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Well Read

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Scholarships based on donations committed to this program.

Coston, a sophomore headed for a degree in mass communications and a career in film and television production, also is pleased by the impact of the First Generation Scholarship on his studies.

"The time I was putting into work I can now spend on studying and going over my coursework," says Coston, a graduate of Robinson High School in Tampa. "It saves me a lot of working time."

Coston, the first in his family to graduate from high school and the first to go to college, echoed White's hopes for the indirect results of his college studies, in terms of affecting siblings and cousins.

"I see myself as raising the bar for the rest of my family members, to show them that it's possible," he says. "My younger cousins got excited about me going to college."

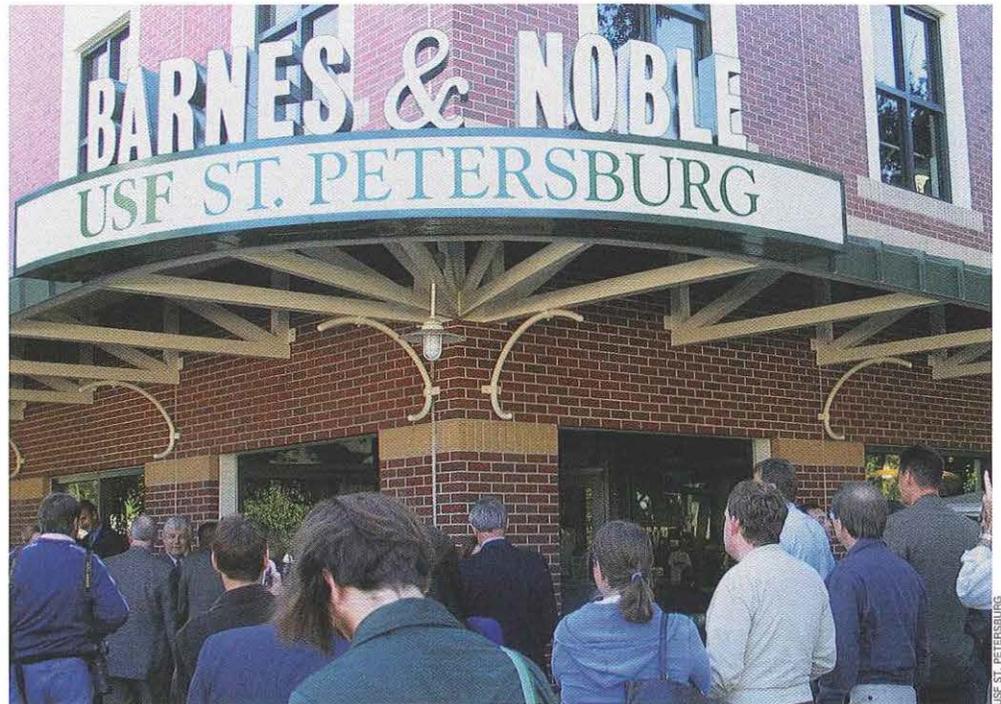
Alvarado, a freshman taking pre-med classes, agrees with Coston and White on the difference that her First Generation Scholarship has made, in terms of enabling her to focus more intently on her school work.

"I have a work-study job on campus, and I would probably be working more hours there if not for the scholarship," she says.

Alvarado, a graduate of Middleton High School, with family roots in Puerto Rico, hopes to someday use her medical expertise to help underprivileged people in Latin America, Africa and elsewhere. She has already gained practical experience, shadowing nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

"I always liked helping people," she says. "I'm thinking about going to poor countries and helping people there. They don't have enough medical support. I just want to help them, and to teach them how to take care of themselves."

-PHILIP BOOTH



USF ST. PETERSBURG'S NEW BARNES & NOBLE OPENED IN THE FALL. USF FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AND LOCAL RESIDENTS FLOODED THE STORE.

Well Read

Faculty, staff, students and community members recently celebrated the grand opening of Barnes & Noble USF St. Petersburg—the first major chain bookstore in downtown St. Petersburg.

■ The 10,000 square-foot superstore, located on the USF St. Petersburg campus, includes a special section for faculty authors, an expanded reading section and a café featuring Starbucks® products. The store is open seven days a week.

"I love it. I love books and bookstores, and I love coffee. So this is a perfect combination for me. It rounds out downtown," said St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker at the grand opening event in October.

For students, the superstore is a welcome addition.

"It's a great place for students to

meet up for study groups or even to grab a quick bite to eat," says Megan Willoughby, Student Government president. "There is a steady stream of students walking to and from the store throughout the day."

Children from the YWCA Family Village Pre-K class visited the store on opening day for its first story time by College of Education student Melissa Harvey.

"It's great to walk by the store and see the campus and community enjoying our bookstore," says Karen White, regional chancellor. "It has helped make downtown and the campus more vibrant."

The opening of the new bookstore came just in time for the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading and correlates with USF St. Petersburg and the city's recent growth. The university just opened its first residence hall and parking garage in August.

-ERIKA LLENZA