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Did You Know?

March, 2003

- The USF St. Petersburg Planning Statements indicate the unprecedented period of rapid change the campus is undergoing. Following campus-wide and external community input, the Campus Board approved the document in February. The statement sets out the mission, values, vision and goals of the campus that will help define the university’s role, responsibilities, activities and actions. The document is printed on the back of this issue of "Did You Know"?

- After the first round of face-to-face interviews in late February, seven candidates remain in consideration to serve as the next Vice President and CEO of USF St. Petersburg. The candidates were selected for reference checking and for further discussion by the Search Committee on March 17. From this next meeting it is expected that several candidates will be brought to campus for a more intensive round of interviews the week of March 24. A short list of finalists will be recommended to President Judy Genshaft by early April.

- USF St. Petersburg and USF’s College of Marine Science have developed a new and exciting proposal to build a world-class, state-of-the-art USF Science and Technology Complex in downtown St. Petersburg. This innovative plan envisions bringing students, professors, and scientists together with public and private developers. The plan promises to strengthen existing undergraduate and graduate education programs at the University of South Florida, creating a talented scientifically-skilled workforce—one without match—that will challenge the cutting edge of micro- and biomedical technology. This collaboration will lead to exciting discoveries and burgeoning economic growth by attracting clean and light industry to downtown St. Petersburg. Call (727) 543-3456 if you would like more information.

- Two women very important to USF St. Petersburg are being recognized for their work in the community. Kathy Arsenault, dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, is a finalist for the Woman of Distinction award, presented annually by the Women’s Council of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Town and Gown President, Carol Lonquist Russell, is a finalist for the Community Service Woman of the Year award. Winners will be announced at the 2003 Women’s Symposium on March 21, at which Madame Jehan Sadat will be the guest speaker.

- Nine of the 16 teachers who were finalists for Outstanding Teacher in Pinellas County for 2003 are graduates of the University of South Florida. Honored in January by the Pinellas County Education Foundation were Robert Kalach ’94, Donna Kane ’87, Diane M. Church-Smith ’87, Carol Dinsdale ’90, Diane Jarrell ’79, Linda Fairman ’86, Catherine Klein ’83, Linda Vest, and Becky Bride ’80 winner of the Creative and Innovation category.

- A staff member of the College of Marine Science has expanded beyond fish to film. Kristen Kuske from the Center for Ocean Technology and a five-member team she spearheaded have produced a series of educational materials in conjunction with the upcoming release of an IMAX film. “Volcanoes of the Deep Sea” focuses on an enormous underwater mountain range called the Mid-Ocean Ridge where hydrothermal vents rise from the ocean bottom. Work for Kuske's outreach team began with a month-long film and research excursion from San Diego, California, to Manzanillo, Mexico, in November 1999, followed by another month-long expedition from the Azores to Bermuda in August 2001. The film, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, will be released in June and is featured in the February issue of National Geographic magazine.

- An underwater bomb-spotting robot developed by the Center for Ocean Technology is being featured in a series of national ads. Enterprise Florida is highlighting the torpedo-like vehicle in a series of ads placed in half a dozen major national business and financial magazines such as Business Week, Inc., and Forbes that will appear in the influential markets of New York, Chicago, Boston, and Atlanta. The two-page spread promotes Florida as "the Innovation Hub of the Americas." The vehicle uses scanning lasers to create 3-D images from which can be detected explosives, drugs or contraband attached to the hulls of ships entering a harbor, or mines or sunken vessels on the ocean floor.

- Tobacco industry whistleblower Dr. Jeffrey Wigand is the keynote speaker this month at a three-day national colloquium and conference on ethics at USF St. Petersburg. Wigand, made famous in the movie "The Insider," tops a long list of ethicists from business, health care, media, law, science, education, and other professions scheduled to speak. Nationally known ethicist Dr. John Martin will be honored for his 50 years of teaching and writing about media ethics. More than 200 people have already registered for the conference, which is the fourth in a decade-long annual series initiated by Journal of Mass Media Ethics co-editors Jay Black of USF St. Petersburg and Ralph Barney of Brigham Young University.

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