6-1-1991

Bayboro Briefing: 1991 : Summer

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/bayboro_briefing

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/bayboro_briefing/9
Briefing

Campus receives funding from Legislature

Nearly a decade of some of USF's needs may soon be met on the St. Petersburg campus, thanks to an unexpected twist during the legislative session which ended in early May. After much deliberation and persuasion, legislators approved appropriations for planning a new library and construction of a new marine science center.

"We worked very hard to rally legislative support for these projects," said interim Dean Winston T. Bridges Jr., who personally visited many of the legislators involved. "The success of the projects demonstrates the effectiveness of our legislative delegation when push comes to shove."

The current library has had insufficient space for books since the mid-1980s. The Board of Regents had put off the planning until now.

For your information...

Access ERIC provides facts on everything from AIDS to Zen

The topics ranged from drug-free schools to the AIDS epidemic. The problem was getting the right information to the right audience. The solution was Access ERIC and a man called Sam.

Sam is Sam Fustukjian, acting director of USF's Tampa campus library and the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at USF's St. Petersburg campus. Access ERIC is a component of the Educational Resource Information Center, a U.S. Department of Education program. Put Sam and ERIC together and you've got a successful venture that has the potential to reach millions of people.

In mid-1988, Sam was dispatched to Washington, D.C. and named national project director of Access ERIC, the newest component of an education network that collects and processes all education-related publications for libraries, students and other users of educational materials. He was hired for a year in a pilot program geared to market the ERIC system to an ever-growing number of users of education information. Sam's challenge was to open up the information flow to new audiences, such as parents, teachers, media and policy makers.

"We had a good project but had a relatively closed club. Information had been accessible only to a narrow audience of scholars, researchers and librarians," says Sam. "The education needs of audiences have changed, and Access ERIC needed to meet those needs head on."

It doesn't take a genius to know that education in America is in trouble. Illiteracy, drugs, alcohol, and science and math deficiencies are just some of the problems facing schools today. Sagging school budgets only complicate the mix.

President Bush's campaign to revitalize the nation's schools by the year 2000 has moved from the federal level to state and local politicians. The reform push is no longer largely in the hands of educators. Input from parents, teachers and the business community is crucial.

Outstanding professors, advisor receive awards

Three USF St. Petersburg professors and one advisor received the 1990/91 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and Advising Awards.

Winners in the Undergraduate Teaching category were presented with $5,000, and advisors were awarded $3,000. The Florida Legislature funded the program.

Dr. Sonia Helton, a professor of education, Dr. Gerald Lander, a professor of business, and Dr. Daniel Wells, a professor of English, were recognized for their teaching. Cyndie Collins, an advisor for the College of Education, received an Undergraduate Advising Award.

USF's Graphicstudio previewed work at the St. Petersburg campus' Silver Anniversary Tribute in April. The exhibit will travel to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. this fall.
Book to be based on lecture series


Text from the forthcoming book, titled "Crucible of Liberty: The Bill of Rights Across Two Centuries," includes the first six lectures of the series plus an additional essay by David Bodenhamer of Indiana University.

Ray Arsenault, the history professor who coordinated the series, has edited and written an introduction to the volume.

The book will be issued in hardcover and paperback in September, and will be distributed nationally. According to The Free Press, the book promises to be one of the first major books to emerge from the bicentennial celebration of the Bill of Rights.

Chief justice speaks at commencement

Leander J. Shaw Jr., chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court, was the featured speaker at USF St. Petersburg's commencement April 28. Nearly 700 students received diplomas, including four doctorate and 96 master's degrees.

Shaw urged the graduates to believe their contributions will be important to the world. He said progress comes through the efforts of people. "As tomorrow's leaders, it will come through you," Shaw told the graduates and crowd of 2,000 that jammed the Mahaffey Theater.

Quoting from Martin Luther King Jr., he said, "Progress does not roll on the wheels of inevitability."

Shaw is the 1991 recipient of the Florida Humanist of the Year award, an honor recognizing his steadfast commitment to the First Amendment and civil rights.

They said it at USF St. Petersburg

"The only way that free expression has any meaning at all is when that expression is objectionable to the government or to the majority of the people. You don't need free expression for deference or comfortable images or ideas. Instead, free expression protection is only implicated, only relevant, when that imagery or idea is gut-wrenchingly offensive, morally outrageous and challenges the sensibilities of the community. When Martin Luther King Jr. spoke for equality and integration in Montgomery, Ala., he violated the fundamental values of that community. He inspired violent reactions, and he flouted community standards. Now, that is free speech."


"We had no business being there. We should value their lives as we value our own. They're not another coonskin on a wall. God help us. How angry can you get at one man?"


"Any sort of psychological reaction is important. Sneezing is important. You need to do it; it's something you shouldn't hold in. Laughing is important for the same reason - it makes you feel better."

As a Pinellas County sheriff’s detective, former Navy air crewman and reservist, Larry Cottrell is ready. Yet, on the eve of his departure for the war in the Middle East, Cottrell’s thoughts turned to another conflict—World War II and the role played by his grandfather, Warren.

Cottrell, a graduate student of history at USF St. Petersburg, is researching his thesis on the tremendous effect the Alligator, an amphibious vehicle, had on the way World War II was fought and the length of time it took to conclude the war. Fortunately, Warren Cottrell left voluminous and detailed documentation on the Alligator.

Grandfathers typically enchant their grandchildren with stories, but as a child, Cottrell’s granddad told him fascinating true tales of what came to be known as the “Roebling Alligator,” and how it saved lives.

The Alligator was named after inventor Donald Roebling, a descendant of the Roebling family that made its fortune in the manufacture of steel cable and most notably for the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. Roebling had the financial resources and time to devote to altruistic endeavors. After personally viewing the widespread destruction in the Everglades wrought by the hurricane season of 1933, Roebling began to design an amphibious rescue vehicle.

As his right-hand man, he hired Warren Cottrell, who became an integral part of the Alligator’s evolution. Roebling fashioned a crude prototype from available materials, and Cottrell helped develop it. Initially, the “swimming tractor” took form from a heap of heavy gauge aluminum and an old Chrysler engine.

By 1937, the Alligator had evolved through several design phases and began to attract attention. In October of that year, LIFE magazine did a feature about it and the military took an interest.

Up until this time, troops assaulting a beachhead were sitting ducks for enemy sniper fire. Intrigued by its life-saving potential, several high-ranking officers visited Dunedin, the testing and manufacturing site for the Alligator. But Roebling, who had designed his vehicle for rescue from natural disasters, had to be persuaded to redesign it for war.

Once convinced, Roebling contracted with his neighbor, Courtney Campbell, to manufacture the Alligator for combat. Campbell was then manager of the Florida division of the Food Machinery Corp. By the end of the war, more than 18,000 Alligators had been built by the joint Roebling/Campbell venture.

Aside from facilitating beachhead troop landings, the Alligator transported supplies, evacuated wounded soldiers, and moved artillery. It played an indispensable role in the war effort. In the June 1953 issue of Marine Corps Gazette, General H.M. Smith asserted, “Without the amphibian tractor, it is believed that the landing at Tarawa would have failed.”

By 1943, Roebling had phased himself out of the Alligator’s production, and turned over all plans and patents to the U.S. Navy. He refused commissions and royalties for all his time and expense which amounted to many thousands of dollars, Larry Cottrell said.

In December 1948, Roebling received the Medal of Merit from President Harry S. Truman for his “unselfish devotion to the perfecting of an effective war weapon released without the thought of benefit to himself and as a vital and inspiring contribution to the defense of his country.” Roebling continued to operate his machine shop from his Spottiswood estate in Dunedin, and after the war, he went on to other philanthropic pursuits.

When World War II came to an end, Warren Cottrell returned home to continue working for Roebling.

Meanwhile, Larry Cottrell grew up and became a cop. During his 10 years with the Sheriff’s Office, Cottrell completed an undergraduate degree in criminal justice. He graduated from USF St. Petersburg with honors. But Clio, the Greek muse of history, beckoned.

“It’s ironic,” said Cottrell, “After I finished the degree in criminal justice, I became increasingly interested in history. But by the time I realized just how important a role my grandfather and the Roebling Alligator had played in the war, it was too late to ask him questions. He passed away in 1988.”

The Roebling Alligator, an amphibious rescue vehicle, was used to transport supplies and evacuate wounded soldiers during World War II. A USF student’s grandfather helped develop the “swimming tractor” from a heap of heavy gauge aluminum and an old Chrysler engine.

Cottrell began studying history as a graduate student at USF St. Petersburg, won a history scholarship and wrote an award-winning paper on the Roebling Alligator.

Now that Cottrell’s reserve unit has returned from Saudi Arabia, he looks forward to returning to school and working on his thesis.

“It’s just like my grandfather knew that someday I’d write this story,” said Cottrell, “When I sift through old photos, newspaper clippings and notes, I feel as if he were looking over my shoulder nodding approvingly.”
Students raise funds for scholarships

By Deborah Kurelik

Ask any College of Education student intern and they’ll tell you: It’s not easy teaching by day while working and taking classes by night.

In fact, say professors and advisors alike, it’s nearly impossible.

But two innovative groups of students at USF St. Petersburg have stepped in to help. The Student Education Association (SEA) and the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) are giving direct financial aid to student interns through scholarships. The idea is to lighten the financial burden for students who otherwise would have to work during their demanding internship period.

The students raised the money by working at the Florida Suncoast Dome selling concessions during concerts and other events. Instead of an hourly wage, they received a percentage of the profits and turned that money over to the scholarship fund.

They raised $1,700 by selling soda, beer, chips and hot dogs - money that went to USF College of Education interns in their final four months of teacher training, and into an endowment that will generate more income for future students.

The fund is unique, says development director Julie Gillespie.

“What makes it so special is that students are working on their own time to earn money not for their own assistance but to give to other students,” says Gillespie. “Education students know better than anyone how intense the training is, and they want the interns to be able to devote themselves totally to it.”

The idea was born from “horror stories,” students and faculty members say.

“One student had to quit her job and live out of her car during her internship in order to complete the program,” says Ron Hammond, past president of the SEA and one of the organizers of the scholarship program.

Others had to withdraw from their studies because they couldn’t afford not to work during their training.

“I’ve had a couple of students who come all the way through the program and then can’t make it financially through their internship,” says advisor Cyndie Collins.

“Most people don’t realize what our students go through that term. It’s tough.”

They’re also interning for free, as part of their teacher training. Although the experience is invaluable, it doesn’t pay the bills.

By the time student teachers reach their final level of internship, they are teaching full time in local elementary or high schools. They are responsible for making lesson plans, managing the classroom and grading papers, just like a regular teacher would. The difference is, they’re doing it for the very first time and have the extra strain of attending classes in the evening to complete their degrees.

“I’ve seen a few students who have had to work and they look like death warmed over,” Collins says.

Just ask Shirley Yoder, who helped initiate the scholarship fund. The 35-year-old former respiratory therapist came to USF St. Petersburg to get her teaching degree. To make ends meet, she continued to work part time while rearing two children and going to school.

She wound up with pneumonia and couldn’t work for three months. After that, there were times when she didn’t have enough gas money to get to school. Fortunately, she received a scholarship that bailed her out of her financial jam.

“When I got my scholarship, I cried. It came at a point when I had been killing myself working and going to school. I was questioning whether it was really worth all this hardship,” Yoder says. Although her scholarship was not from SEA/SCEC, it inspired her to create such a fund.

“It can make all the difference to someone who is economically struggling and really trying to be a good teacher at the same time,” says Yoder, who gradu-
From surgery to success
A journey into academia pays off

By Bill Asenjo Jr.

In many ways, my life didn’t begin in 1948, but just five years ago. My renaissance came about because of a brain tumor — “a golf ball with tentacles,” as my neurosurgeon aptly put it.

Recovering from six operations gave me ample time to think, but questions more often summoned more questions, not answers. Still, with months of surgery and many more months of rehabilitation, there was plenty of time to reflect.

By the end of the following year, I had recovered enough to... to what? In the late ’60s, chronically immature, I had failed out of a community college. And after spending most of my adult years in unchallenging occupations, my frame of reference remained limited.

Vocational rehabilitation offered me the choice of trade school or another chance at college. I anxiously opted for the latter while wondering if I was too old or too damaged to cut it.

Once I became accustomed to the routine at St. Petersburg Junior College, my fears were eclipsed by a pleasant surprise — I enjoyed learning. Twenty years before, I found school to be a consummate bore. Nothing interested me. After my return, everything did. I felt like a kid in an academic candy store.

My enthusiasm enabled me to maintain better-than-average grades. Ironically, my life-threatening experience awakened a sensitivity long buried beneath my self-centeredness.

To my surprise, I found the more I did for others, the less time I had to worry about myself. My altruistic activities, mostly with the handicapped and elderly, were viewed as commendable.

In 1988, after I had been awarded two scholarships and earned an associate’s degree at SPJC, I transferred to the St. Petersburg campus of USF. The transition to a new school became much easier once I continued on the path my life had recently taken. I became involved.

During my years at USF, I’ve served as a student government justice, and as an officer of the Circle K Club and the Bayboro Geographic Society. I’ve also continued my involvement in community service and written for Bayboro Briefing.

After my first two semesters at USF St. Petersburg, I remained undecided about my major. Although enchanted by many possibilities, a natural history course enabled me to combine my fondness for reading, research and roaming the library. I chose history as my major.

In 1990, I graduated with a 3.6 grade point average. I also accumulated several USF scholarships: The Steve and Sonia Raymund Endowed, Richard and Niela Eliason Humanities, and a few book scholarships. This money, in addition to scholarships I was awarded by local outside organizations, enabled me to feed an academic appetite that refused to be satisfied.

I also was chosen as “Outstanding Graduate” by USF’s Pinellas County Alumni Club, “Outstanding Senior” by faculty, and selected as a member of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities.

The scholarships validated my efforts.

In spite of the obstacles, it proved to me that diligence would be rewarded even beyond the satisfaction it gave me. If you had predicted any of this five years ago, I would have seriously doubted your sanity.

Last fall, I began graduate school in a USF liberal arts program while I continued to sort out my plans for the future. In the meantime, I began writing for a medical publication.

Recently, I’ve been notified that the University of Florida has awarded me a generous fellowship to pursue a doctorate degree in history.

Fortunately, my story has a happy ending. But it couldn’t have happened without the support of family, and faculty who helped inspire me and wrote me many letters of recommendation. It especially couldn’t have occurred without those who generously make scholarship funds available to students like myself.

The Chinese word for crisis is represented by two symbols: danger and opportunity. I may be going to Gainesville, but the opportunity for a new life began right here in St. Petersburg.

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation for those at USF St. Petersburg who have helped make this possible.

Bill Asenjo Jr. is a regular contributor to Bayboro Briefing.

Jerry Wilder, Western division manager of GTE, congratulates Barbara Lewis on winning the GTE Minority Scholarship. GTE was the corporate dinner sponsor for the Silver Anniversary Tribute held in April. About 700 people attended the event.

USF St. Petersburg offers many opportunities to endow or contribute to various scholarship funds. For more information, contact Julie Gillespie at 893-9160.
ERIC from page 1

community is now considered essential to make schools work better.

"There are real problems out there, and part of the role we in higher education must play is to deal with them," Sam says. "As the reform movement continues, people will need information on parental involvement, teaching and learning."

Sam began his task by developing new Access ERIC products. He added data bases that for the first time made pertinent statistics, government reports and published studies available to the general public. And he put the information into at-a-glance brochures and pamphlets designed for mass consumption.

He set up a nationwide toll-free number (1-800-USE ERIC) that would answer questions about the ERIC system's reference and referral services. He distributed publications prepared by other ERIC clearinghouses that tackled some of the problems besieging schools -- handbooks for families to help them take an active role in drug prevention, for instance. One, titled Ten Steps to Help Your Child Say No: Schools Without Drugs, gives examples of school-based programs that have successfully combated drug use.

He launched a provocative magazine called ERIC Review, a new journal sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Each issue focuses on a critical problem facing education and chronicles the diverse programs, resources and agencies that are available to help solve the problem. Sam even wrote the lead article of the first issue, "Drug Free Schools: A National Challenge." The magazine circulated to an initial mailing list of 10,000.

He also recruited new ERIC outlets that help disseminate the information. Instead of the information being sequestered in university libraries, pamphlets such as How Do I Help My Child Say "No" to Drugs? and Should Gifted Students Be Grade Advanced? are now commonly seen in the lobbies of doctors' offices.

Perhaps Sam's most ambitious effort was starting a national electronic bulletin board that people can access through the GTE education network. "It is quite clear that technology has changed the way we conduct scholarly communication. Electronic mail, journals and bulletin boards are only a few of the methods available to an education audience. GTE's education network electronic bulletin makes information on ERIC products available to thousands of subscribers of its services."

By mid-1989, Sam had completed his task. In short, he took ERIC where no one had taken it before. "Ours was the first attempt to make the rich resources that the ERIC system had compiled and which were being used by the few, and made them more accessible to the average person. We went to them with our wares rather than wait for them to come to us."

Sam has since returned to USF from his post with the Department of Education, but ERIC has left its mark on him. He was successful in having USF designated as a test site for a compact disc-based ERIC product. Along with the universities of California-Berkeley, Michigan and Columbia, USF tested this compact disc product in May 1991. Unlike the current ERIC data base, this product contains the full text of a scholarly document or a magazine article rather than only the abstract currently available. Sam plans to work toward seeing that USF becomes a host for a national ERIC clearinghouse. If it happens, USF would become the first university in the Southeast with that distinction.

"As the modes acquiring, storing, processing and publishing information changes, the universe in which libraries conduct business changes also. USF Library will continue developing into an agency which will go where the needs of its users -- faculty, students and staff -- will take it."

By Deborah Kuriliek

700 kids go to college for a day

The pint-sized Hemingways of the future, all "published authors," polished their writing skills at a Young Authors' Conference March 1. The annual conference fosters literacy and offers hands-on workshop experience with professionals in writing, graphic design, illustrating and computer use. Each participating fourth-through-eighth grade student won book-writing contests in Pinellas and Pasco county schools in order to attend. The children's books became part of the Children's Special Book Collection at USF St. Petersburg's Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Award-winning author and artist Nicole Rubel draws "Rotten Ralph," the star of the popular series of children's literature she illustrates. Rubel was the conference's featured speaker.

POYNTER from page 4

when the Board of Regents approved Poynter's idea of a Bayboro campus. At that time, classes were held in the old military barracks that still house the university's graduate marine science department.

Poynter then led the way for campus expansion. He donated $500,000 to help buy land needed for expansion, and was a principal contributor and fund-raiser for a new library building.

On June 15, 1978, Poynter and other business and civic leaders broke ground for the first-phase, $7.5 million expansion. New classrooms, faculty and administrative offices and a new library were included.

A few hours later, Poynter suffered a stroke and died. Within a month, the state Board of Regents voted unanimously to name the planned library to honor Poynter.

Now, the campus has grown to eight buildings and serves some 3,000 juniors, seniors and graduate students. As the campus culminates its 25th anniversary, it has outgrown the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. The 1991 state Legislature has appropriated planning money to build a bigger library in several years.
Alumni club to elect new officers in June

The Pinellas County Alumni Club will host its annual reception and business meeting June 18 at Feather Sound Country Club. About 1,400 Pinellas alumni are invited to attend. A new slate of officers will be elected as well as a new club president. Sharon Nolte, outgoing club president, will be recognized for her many years of outstanding service to the St. Petersburg campus.

Outgoing alumni club president Sharon Nolte, left, shares a laugh with alumna Pat Sciarappa at the Silver Anniversary Tribute.

Kathy Rutledge attended the Pinellas County Alumni Club's winetasting benefit in February. The winetasting attracted about 100 people who sampled wines from around the world. The event was a fund raiser for scholarships. The Club gives two scholarships a year to USF St. Petersburg campus students.

USF President Francis T. Borkowski in January conducted The Florida Orchestra as part of the campus' Silver Anniversary celebration. Borkowski led the orchestra in such classics as the suites from "Carmen" and "The Nutcracker."

USF St. Petersburg extends its thanks to the following individuals and organizations that have donated scholarships to campus students. Because of the generous donations, USF St. Petersburg awarded 18 scholarships and five fellowships to 35 students this year.

- Allstate
- Barnett Bank
- Elizabeth Haslam
- Cherry, Bekavc & Holland
- Citizen and Southern Bank
- Family and Friends of Donald Haney
- Richard and Niela Eliason
- First Union National Bank
- Goldner, Reams, Marger, Davis, Piper & Bartlett
- Francis and Mildred Harris
- GTE
- Gulf Oceanographic Society
- John B. Lake
- Family and friends of Lowell Davis
- Links Inc., St. Petersburg chapter
- Steve and Sonia Raymund
- Family and friends of Robert Garrels
- Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club
- Southeast Bank
- St. Petersburg Women's Club
- Student Education Association
- USF Parents Association
- USF Pinellas County Alumni Club
- USF St. Petersburg Faculty and Staff
- Louise Bishop
- West St. Petersburg Rotary
- William and Elsie Knight

FUNDING from page 1

of the project until 1993-94, but the Legislature set aside $840,000 to fund the planning phase in 1991-92.

In light of Florida's economic recession, there was some uncertainty that the construction plans would continue for the new marine science center. Department Chairman Peter Betzer joined local delegates and business leaders in the effort to generate support for the project.

But because construction funding was not damaged as much as other budget areas, $13.5 million was found for the center, a joint facility for USF's marine science department and the state Department of Natural Resources.

The two victories are related in that the present library would not have been able to cooperate with the increased research capabilities of the marine science department. The new center will attract international scientists to study waters from around the world with the aid of satellite-transmitted data.

New buildings on a university campus normally need three years of legislature-approved funding for the phases of planning, construction and furnishing equipment. If USF continues to receive legislative support each year, the center would be finished in 1992-93, and the library in 1993-94.

Political science professor and satirist Darryl Paulson hosted "An Evening of Political Humor" in March as a fund raiser for scholarships. Paulson raised more than $300 for St. Petersburg campus scholarships.
Assessing our 25th year

We do live in interesting times. USF St. Petersburg’s 25th anniversary year was one of contrasting elements.

The year included pleasant reflection on the past, solid accomplishment in the present and optimism about the future.

While an unstable state economy casts a small shadow over events, there is still much to celebrate.

Stories throughout this newsletter attest to our many successes and the exciting future we have ahead for our campus and the Pinellas County community.

The legislative appropriations for two new facilities give our campus a tremendous boost and leave a most fitting tribute to our first 25 years of success. The new library is desperately needed, and the joint marine science/Department of Natural Resources facility is testament to the internationally acclaimed department of marine science.

We look forward to these facilities and to the physical improvement of our surrounding property in downtown St. Petersburg.

The intellectual life of the campus is healthy and vibrant. Excellent teaching and sound scholarship occur along with a variety of viewpoints on just about any subject. Our Bill of Rights lecture series held this spring was among many high quality offerings to both students and the community. It is vital to our educational mission that quality and balance be maintained in teaching, research and service.

Another positive indicator is seen in USF's planning process which is now drawing to a close. Many hours of faculty, administrative and community volunteer time was invested in this process. One important outcome is likely to be an improved relationship among the various campuses. A number of significant operational issues were addressed by the multi-campus task force.

Strategic planning for the campus is an ongoing process. Much is at stake, and the careful task of appointing a campus dean is a critical step in this process. It's possible that, when this newsletter reaches you, a new dean will have been appointed for our campus. It's also possible that the selection process will be ongoing. We should be assured that this is as much a priority for our campus and the Tampa administration as it is for the community.

My turn at the helm has been most interesting and enjoyable. I've enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many alumni, friends and community leaders who are committed to the future of USF St. Petersburg. I thank each and every one of you for the support you've given us, witnessed by our tremendous success with Campaign USF. Almost $9 million in private gifts were dedicated to this campus during the campaign.

I thank you for making USF St. Petersburg a reality and I invite you to dream and work with us as we plan for the next 25 years.

By Winston T. Bridges Jr.,
USF St. Petersburg interim dean

The University of South Florida is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

This publication was promulgated at a cost of $2,507.20 or $.56 per copy to provide information about the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. 186-341