On Sunday at 1:30 p.m., USF administrators announced that classes and offices for all campuses would be closed Monday. Hurricane Wilma had placed USF emergency coordinators into a watch-and-wait mode for much of the weekend as the slow-moving storm lingered over Cancun, Mexico.

At press time, the latest weather predictions anticipated the storm would hit the Ft. Myers-Naples area around 8 a.m. Monday as a category one or two hurricane. The eye was expected to cross over into the Atlantic Ocean by Monday afternoon.

Some university events were postponed or canceled well before Sunday's decision. The scheduled Saturday, Oct. 22 contest between USF and West Virginia at Raymond James Stadium was postponed until Dec. 3.

USF St. Petersburg's annual Fall Fest, which was also scheduled for Oct. 22, was canceled with no makeup date. The next Fest will be held in the spring.

Tomes and Tunes

EXHIBIT OPENING  USFSP faculty and staff gathered Oct. 19 in the Nelson Poynter Library from 6 to 6:30 p.m. for "Tomes and Tunes: Works by USF St. Petersburg Alumni." The exhibit featured books and music produced by USFSP alumni and was part of the campus' ongoing 40th Anniversary celebration.

Features
USF St. Petersburg students formed teams during Homecoming week, Oct. 17 to Oct. 22, to participate in week-long competitions. The Kappa Catholics, Horn y U’s, Dirty Blondes, HAB-A-Bull and The Cru battled it out to win bragging rights and various gift certificates. Teams competed in an obstacle course, kayak race, cardboard boat race and various other events located on the Harborside Lawn.

**SCOREBOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Horn y U’s</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dirty Blondes</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>The Cru</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>HAB-A-Bull</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Kappa Catholics</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FESTIVITIES**

(Photos clockwise from top left)
1. Michael Sundheke, 22, and Jordi Stec, 18, decide it’s not on the Beauty Boxing ring on the Harborside Lawn Oct. 20.
2. The Dirty Blondes, represented by Aline Benjamin, Nathaniel Kurant and Megan Willoughby, barely finished the three-legged race without falling down. Nate said he was more interested by “having tied up with two blondes” than the actual race.
3. Nathaniel Kurant and his fellow Dirty Blondes teammates rejoice after winning the cardboard boat race.
5. Jennifer Raberle, Horn y U’s member, and Heather Willie, HAB-A-Bull member,betch around in a pool filled with oatmeal, scooped potatoes and other ingredients in an attempt to gather as many hidden pennies as possible. This was one of the four events.
6. Fellow students cheer on “Boney” Geold, 21, as he rides the mechanical bull before being kicked off after 12 seconds. USFSP students and staff got to test their bull-riding skills Oct. 20 on the Harborside Lawn.
7. Trisha Worsen, Kappa Catholics member, Chris Korney, Horn y U’s member, and Milton Rosado, HAB-A-Bull member, prepare for launch off during the highly anticipated cardboard boat race. Each team was given a roll of tape, cardboard, plastic, wood and six hours to make a boat.

**SPIRITS**

(Directed from Page 1)

During the investigation, Stark said her camera made a strange whistling noise that she had never heard before. Though she only captured orb images on film, Stark said she saw mist images. In another investigation of the Williams House, Stark said she took a photo at midnight during a Halloween investigation that depicted an image of the ghost of Alma Ward Flint, the mother of John Williams.

"Whether or not it was an actual entity is under investigation," Stark said.

In 1999, Stark investigated the elevator in Bayboro Hall where she saw the ghost of Nelson Poynter resides. As Stark tells it, Poynter is still around in Bayboro Hall because of his love for the old library that stood there during his lifetime.

During Stark’s investigation of the elevator, a strange blue cloud appeared in three of her photos, hovering above the elevator door. Was it the ghost of Nelson Poynter, or merely a glitch in her digital camera?

Of more than a dozen team members at SPIRITS, Stark believes she is probably the most skeptical and usually discards most of the phenomena her team records.

"It’s very hard to be taken seriously," Stark said. "What a lot of people don’t realize is that [paranormal investigation] is really tedious."

Stark said she takes precautions to make sure that her investigations aren’t like the campy experiences depicted on the television show "Ghost Hunters." She finds these types of shows bring ridicule to her field, making it appear less credible.

SPIRITS conducts investigations by exploring attics and backyards and using thermostat meters, infrared motion sensors, tape recorders and cameras. The group does not offer removal of entities but will refer individuals to someone who can.

Stark said that if a person senses that there is an entity in his or her home, they shouldn’t be afraid of it.

She recommends taking pictures and asking for the entity to show itself in the photographs.

*The SPIRITS Web site is at [http://www.centralflphotos.homestead.com/spirits.html](http://www.centralflphotos.homestead.com/spirits.html)*

**WATERFRONT**

From Page 2)

kayak and canoe classes, outings off campus, more sailing classes, advanced swimming lessons, intramural and recreational swimming, and sailing competitions.

Other goals include increasing Waterfront activities revenues and supporting the competitive sailing teams.

Shull also wants to collaborate with Student Life in offering intramural and recreational sports activities for students and streamlining administrative procedures. He also wants to maintain a high level of professionalism in all programs and activities and address risk management, safety and security issues throughout the Waterfront facilitation and programs.

The planned upgrades include recruiting and retaining professionally qualified staff. There are about 14 part-time, hourly positions and four full-time positions assigned to Waterfront operations. Two of the full-time positions are Waterfront coordinator and head coach of the coed sailing team. The other two are dock master and senior clerk, positions that are currently vacant. Shull wants to redefine the duties and responsibilities of the latter two positions.

The cost of converting the senior clerk position to aquatic program coordinator is $13,384. Converting the dock master to watercraft program coordinator comes to $9,581. The total budget increase amounts to $33,165.
10 STEPS TO job search success

An insider's guide on how to make a smooth transition from graduation to "You're Hired!"

by TERRY DOWLING
contribution writer

Just recently the fall Career Expo took place in the Campus Activities Center and attracted over 40 employers eager to meet prospective employees from among the USF St. Petersburg student population. This event offered a valuable opportunity for students to initiate that all-important first step in the journey towards career fulfillment. In an effort to provide additional support to students on the brink of graduation and contemplating entry into the world of work, the Counseling & Career Center would like to offer the following Job Search plan of action.

(STEP 1) Identify a Specific Career Objective

Identify skills and interests, research career fields and target positions of interest. Prioritize what you want most in a position and from an employer.

(STEP 2) Write an Effective Resume and Cover Letter

Include education, career goal, education/certifications, relevant experience, awards and honors, and leadership abilities.

(STEP 3) Identify Preferred Employers

Search Recruiting a-Bull, attend Career Expo, ask professors/family/friends, search phone books, employer directories, newspapers and job-related search engines (www.jobweb.com). Develop a list of 25-50 preferred employers.

(STEP 4) Research Preferred Employers

Visit employer Web sites and networking fairs, search employer directories and talk with employers. Pay attention to employer mission statements, values and work environment (teamwork, stress levels, routine, etc.). Also look at employer products/services, subsidiaries/branches, competitors, career paths/ladders, types of positions and locations. Look for positive and negative information. Compare against your prioritized preferences from step 1.

(STEP 5) Plan Strategies for Contacting Preferred Employers

Select multiple strategies for contacting employers, such as Career Fairs, telephone calls, on-site visits, job listings, mail, networking and on-campus interviews. Create an organizational system that includes contact information and any information you collect on an employer.

(STEP 6) Practice Interview and Phone Skills

Practice answering common interview questions in person and over the phone, positive non-verbal behaviors and develop questions to ask interviewer. If possible, videotape a mock interview so that you can see how you look and hear how you sound.

(STEP 7) Contact Employers and Request Interviews

Develop a list of individuals within companies to contact with personalized cover letters and resumes and follow up with each contact person. Be assertive but not aggressive, requesting a time to meet to discuss potential opportunities.

(STEP 8) Interview

Schedule one interview per week for six weeks, with a goal of four follow-up interviews. Secure two to three final interviews or on-site visits. Send a thank you letter for every interview and continue following up on every position until it's been filled. Review interviewing strategies. A second interview is very different from a first interview. Brush up on dining etiquette.

(STEP 9) Negotiate

Once you have been offered the job, you are in the position to negotiate. Once you have accepted the job, you have less power to negotiate. Realize that the first salary figure offered is generally negotiable. Negotiate a higher salary based on your experience, your knowledge of what is the standard salary in the field, other offers that you currently have and any other unique traits that you bring (such as being bilingual or having a specific internship or history with the company). Other items up for negotiation include benefits, vacation, start date, location (if several branches) and relocation money.

(STEP 10) Evaluate and Select an Offer

Evaluate each offer by comparing to your list of preferences. If you have two or more offers or you are waiting to hear from a preferred company, let that company know that you are your preferred choice but that you have other offers on the table and must let them know shortly. Accept or decline, sending a letter accepting or declining the offer.

The Counseling & Career Center is prepared to assist students in each and every phase of the job search process. The CCC is located in Bayboro 119 and offers individual appointments and group sessions related to job search topics. Please call the center at 553-4129 for additional details.

Terry Dowling is Career Counselor at the USF St. Petersburg Counseling & Career Center.

Women in middle of pack at Yale

by TAMMY BARTHELLETT
staff writer

The USF women's sailing team traveled to New Haven Conn. over the Oct. 15-16 weekend, competing in the Yale Women's Intersectional Regatta. The team finished 12th overall.

The team alternated its lineup so that all graduating seniors would have a chance to compete in the races. Seniors Abby Efthimopoulou and Ashley Wierzbicki finished 7th out of 22 teams in the A division.

Freshman Kim Witkowski and junior Kirsten Murray sailed in division B, finishing 17th.

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FEES
(FROM PAGE 1)

because there has never been a time in his 20 years at the campus where he did not have an opportunity to voice his opinion. He added that the Campus Board should have sent an e-mail regarding the implementation of the new fee or held a meeting for all faculty and staff to attend prior to the start of classes.

Arsenault said the rationale behind the fee is fair and that improvements to the university come at a cost. He said many of the faculty members have salaries that afford them a comfortable lifestyle in comparison to full-time students who work part-time and are on financial aid.

However, he expressed his concern that as the campus continues to evolve and implement policies used by state universities across the nation, it is starting to lose its uniqueness.

Not having proper notification of the new fee symbolizes the deterioration of the rapport among the Campus Board, faculty, staff and students, Arsenault said. He added that with all of the new projects underway, the USFSP community is taking a backseat to accommodate the expansion.

NEWS FROM STUDENT LIFE

WHAT'S HAPPENING...
Harborside LIVE presents:
“Weak Sauce”
Wednesday, October 26
from 4-6 pm
on Harborside Lawn

Harborside’s Halloween Party
Friday, October 28
7-11 pm at Coquina Pool
Free food, music, and fun!
Sponsored by Harborside Activities Board

CONGRATS TO...
Our 2005 Homecoming Team Champion’s and Participants:
1st Place: Horny U's
2nd Place: Dirty Blondes
3rd Place: the Cru
Participants: HAB-A-Bull
& Kquala Catholics

FINALLY...
Sailing Team
Looking for USF St. Petersburg undergraduate students to join USF St. Pete’s sailing teams.
No prior experience necessary.
Call the Waterfront Office for details at 553-4597.

Visit us online at www.stpt.usf.edu/studentlife

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE PAID FOR BY STUDENT FEES

off the nest

Stones roll into Tampa

by JUSTIN LOWERY
staff writer

Start them up and they'll never stop. Mick, Keith, Ronnie and Charlie: They're all still here and they don't disappoint.

Mick Jagger, 62, and the Rolling Stones have been doing this for over 40 years. Despite the band's age, anybody who saw the show at the St. Pete Times Forum on Wednesday, Oct. 19 will tell you these guys can still bring it.

Jagger's energy as a performer is unsurpassed and his voice is amazingly well-preserved. Keith Richards is still an enigma. Strumming guitar riffs with his shirt unbuttoned and a cigarette hanging out of his mouth, he was the epitome of cool.

Ronnie Wood, the only Stone who isn't a founding member of the band, didn't bring his best stuff. Granted, he's just out of rehab, but he was sloppy at times and not up to the Stones' standard. Charlie Watts is perhaps the strangest Stone. He is the quiet one and has never liked touring, only doing it out of his love for music. Having just survived throat cancer, it was amazing to see him out there playing as well as ever.

The Tampa concert was the 24th show on the Stones' "A Bigger Bang Tour," named after their latest album. Fittingly, the show opened with "Start Me Up," a song that should be considered the band's theme by now. The band played their hits — "Brown Sugar," "Jumpin' Jack Flash," " Satisfaction" — along with a few surprises.

"She's So Cold" and the country tune "Dead Flowers" were nice breaks from the familiar set list. Highlights included a funky "Out of Control" from the 1997 album " Bridges to Babylon" and "Night Time is the Right Time," a cover of a song made famous by late music legend Ray Charles, whom Jagger cited as an influence on the band.

"Back of My Hand," a cut from the new album, featured some strong slide guitar by Jagger. During "Miss You," the band rode a portion of the stage as it extended a few hundred feet into the crowd, making for another memorable moment.

Towards the end of the show, the Stones pulled out "Sympathy for the Devil." During the song, the stage turned red, putting the spotlight on some nice guitar work from Richards.

The concert did have some misfires: "Jumpin' Jack Flash" and "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" seemed hurried and out of sync, which is surprising given the fact that the band has probably played them nearly 1,000 times.

But at what age should the Stones call it quits? They're without question the most successful band of all time, still selling out shows into their 60s.

Over 30 years ago, the Rolling Stones were the self-proclaimed "greatest rock and roll band in the world." After seeing Wednesday night's show, it would be hard to argue that still isn't the case.
Dedicated to giving

by GENESSA POTH assistant editor

Although there has been a volunteer program on campus since 2000, there hasn’t been a formal volunteer organization — until now.

The six-member club, which is also open to non-students, is looking for more people to act as ambassadors to the community. The organization is promoting volunteerism to both students and faculty via flyers and word-of-mouth.

“We realized there was no outlet for students who want to volunteer, and there was nothing really on campus that was pushing people to do it or to kind of raise awareness about volunteerism,” said senior Cristina Roncari, one of the club’s founders.

The club is encouraging people to volunteer, be it for one event or on a more consistent basis.

“We’re realistic and know that most of us are students and work and don’t have a lot of extra time,” Roncari said.

The group hopes to provide services to both the campus and the surrounding community that lead to meaningful friendships, partnerships and positive social change, Roncari said.

Senior Angela Chin, another of the club’s founders, said, “It’s good for the school to have a group like this. We feel that volunteering and leadership should be a large part of any college experience.”

Barry McDowell, volunteer and disability services coordinator, acts as the club’s adviser.

“I wish this campus would really put more emphasis on service learning or volunteer work,” McDowell said. “I think young people in particular want and need to help others and to reach beyond their own world.”

McDowell came to the campus five years ago from Eckerd College, where he says students are very involved in the community and their volunteer efforts are more tied to their academic learning. He would like to see the same thing happen at USF St. Petersburg, with students getting credit for volunteering and service learning.

“We are a research institution primarily so it might be a difficult concept to institute, but I think we should try,” McDowell said. “It just gives the institution so much positive visibility and it creates ambassadors in the community from students and I just think it’s a great part of learning and real-world exposure.”

Eventually, Volunteer USFSP would like to categorize volunteer opportunities according to a student’s field of study or interest.

“You can pick almost any discipline or major on this campus, and there’s a need out there that relates to that academic area,” McDowell said.

Senior Christina Barber, club founder, said she likes to volunteer because it combines helping others with self-fulfillment.

Barry McDowell, volunteer and disability services coordinator, acts as the club’s adviser.

“Volunteerism is very rewarding. We’re all kind of disconnected people back into realizing what’s important in life.”

Roncari said, “I think that anybody who volunteers finds out quickly that it’s very rewarding. We’re all kind of disconnected sometimes and I think it’s a good way to get people back into realizing what’s important in life. A lot of us will be graduating in the next couple of years, and we’re all trying to leave something behind, something that will go on.”

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For more information email housing@stp.usf.edu, or contact Residence Life at (727) 553-4162.

Volunteering 101

If you would like to volunteer for the SPFA Paws on Parade on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 8:30 a.m. or the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., contact Barry McDowell at 553-4990 or mcadowell@stpt.usf.edu.

Ongoing volunteer options:

- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Ronald McDonald House
- Community Action Stops Abuse Center
- Beach Clean-Up
- Special Olympics
- Food and Clothing Drives
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Sending letters to the troops over seas

To learn more about Volunteer USFSP, contact Cristina Roncari at cristinaroncari@aol.com. The club meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Terrace room 200.