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Elliott Stern : Green and Golden

University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Office of University Advancement.

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Few have impacted the visibility of USF St. Petersburg as much as Elliott Stern. In the early ‘80s, when Elliott was USFSP Student Government president, he tired of having to explain that he attended USF . . . in St. Petersburg. So, he initiated his “identity plan.” The message: “There’s Class in St. Pete.” The design featured text written to look like chalk on a slate board (like an old-fashioned blackboard) – and was transferred to billboards around the Pinellas County. Bumper stickers were handed out to students at registration. The consummate salesman, Elliott arranged for all of these products and services to be donated! The USFSP Bookstore also participated, selling tee shirts and other novelties featuring the popular “There’s Class in St. Pete” design.

Elliott worked for Raymond James & Associates for more than 23 years before retiring in 2008 as a senior vice president. Over the years, he has been an adjunct instructor at USFSP, Eckerd College, and Hillsborough Community College. Elliott has also served on the Board of Directors for the Pinellas Education Foundation and was a candidate for the Pinellas County School Board in 2012. Currently, he is a business consultant. Elliott has stayed connected to his Alma Mater in various ways: member of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business Advisory Board, donor, and alumni committee chair for USFSP’s 40th anniversary celebration. For these achievements, among many others, Elliott received the 2006 Regional Chancellor’s Award from the USF Pinellas County Alumni Chapter.
“Hamilton Stirling, Gene McClung, Maryanne Rouse were memorable professors, one and all. I remember the excitement of going from the Quonset hut classrooms to real brick and mortar facilities.”

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