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(St. Petersburg, Fla.) June 14, 2010 – Two students and a professor from USF St. Petersburg contributed to a new book, UnspOILed, which will have its book release Friday, June 18 at The Studio@620.

A group of authors began working last fall on UnspOILed, an anthology of essays and other writings about the Gulf of Mexico, in response to Florida lobbyists and legislators pushing to eliminate Florida’s long-standing ban protecting the Gulf of Mexico against oil drilling. With the book release coinciding with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, donations at the book release will benefit the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary.

UnspOILed Book Release Event

Studio@620

620 1st Ave S, St. Petersburg

Friday, June 18

7 p.m.

Suggested $5 donation to benefit Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary

Thomas Hallock, assistant professor of English at USF St. Petersburg, and students Edward Woodward and Jono Miller contributed to the book. Acclaimed writers Connie May Fowler, Diane Roberts, Bill Belleville and Jeff Klinkenberg are also among the authors who donated their work for this collection.

“The evening will offer an opportunity to come together and benefit a group that’s been on the front lines of the oil tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico,” Hallock said.

The book is being published by Tallahassee-based Red Hills Writers Project. Author Susan Cerulean is one of the editors and one of the book’s 38 contributors.

“When we began this project last fall, the thought of the Gulf Coast being ruined in our lifetime was only a distant nightmare. Now, just as our project comes to fruition, we are heartbroken, terrified and furious,” Cerulean said. “But we are not powerless. Prior to the catastrophe there was no unified voice to match the lobbying power of big oil. We hope that our book will help generate support in favor of protecting our most precious coastline.”