5-4-2011

Panel 30: Waterfront Learning that Makes a Difference

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The University of South Florida St. Petersburg’s waterfront location makes it an ideal place for learning. All students—regardless of their major—can enjoy a relaxing harborside environment between classes.

Some classes offer students the opportunity to get their feet wet. The Environmental Science, Policy and Geography faculty conduct many of their seminars along Florida’s coastal habitats. A popular “Rivers of Florida” course in the Florida Studies Program of Distinction gave class members a new appreciation for the delicate balance between nature and patterns of human settlement. Graduate students, faculty, and researchers in USF’s College of Marine Science enjoy partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies that come together as the largest oceanographic research center in the southeastern United States.

A Buoyant Classroom

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Cliff “Sea” Bare—director of the USF Watercraft Program—ran a tight ship at Haney Landing. With the help of his “crew”—Matthew, Kendra, Chris, Scott, and other student assistants—Cliff taught more than a few landlubbers how to launch their dinghies into the harbor without tipping over.

Soaking Up the Scholarship

The University of South Florida provides a variety of academic resources to enhance waterfront learning. The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library includes an impressive array of print, digital, and special collections that support all areas of the curriculum offered at USF St. Petersburg and in the College of Marine Science. Research laboratories, vessels, and enhanced technologies provide new opportunities to conduct studies on oceans and waterways, marine life and environment, and remote sensing. These resources are available for students of all ages—even middle school students who attend the popular summertime Oceanography Camp for Girls.

Scholarship conducted along the harbor—whether in Marine Science, Geography, Business, Education, or the Liberal Arts—incorporates the academic resources and unique dynamics of our campus into research of local, regional, and global significance.