

4-1-2004

Road to the White House

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Recommended Citation

Kickliter, Holly, "Road to the White House" (2004). *USF magazine Articles about USFSP*. 34.
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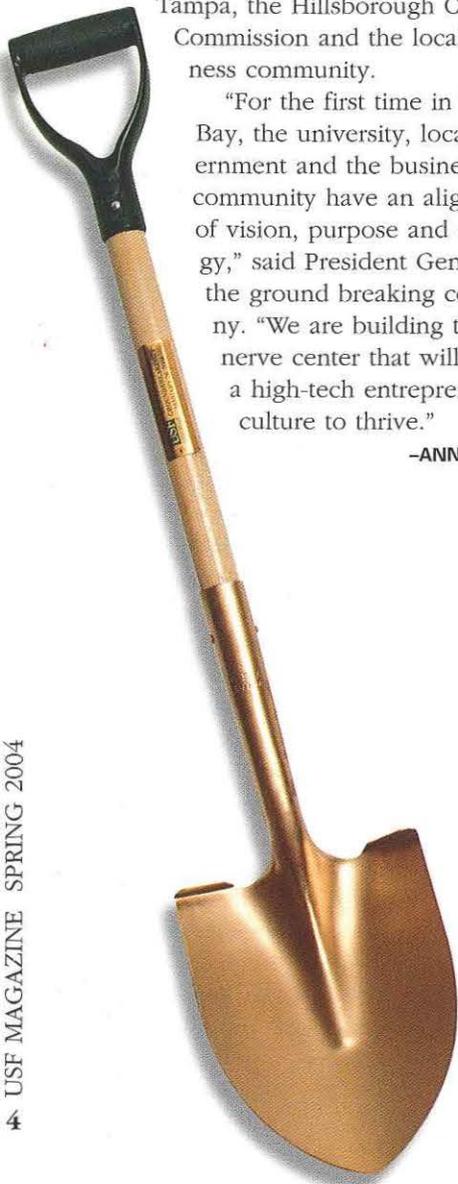
Research Park Rising

USF has broken ground on the first two buildings in its bio-engineering and life sciences research park.

■ The two new buildings will provide more than 230,000 square feet for laboratories, offices for corporate partners, an expanded 30,000 square-foot business incubator and the Center for Biological Defense. The buildings are a partnership between USF, the USF Foundation, the City of Tampa, the Hillsborough County Commission and the local business community.

"For the first time in Tampa Bay, the university, local government and the business community have an alignment of vision, purpose and strategy," said President Genshaft at the ground breaking ceremony. "We are building the nerve center that will allow a high-tech entrepreneurial culture to thrive."

—ANN CARNEY



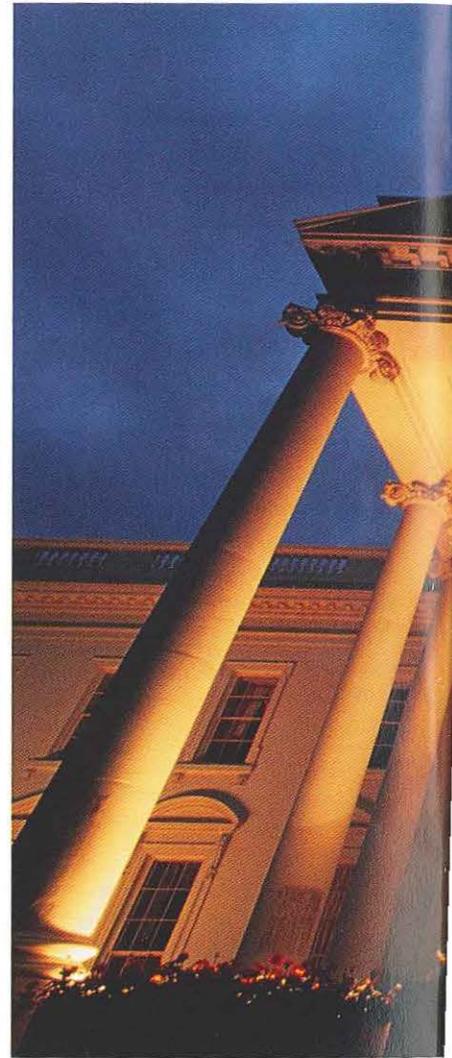
Road to the White House

Reality coursework has hit students at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. In a one-of-a-kind political science course called The Road to the White House, USF students explored the history and politics of presidential campaigns real-time this election year.

■ While pundits across the nation were still digesting the Iowa caucus results in January, 21 USF St. Petersburg students were seeing just how bumpy the road to the White House can be. Students spent 10 days in New Hampshire interning with presidential candidates as they stumped toward the nation's first primary.

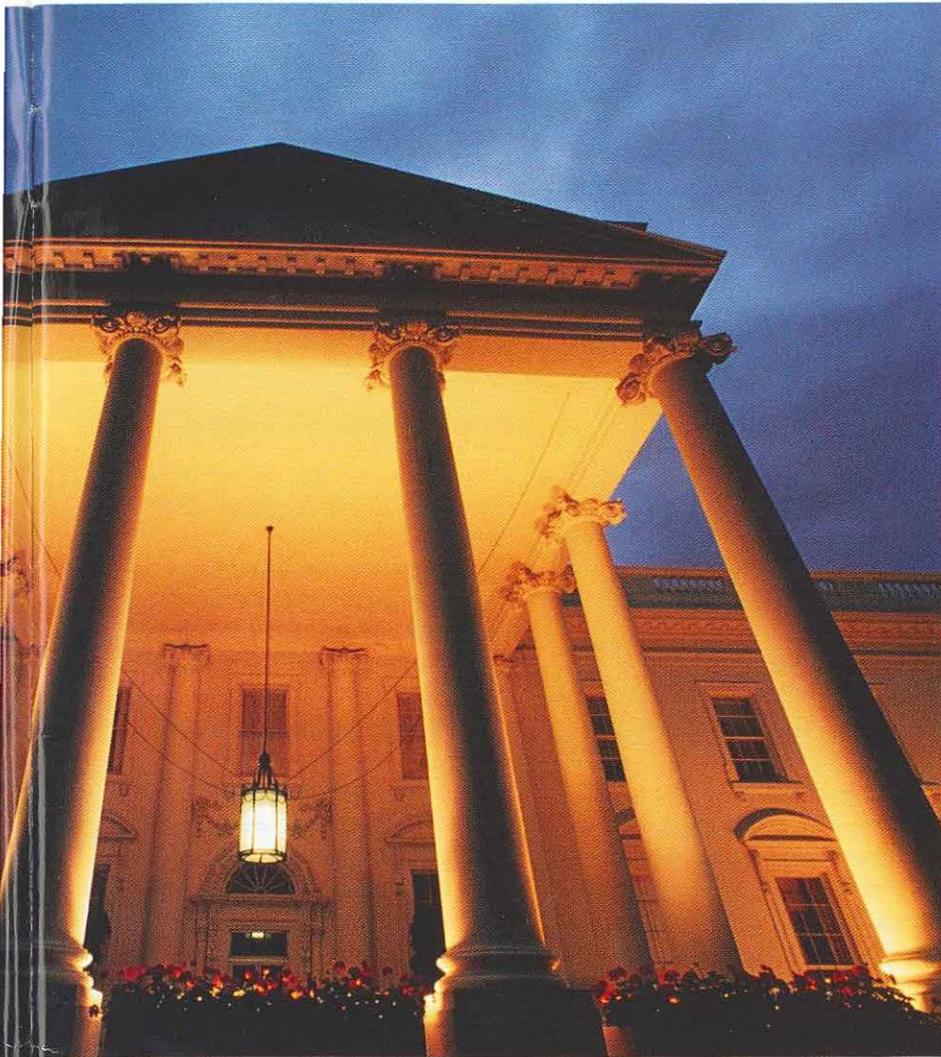
While in New Hampshire, USF St. Petersburg students hit the campaign trail for every one of the six Democratic candidate teams campaigning in Nashua and Manchester. The largest USF group, seven students, worked the Dean campaign, and three Republicans elected to serve the Bush-Cheney re-election effort.

Students were impressed by the retail politics and grassroots campaigning that characterize presidential primary campaigns in New Hampshire. Student Julie Petrick, in an interview with WUSF, explained, "The cool thing about New Hampshire is that it's democracy at its best. It's normal people, middle-class working people, getting to meet with every single candidate. You're just sitting in a restaurant and they'll walk through the door, and they [presidential candidates] want to talk to you! And people expect that here. They want to meet every candidate before they decide who to vote for."



Chad Thereau, an intern for Senator John Kerry, described the New Hampshire experience as "one of the most exciting and memorable experiences of my life. In just 10 days everybody was immersed in real politics, not from reading a book or sitting through a lecture, but actually experiencing what happens in political campaigns."

Students averaged more than 10 hours a day on campaign work and experienced the intensity that propels political campaigns. In fact, students at a Howard Dean rally were surprised when the governor publicly acknowledged their work. His tongue-in-cheek tribute thanked



MICHAEL MELFORD/BETTY IMAGES

“our frozen Floridians from the University of South Florida for all of their hard work this week.”

Seminars were led and internships supervised by Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, a former White House staffer and veteran presidential campaigner with extensive political experience in New Hampshire. Seminars covered the presidential nominating process, national conventions, voting behavior, campaign finance, third party and independent candidates, the Electoral College, the role of the media and predicting presidential elections.

“While political science students

across the country watched CNN, USF St. Petersburg students were inside the campaigns,” McLauchlan said. “They were canvassing neighborhoods and literature dropping, staffing rallies and working around the clock for their candidates.”

The class met every morning for seminars and field trips. They met pollsters, party leaders and political scientists to learn more about the history and politics of the New Hampshire primary. Their itinerary included meetings with notables like pollster Andy Smith, director of the Survey Center at the University of New Hampshire and Dante Scala of the New Hampshire

Institute of Politics, author of a required text.

While in New Hampshire, students chronicled their campaign experiences in a daily weblog www.stpt.usf.edu/whitehouse. Journals and a paper about their internship experience were turned in for grading upon their return to St. Petersburg. These journals, “blogs” and internship papers will form the basis of a book McLauchlan is editing about the course. In addition, a student with extensive photojournalism expertise enrolled in the course is producing a documentary of the class experience in New Hampshire.

—HOLLY KICKLITER

Best in the Business

Following an intense competition involving 26 major universities, the United States Association for Small Business Entrepreneurship (USASBE) named USF’s Life Sciences Entrepreneurship program number one in the nation.

■ USF’s program was commended as a national model that could be exported to universities across the nation. The top ranking puts USF in good company. Last year Stanford University was awarded the highly coveted designation.

The Life Sciences Entrepreneurship program is a collaborative effort between the Center for Entrepreneurship, the Health Sciences Center, Honors College and the colleges of Business Administration, Engineering and Arts & Sciences.

USF beat out finalists Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Hawaii for first place honors.

—ANN CARNEY