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Campus receives restoration money

The first grant payments to restore historic houses on the USF St. Petersburg campus have been received.

State Rep. John Morroni (Dist. 50) presented campus Dean Bill Heller with $199,650 as the first part of a historic preservation grant totaling $399,300 to renovate the Williams and Snell homes. Florida Secretary of State Sandra Mortham delivered the next check to Heller in a public presentation at a Tiger Bay luncheon.

"Now we'll be able to get rolling on making these buildings beautiful," Heller said.

The restored homes will be used for faculty and alumni meeting quarters and an information center. Part of the Williams House may be used by the St. Petersburg Junior League for its headquarters.

Restoration is expected to begin soon. USF St. Petersburg administrators will apply for a second preservation grant this year to help finish the renovations. Work will be completed by 1998. The homes were moved to campus within the last two years.

The Dutch Colonial-style Snell home was built in 1904 by Perry Snell, an early developer of the city. The Williams House is a Queen Anne-style built in 1890 by John C. Williams, a city founder. The homes now sit next to each other on the campus's north side.

April 6 Harbor Fest to celebrate USF, Bayboro District

USF St. Petersburg’s 30th anniversary will culminate with a big bash for the community on April 6 called Harbor Fest.

Harbor Fest will be a day-long celebration of the Bayboro District, an educational, medical and cultural hub just south of downtown.

Harbor Fest will be held on the grounds of USF St. Petersburg and in the adjacent Poynter Park.

Activities will include a seafood festival, nautical exhibits, "Explore Tampa Bay" boat rides, marine life touch tanks, a sailboat regatta, arts and crafts show and live music. A used book sale will also be held, with proceeds going to the campus's Poynter Library. USF’s marine science department will showcase many of its programs.

Children can go on an Easter Egg hunt and enjoy a petting zoo. All events are free and open to the public.

Call 893-9160 for details.
New drug-testing journal goes on-line

Two criminology professors at USF St. Petersburg have launched a new journal that's not available at newsstands anywhere. Yet The International Journal of Drug Testing still can reach millions of people.

That's because the journal is online on the Internet. While more publications of all kinds are going electronic, the Journal of Drug Testing is one of the first of its genre to be started on-line.

"Paper journals are dead," says Tom Mieczkowski, an associate professor of criminology who co-founded the journal and serves as its editor. "When you consider the cost of printing, there's no economic way for new academic journals to survive."

The journal is unique in other aspects as well. While many academic journals are narrow in terms of content, the International Journal of Drug Testing will branch out across many disciplines, including forensics, sociology, law, policy and treatment.

Mieczkowski intends the journal to be a forum for anyone even slightly involved with drug testing. That means lawyers, ethicists, scientists, doctors and social workers.

A lot of scientists operate in a fantasy land, Mieczkowski says, because they have no idea what researchers in related fields may be doing.

"Imagine a house being built with lots of subcontractors but with no foreman. Nobody oversees the whole construction — it's almost like anarchy." In the field of drug testing, "the lawyer often doesn't know what the chemist is doing, and the chemist doesn't know what the policy maker is doing."

The journal will fill that niche by acting as a clearinghouse for all concerned and encourage dialogue among the various professionals in the field. Mieczkowski and Cecil Greek, the journal's other co-founder and technical advisor, are soliciting submissions now and hope to have a completed volume by June. The journal's editorial board comprises respected scholars, researchers and experts from around the world who will review and select the articles.

What's nice about an on-line journal is that as articles are accepted, they will be posted immediately. Mieczkowski hopes the articles will critique existing surveys and explore some of drug testing's emerging technologies and standardization of protocol. The journal will welcome papers on ethics and morality as well.

Technology will allow Greek to make the content more compelling and accessible by adding graphics, sound bites and animation on articles that require more clarity.

"This is not going to be a journal full of equations and formulas," Mieczkowski says. "We're assuming our readers will be educated, but the content will not be so obscure that non-chemists, for instance, couldn't understand the articles."

To access the journal, one must use either a Netscape or Mosaic browser at http://www.stpt.usf.edu/journal.

Campus hosts city's first classical music festival

The first Winter Sun Music Festival, held in March, featured master classes held on campus and public recitals. The event celebrated classical songs ranging from the traditional to the avant garde.

With its unique focus on classic song, the festival blended student education with community awareness by having festival participants perform for the general public.

"Festivals offer audiences an opportunity to listen to music and musicians not otherwise available," said organizer Crystal Cattar-Bedan. "This festival enriched the cultural environment of the Bay area and attracted out-of-town classical music audiences as well."

The students, chosen for their talent and career potential, came from all over the world.

Professors edit new series on Florida

Two USF history professors will co-edit a new series of books dedicated to Florida history and culture.

Professors Ray Arsenault and Gary Mormino will edit the series for the University Press of Florida, which represents the higher education in the State University System.

The series will feature books of traditional historical interest as well as more contemporary issues, such as Florida's environment, politics, literature and popular culture.

"Florida is emerging as a cultural and political force in American life, and it deserves scholarly attention," said Arsenault.

"We want to provide a venue for serious work that will reflect the richness and diversity of work being done on the state's history and regional culture."

Florida's distinctive heritage and character has not kept pace with the state's expanding population and increased national and international visibility, Arsenault said.

Books on Florida tended to go to other presses, some outside the state. The new series will be an effort to establish primacy in Florida-related studies, he said.

"We want each book to retain a distinctive personality and voice, but at the same time we hope to foster a sense of community and collaboration among Florida scholars," says Arsenault.

He and Mormino expect to produce about four quality books each year. The state's civil rights movement and migrant labor are topics being considered for the first year of publication.
The sky's the limit for Moon

Tansy Moon's famous last words as she finished the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in October were "I don't want to do this ever again."

The USF St. Petersburg alumna wasn't alone in her sentiments. More than a few participants, after battling 45-mph winds and 85-degree heat in this most ultimate of events, were unsure whether they would come back next year. The race involves a 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and 26.2 mile run. It features some of the best athletes in the world.

Moon quickly changed her mind, however. After finishing the grueling triathlon in a respectable 13 hours, 10 minutes and 42 seconds, Moons soon rebounded and began training for the New York Marathon in November.

"I know it sounds weird, but once you do one triathlon, you're hooked. Just the fact that you can do — it makes you feel good to accomplish something."

Moon is no slouch. Her day typically begins at 5:30 a.m. at North Shore Pool in St. Petersburg. After swimming laps for an hour and a half, she runs for another hour. Then she goes to work at Suncoast Sports and Rec in Clearwater, where she holds a hectic job as the store's public relations coordinator. Moon graduated from USF in May with a bachelor's degree in mass communications and is putting her professional training to good use.

After work, Moon joins a group of other athletes in St. Petersburg and goes biking — racing along in the dark for a couple of more hours. She's even gotten some speeding tickets for going faster than the law allows cars to travel. Later on in the evening, she's apt to spend some time balancing the books at her family's China City restaurant in St. Petersburg.

Now she's training for the Boston Marathon in April, and planning her wedding.

She's only been running about five years, after her boyfriend encouraged her to start training. George Mayforth, also a triathlete, is now Moon's fiance. Before she met him, Moon says, she would never be seen in public in her bathing suit. Not that she was fat — she's only lost 10 pounds since her regime began — but doubted she was fit enough to be on the beach.

"I used to have big hair and wear a lot of make up, too," she says, laughing. "Now my priorities have changed. I don't have time to primp." Her locks now are short and easy to style, allowing her to go from sport to sport without suffering bad hair days.

Moon was always competitive in other aspects of her life, so when she started exercising it was natural to push herself hard and start competing in races. She likes long distance runs because her times are better.

Her free time is spent training. When not running, swimming or biking, she's usually lifting weights. But she's made a tight circle of friends through sports, socializing while working out. "We're totally obsessed but we're normal. We're like a family."

Saturdays usually find Moon and Mayforth on a 100-mile ride, replete with rough terrain and hills, through Jacksonville on their road bikes. Moon says it's a good way to relax. She and Mayforth even got engaged last year on the eve of the Timex Ironman Canada triathlon in British Columbia. On top of that good news, both qualified for the Hawaii Ironman.

She's a natural for working in a sporting goods store. She practices what she preaches and she has the opportunity to learn about other sports as well. She'd like to learn to scuba dive and golf.

"Anything I do in the future will be sports-related. I know I'm not fast enough to be a professional athlete, but I can rank (high enough) to make it to the Hawaii triathlon — that's enough for me."

— Deborah Kurelik

Presidential debate comes to St. Pete — USF to host public forums

Score a big one for USF and for St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg will host one of three nationally televised Presidential debates Oct. 9, thanks in large part to the city's affiliation with USF, along with the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the St. Petersburg Times, which is underwriting the event.

The Commission on Presidential Debates selected USF and St. Petersburg from more than 40 universities and cities competing for the honor. If all goes as planned, the live, 90-minute debate in the Mahaffey Theater next to USF St. Petersburg will be the only one to be held as a town meeting, where citizens can ask questions of President Bill Clinton and the Republican challenger.

USF will conduct classes and public forums tied to the debate, and provide student interns for the event.

Janet H. Brown, executive director of the debate commission, said the university's role in the debate was an important part of the decision.

"The university's educational proposal was particularly creative and caught the attention of our board of directors," Brown said. "The St. Petersburg proposal was first-rate, and the USF part was impressive."
Campus Dean Bill Heller was named to carry the Olympic Flame for part of its relay journey from Florida to Atlanta for the 1996 Summer Olympics scheduled there. He will tote the flame for more than a half mile sometime in April.

Designated a "community hero" by the United Way and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Heller is one of 66 people from the Tampa Bay area selected to carry the torch. About 400 people locally were nominated. Although he's deeply honored by the designation, Heller doesn't think he's a hero by any means. "A hero is one who risks his life to save someone else's," Heller says. "I'm just trying to do my small part to help improve the quality of life in Pinellas County."

All modesty aside, Heller has touched a lot of people since he became executive officer and dean of the St. Petersburg campus almost four years ago. He has committed himself to serving the community by strongly supporting such organizations as the Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens, the American Heart Association (for which he recently led a fundraising walk), and the St. Petersburg and Clearwater chambers of commerce. He has served on the boards and as a volunteer for these organizations, as well as offering time and financial support to the Florida International Museum, the Center Against Spouse Abuse, Head Start, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, First Night in St. Petersburg and the Society for Prevention to Cruelty to Animals.

Heller also works closely with Pinellas public schools and spearheaded the teaching of ethics in elementary schools. Instrumental in salvaging a drop-out prevention program for at-risk adolescents, Heller brought the Oasis Program to the USF St. Petersburg campus. This program helps as many as 80 students a year stay in school.

Because he is concerned with social problems in the area surrounding the campus, Heller is working to create an urban studies center that will address racial and ethnic issues affecting the local community. He endorses diversity efforts, such as the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, and guarantees that local underprivileged children have a happy Christmas through Operation Santa Claus, the campus's holiday gift drive.

"I really like the people here — they are wonderful to know and to work with. I'm just giving back a little of what I receive so much of."