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New prez looks good on paper, now comes the real test . . .
By Doug White
Nest Co-editor

The last few weeks of the semester can drive anyone nuts, but the first step is admitting the problem, right? Eating well and laughing at yourself can work wonders, but it’s hard to find a place to do both at the same time.

Not anymore. Scott Hamilton has just the place: Spanky’s Dysfunctional Family Restaurant at 416 Beach Dr.

The USF graduate held the grand opening of his new St. Petersburg eatery March 24, and despite the name, which he contends has no real significance, Hamilton said everyone is welcome—even well-adjusted people from normal families.

Spanky’s menu offers a host of inexpensive burgers, sandwiches, soups and salads. Meal prices range from $3.95 to $6.75. (The Crew’s Nest highly recommends the “Plain Ole Spanky Burger” and tater tots for $4.95.)

“Conceptually, I wanted a place down- 

**Club info**

Student Government meets every other Wednesday in the CAC in Room 133 at 4:30 p.m. For more information call 553-1147.

Council of Clubs (COC) meets the first Tuesday of each month in CAC 133 at 4 p.m. All clubs and organizations must send at least one member. For more information call 553-1144.

USF Sail Club meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Bayboro Cafe. Sail free at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. On Fridays, skippers are provided. For more information call 325-5079.

Campus Crusade for Christ—Lasting relationships? Join us as we look at the Bible’s model of a marriage that works. Meets Thursdays in the Bayboro Cafe. On Ethics continues on April 3 with a wine list and more than 20 types of beer. In the next few weeks Scott will open the outside patio, and he plans to have a happy hour on Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. with music by acoustic guitarist Sam Stone. Spanky’s will also host live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights.

Scott credits his former boss, Tavern owner Gavan Benson, for helping him get started in the business.

“He told me I was entering a whole new realm and he was right,” Scott said. “I can’t thank him enough for how much he has helped me. He has been fabulous.”

Spanky’s waitress Cassandra Cusick-Carbolo thinks the restaurant’s name is equally fabulous.

“I love it,” she said. “That’s the big thing that drew me to it. Who doesn’t want to work for a place with dysfunctional in the title? It seems fun and we’re getting to know each other. So it is kind of becoming a dysfunctional family.”

**Briefs**

Ethics lecture series focuses on law enforcement

The Cole Lecture Series on Ethics continues on April 3 with “Ethics in Law Enforcement.” Neal Trautman will be the guest speaker. Trautman is director of the National Institute on Ethics, the country’s largest provider of law enforcement and corrections ethics training.

Counseling and career workshops scheduled

The Counseling and Career Center is sponsoring workshops to enhance both learning skills and personal growth for members of the USF St. Petersburg community. An assertiveness training session will be held April 7 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to help individuals learn techniques for communicating effectively with difficult people in difficult situations.

Test-taking strategy seminars will be held on April 5 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and April 13 from 11 a.m. to noon. The workshop provides tips for tests, organizing and developing study materials, and employing a systematic review process.

For either workshop, sign up in Davis 112 or call 553-1129.

**Career Expo 2000**

Are you ready to graduate, but still don’t have a job lined up?

If this is the case, bring your updated resume to Career Expo 2000 as it continues in the Davis Lobby on March 29.
And the title goes to ... Genshaft

By Doug White and Mike Hennessy
Nest staff writers

After months of interviews and investigation, the state board of regents named Dr. Judy Genshaft as USF's new president on March 10.

Genshaft, provost for the State University of New York-Albany, replaces Betty Casor, becoming USF's sixth permanent president.

During a press conference on the Monday following her appointment, Genshaft made it clear that her hopes for USF's future are extremely high.

"The University of South Florida is positioned perfectly to be the lead research university worldwide," Genshaft said.

While her lofty global goals are admirable, the faculty, staff and students of the St. Petersburg campus hope Genshaft will focus on issues close to home.

Ronnie Beck, president of USF's Pinellas County alumni chapter, was pleased that she was chosen. Beck was part of a group that met with Genshaft when she visited the Bayboro campus during the interview process.

"She expressed an interest in the branch campuses," Beck said. "She showed strong interest in maintaining and improving the strength of regional campuses. I hope that's true. It needs to true in the current political atmosphere."

— Ronnie Beck, president of USF's Pinellas County alumni chapter on Genshaft's appointment

Genshaft gained experience in dealing with satellite campuses during her years at Ohio State University when she served as chairperson of the university senate, and chair of the department of educational services and research in the late 1980s and early 90s.

USF St. Petersburg Dean Bill Heller is enthusiastic about Genshaft's appointment.

"She did a good job with us," Heller said. "She has experience with regional campuses at Ohio State. Her perspective on regional campuses is a healthy one. She feels they have a major role to play, which will give us greater autonomy to make some decisions here on this campus."

"I'm pretty optimistic about her coming here," he continued. "I think she's a very competent person who really wanted to fit in with the corporate and civic community and some critics thought the pool of finalists was too small.

"I think it was a flawed search," the source said. "They should have called it a failed search and started over again.

The nomination process didn't produce the number of candidates some members of the campus advisory committee wanted, and some critics thought the pool of finalists was too small."

Dr. Ted Williams of the College of Medicine agreed the pool should have been larger, but said, "In the end, I think we have got an excellent candidate for the University of South Florida."

Heller said he hopes to bring Genshaft to campus as soon as possible.

"I want her to have the chance to meet us because this is a very special group on this campus," Heller said. "Everybody right now is after her for her time, but knowing her she'll come to her campuses early on."

Genshaft expects to assume the presidency no later than July 1. In the interim, she plans to travel between Albany and Florida.

However, not everyone is thrilled. One USF St. Petersburg representative who met with Genshaft during her visit was disappointed with her and the search committee's selection.

"It's not a stimulating or inspired choice," said the faculty member, who refused to be identified. "During the dinner with her I was not impressed. Everything seemed so rote. She gave a standard speech that could have been given anywhere at anytime. All of her responses could have been given at the Kiwanis Club as easily as the university. I don't think she had a real sense of the character of the campus, the faculty or the course offerings.

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The health insurance picture for USF St. Petersburg students has become a bit brighter thanks to recent maneuvering by USF's student health insurance committee.

Committee members accepted a recommendation from the USF legal department that the contract with current insurance carrier Mega Life and Health be extended for another year. That extension came with several important strings attached, however. Student health services director and committee member Brian Mockler said Mega Life has agreed to hold the line on premiums and deductibles. Mega Life has also signed an agreement with a new preferred provider network that provides access to St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Petersburg and a network of Pinellas County doctors as of April 1. According to Mockler, policyholders will be allowed to make office visits to network doctors without making a co-payment.

Mega Life representative Tom Morris said, "We're excited with the opportunity to go ahead." Morris acknowledged that Mega Life's quality of service fell below satisfactory levels last year, but blamed the many problems on a computer switchover.

"We will be setting up an 'A Team' for calls from USF students," Morris said.

The idea is that anyone calling Mega's toll-free number from USF will be routed directly to customer service representatives designated to handle USF issues.

The promises are fine, Mockler said, but said he was skeptical that Mega Life can turn things around quickly.

"We're guardedly optimistic," Mockler said.

If Mega Life doesn't make good on its promises, there still could be a switch to a different carrier when the student health committee re-examines the issue in November. Mockler said the opinion from USF's legal department makes it clear that next year the committee will "very definitely" have a clear path to make a switch. For his part, Morris says communication with the committee was, at least, part of the problem.

"We weren't hearing about any problems, so we assumed everything was fine," he said. It wasn't until January that Morris said he learned everything was not fine. That lack of communication nearly cost the company the contract with USF.

In addition to holding the line on premiums and adding St. Anthony's Hospital and Pinellas County doctors to the list of preferred providers there are a number of other significant changes to the terms of coverage for domestic students. Female students can get an optional $15 rider that will cover a number of routine gynecological procedures.

Also, students living within a 50-mile radius of the main campus will no longer have to drive to the Tampa campus for treatment. The mile radius for service has been reduced to 20 miles. That was a change that Morris said had already been made unilaterally, but will now be written policy. "I'm not expecting anyone to drive from St. Petersburg to USF (Tampa)."

One change might seem small, but could make claiming benefits much easier. Mega Life is promising to issue a plastic ID card to policyholders. In the past, all policyholders had to show coverage was a slip of paper torn off the bottom of their insurance application. Until the new cards are issued, Morris says the company will issue stickers that may be attached to student ID cards.

The contract extension with Mega does not necessarily mean an end to tension between the company and the university. Committee chair Dr. David Austell favors what he calls an "in-your-face" approach to dealing with insurance carriers. "You can't expect any insurance company to provide any more than the absolute minimum of service unless you are constantly monitoring their performance," he said.

There are also other issues that can strain the relationship. The most common is the economics of providing health care. Mega Life has held the line on health insurance costs for several years. The $631 price they charge for a year's coverage is much lower than what could be obtained by an individual on the independent insurance market. However, those prices could change dramatically. As Morris noted, every insurance company has to balance the price it charges against the cost of supplying the services customers may want.

"You can offer everything to everybody, but if you offer too many services to too many people who use them, you'll lose money," Morris said. There is also the fact that the people who buy health insurance have a great impact on costs. Morris uses USF as an example. Mega Life holds the contract to supply insurance for both international and domestic students. Under state law, international students are required to have health insurance. This means that Mega Life insures a group of people who are relatively young and healthy. By comparison, Morris said, "Only about 1,300 of USF's total population of some 34,000 domestic students have chosen to sign up for Mega's policy and most of them are sick."

"That's what's known in the insurance industry as adverse selection," Morris said. The more people actually take advantage of insurance benefits, the more pressure there is to raise prices. Marketing is one tool Mega Life is hoping to use to increase its number of policyholders. Morris said the company would advertise in campus newspapers like the Crow's Nest and the Oracle. Mega representatives will also be handling out brochures at freshman orientation in attempts to get more students to sign up.

Who's representing you? Meet SGA

William Clayton Tieman was born in England on May 9, 1974. Growing up he travelled with his US Air Force family, living in Throughout Europe and the States. Tieman transferred to USF with an associate's degree in computer and management informational systems and is now working toward completing his bachelor's in information systems management.

Barbara E. Hawkins (no photo) is secretary of student government. After serving as controller and financial manager of several local businesses and starting her own business, Hawkins returned to USF in 1999. She is majoring in computer management and will graduate 2001.

Diane Lapointe (no photo) represents the College of Education. She is a graduate student in T.A.C. program. She's the mother of four, grandmother of 6, a retired firefighter and also serves as president of the Sail Club.
Campus looks into honor code

By Chris Curry
Nest staff writer

Faced with a growing awareness of academic dishonesty and armed with the notion that colleges should foster character education, USF St. Petersburg is considering its own honor code or value statement.

At the March 20 installment of the Cole Lecture Series on Ethics, representatives of the College of William and Mary, the University of South Carolina and Miami University in Ohio spoke to a small audience at the campus activities center about their schools' codes and the impact they have on their campus communities.

"I wanted three different approaches so we could contrast and compare them and see if any of these approaches or some modification of them are something this campus might want to pursue," director of student affairs and program coordinator Stephen Ritch said in an interview prior to the lecture.

The College of William and Mary is credited with the nation's oldest student honor code dating back to 18th century. The current code takes up ten pages of the college's handbook and includes infractions of the code, the rights of the accused and procedures for violations and sanctions hearings. A copy is provided to all students applying to the college.

"Students who select the college select it knowing that we have a strong honor code," said Patricia Volp, William and Mary's dean of students. "And we are expecting our students to believe in that honor system."

Unlike most traditional honor codes, William and Mary does not require students to turn in individuals they believe to be guilty of code infractions. Ritch said that the mandate to turn someone in is a "controversial requirement" that this campus would need to discuss if it decides to pursue a code.

Miami of Ohio and the University of South Carolina do not share the time-honored and extensive code William and Mary uses. Instead, these universities each have a one-page statement of values the campus community is expected to adhere to.

Kelley Fink, South Carolina's coordinator for planning and development for university housing, presented The Carolinian Creed. Initiated in 1989, The Carolinian Creed explains five tenants, including academic integrity and respect for the dignity of others, which all members of the university are obligated to uphold. Fink said that although the creed is still relatively new it has already been adopted in a modified form by several other colleges and universities.

Ritch said he was in favor of the campus-wide approach of The Carolinian Creed. Not only does it apply to faculty and staff, but it also stretches beyond the classroom to encourage civility, tolerance and diversity on campus.

"This is character education for higher education," Ritch said, "and all kinds of campus citizenship issues come up from harassment to alcohol abuse to date and acquaintance rape." Miami University's Statement of Leadership Values is more basic than the Carolinian Creed. It lists nine general values, such being open to change and responsible for your actions.

"These values are trigger statements made to make people think and not prescriptions for action," said Miami's assistant director for student affairs Gary Manka.

Miami's statement of values began as part of the student leadership program and is gaining acceptance across the university.

"There is a fallacy out there that our generation of students don't care about the society they live in," Manka said. "This is a fallacy. They care greatly."

Three USF St. Petersburg students, student government president Clayton Tieman, freshman Camika Winter and junior elementary education major Kevin Potts, took part in the program. They asked a variety of questions ranging from the impact honor codes have on international students unaccustomed to our education system to a breakdown of who controls sanctioning procedures.

"If we pursue this further there will be many more students invited to comment," Ritch said. He added that the campus is still in the preliminary stages of even considering the establishment of an honor code.

"I think if we decide to have an honor code, we have to include all the stakeholders in the development of that code and that means involving faculty, staff and students in the writing of that code."

— Stephen Ritch
Director of student affairs

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the Crew's Nest
Volunteer or watch re-runs?

By Doug White
Nest co-editor

I’ve probably read this type of editorial before. To be honest, I have too.

Many times I page through magazines or newspapers and see op-ed pieces urging readers to get in touch with their inner do-gooder by volunteering and "giving back" to the community.

In the past when reading an essay like this I’d ponder the enlightened proposal for a nanosecond, conclude that it was a worthy pursuit for people who weren’t as busy as me, and grab the remote to scan for reruns of The Simpsons.

But my thoughts on the subject changed recently. I’ve been working on a magazine story about HIV and AIDS counselors and have been spending some time at the offices of the Tampa AIDS Network.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, trained but unpaid volunteers work with staff to conduct pre- and post-HIV test counseling and education. The diverse group of volunteers have come to TAN for all different reasons. I’ve been working on a project to educate the community, some are HIV-positive, while others have lost loved ones to AIDS.

Carlos Alvarez coordinates the test counseling at the organization. He is employed by TAN, yet volunteers in the community even when he’s not on the job. "Because I was HIV-positive," he never expected to be volunteering or working in the social services field.

In 1988 when he walked into a doctor’s office and was told he was HIV-positive. "I never thought I’d be helping people in social work," he says. "Before I was HIV-positive it was all about me, all about having fun. Being HIV positive got me back in the real world. When you realize you have a finite amount of time you seem to turn yourself around in the time you have left."

As the weeks have passed, I’ve come to greatly admire Carlos and the other volunteers. They do good work, but the job is not easy. Fighting bureaucracies and telling people they have HIV is not a fun job.

A few weeks ago I saw one of the counselors, Susan Reitmeyer, nervously smoking a cigarette outside the clinic. She had a glazed look of despair on her face and her shoulders hung limp as if her arms were holding 100-pound weights. She looked catatonic. It was obvious that she had just told someone they tested positive.

I sat down next to her. "It’s their eyes that haunt you," she told me in a near whisper. "That’s what keeps me up at night— their eyes. They look at you as if to say, 'Please tell me this isn’t true' and damn it there’s nothing I can do about it. That’s the frustrating part."

But despite the frustration, Reitmeyer continues to volunteer. She says the rewards of counseling and educating people about the risks of HIV far outweigh the emotional toll of her volunteer duties.

"I look at the overall picture," she says. "For the few people that I have to tell their life is changed, I also like to think that there are ten times that many people who are helped. I’m not trying to make it sound like I’m this big life-saving crusader. Just one person is significant to me."

The words and actions of these people have given me some much-needed perspective on volunteering. My experiences at TAN have been both deeply moving and eye-opening.

Maybe I can find time to help out a volunteer organization like TAN. I certainly find enough time to do things like gallivant through Ybor, yap on the phone, play on the Internet, and take extended naps. But I think it’s time for me to wake up.

Maybe I can do without The Simpsons after all.

Promoting democracy

Staff Editorial
The Daily Press (Boston U.)
03/24/2000

(U-WIRE) BOSTON—The Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Wednesday that public universities can use mandatory student activity fees to fund campus groups without violating students’ rights, even if the money goes to benefit groups whose views are opposed by some students. The ruling came in response to a suit brought by conservative students at the University of Wisconsin who did not want their activity fees to benefit liberal-minded groups such as a socialist organization and the campus gay and lesbian center.

The ruling is a victory for First Amendment rights, and is in keeping with the long-established role of colleges as both public and private— as bastions of uninhibited free speech and intellectual discourse. If a college used student activity fees to fund only groups with a certain political viewpoint, it would be a cause for concern. This, however, is not the case. The University of Wisconsin, like other schools, awards funding to student groups regardless of their political, religious or social views. By funding a diverse array of student organizations, colleges promote free speech and debate on their campuses.

For every campus group a given student may find objectionable, there is sure to be another whose views he agrees with.

An essential function of any college environment is to teach students to think critically by exposing them to a variety of political and religious viewpoints. The policies at most universities give all groups equal access to funds collected from student fees, ensuring that students have the opportunity to explore new interests, expand their horizons and challenge their preconceptions.

Funding diverse campus groups with student fees does not violate students’ rights. Rather, it strengthens the academic experience. The high court has done the right thing in upholding the right of universities to maintain and foster an open campus dialogue.

Nest mail: Tips for the directionally-challenged

To the students and faculty of USF St. Petersburg,

I am beginning to understand the whole idea behind women getting upset over the toilet lid being left up. Instead of the toilet lid, I’d like to wage war against puddle-littering bathroom floors.

Could it be that the farther we move in our education, the worse our aim gets? I don’t remember being concerned about wearing flip-flops in middle school or even in high school bathrooms. But here at the University of South Florida I have to wear a slicker and hip-waders just to use the restroom. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not one to complain without giving all I can to solve the problem. So, I offer these six, simple tips for the directionally-challenged:

1) Enter the stall, (or bowl).
2) Approach stall, (or bowl).
3) Survey bowl, (taking particular note of shape, size, and distance), and then unzip.
4) Take careful aim.
5) Continue to watch where you are carefully aiming, (this is where it gets difficult for those with attention span issues).
6) Shake, zip, and flush.

I have offered all I can. For those of you who need guidance, I hope you can apply this simple checklist to your daily public restroom use. As for those blissfully ignorant misusers of this sacred public domain, I am currently working on an exciting educational bathroom video, Hooked On Toilets.

In the meantime, let us all try and do our part, and make it safe again to wear flip-flops on campus. Remember guys, USF does not stand for Urinate Soundly on Floor.

A concerned student,
James McDonnell

Ponderables

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he imagied, he will meet with success unexpect ed in common hours."

— Henry David Thoreau

"They say that time changes things, but actually you have to change them yourself."

— Andy Warhol

"We must become the change we want to see."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Questions? Comments? Reactions?
Let us hear ‘em.
Email thenest99@hotmail.com.
Gallery offers the world of rock

By Chris Curry  
Nest staff writer

Lost among downtown St. Petersburg’s museums and art spots is Robert Davidson’s Fine Art Gallery—one man’s personal homage to the psychedelic rock art of the late 1960s and early 70s.

Located on Central Avenue, just a short drive from campus, Davidson’s is a departure from the staid image of your typical art gallery. The gallery’s mascot, a tie-dyed rhinoceros, stands in the front window. Inside, classic rock bands such as Derek and the Dominos, the Jimi Hendrix Experience and the Rolling Stones play on the stereo. The gallery is a glimpse back into a world of music built on walls of Marshall amplifiers, LSD and 15 minute drum solos.

First edition posters advertising concerts like the Who’s inaugural U.S. performance of the rock opera Tommy in 1969, and Janis Joplin’s first show with Big Brother and the Holding Company in 1965 are framed in house and on display.

There are posters for bands, such as the Rolling Stones, who continue to play, bands like the 13th Floor Elevators who disappeared long ago, and there are bands like Led Zeppelin whose regimes of alcohol, drugs and mayhem forever immortalized them in rock legend.

Davidson, 38, first fell in love with late 60s music as a teenager who listened to power trios like Cream and the Jimi Hendrix Experience while his friends worshipped KISS.

“I always felt incredibly ripped off,” Davidson said. “Music had to die right when I got into it. It’s the late 70s and I’m wondering how music could have degraded so far so fast.”

He opened the gallery with his wife Marcy Davidson in January 1996. Their role employee is Marcy’s sister, Amanda Owen. Most of the gallery’s posters fall between 1965 and 1971 and advertise Bill Graham-promoted shows either at the Fillmore East or his San Francisco venues, the Fillmore West and the Winterland Ballroom.

“People kept stealing posters off telephone poles,” Davidson said. “Graham would go out himself on a little scooter with a roll of duct tape and a staple gun and he’d put up all these posters and a day later they’d all be gone.”

But word got out and bands such as the Grateful Dead and poster artists such as Stanley Mouse and Robert Gritzmacher became legends on the San Francisco scene.

Thirty years later rock posters have changed from cultural phenomena into expensive collectibles. Most first edition concert posters start out in the $500 range.

“First editions are going $1,500, $3,000, in some cases for posters that were at one time free or $2.”

The one item in the store Davidson doesn’t own is an old Hendrix velvet stage suit on consignment from collector Brenda Funaro and currently for sale on a VH-1 auction.

Owen said that Beatles merchandise is

Robert Davidson turned his passion into a profession with his Fine Art Gallery of rock and roll posters even more rare than Hendrix collectibles because the band stopped performing live right before the San Francisco scene exploded. And, as Paul D. Gruskin noted in the introduction to his 1987 book The Art of Rock, the Beatles didn’t really need concert posters since their name alone was enough to sell out any venue. However, Davidson’s does have a few Beatles items, including a poster for a 1963 show at the London Palladium signed by all four members that costs about $6,500.

“This is my stock portfolio on the wall here,” Davidson said. “It’s a perfect blend of fine art, commercial art and collectibles. It’s the renaissance of rock and roll.”

Although most customers are collec-

Join us for Easterfest!

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the Crow’s Nest 7
Baseball: live it, love it, write it

By Chris Curry
Nest staff writer

On Friday March 10, USF professor and author Rick Wilber spent his morning doing what he loves—watching baseball. The site was the Raymond Naimoli Complex, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays spring practice facility, and a group of Rays minor leaguers were working on relay throws from right field to third base.

Through the years, Wilber has met other writers, from both worlds of science fiction and baseball, who share his love for the game. So, it’s no surprise that when he invited friends and fellow students of the game down to enjoy spring training for a few days they agreed without hesitation.

Several of these writers came to St. Petersburg March 10 as a child. Half of Famers Stan Musial and Ted Williams were family friends, Fenway Park was a hang out, and Former Cardinals catcher and Hall of Fame broadcaster Joe Garagiola, was Wilber’s confirmation sponsor.

So it is no wonder that Wilber’s 1999 collection of short stories about baseball and family relations is titled White Cones, Blue Hats and what that the theme of base

The game is in his blood.

His father, Del Wilber, played from 1946-54 as a backup catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, the team that split its time between the Cardinals and the old Brooklyn Dodgers. Del was so attached to the bands of the late 60s, “Their music was on a grand scale,” she said. “They were ahead of their time and I can appreciate that time a lot.”

But what is the significance of Davidson’s own piece of original art, his tie-dyed rhino in the window?

“Always wanted a psychedelic rhino,” Davidson said, “So I made one. I thought it would be cool to have one around.”

Robert Davidson’s Fine Art Gallery is located at 725 Central Ave. N. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 10-6 and Sat. 10-4. On the second Saturday of each month, the gallery takes part in the Downtown St. Petersburg Evening Gallery Walk from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. sponsored by the Downtown Arts Association.

USF professor Rick Wilber pitches to a writer friend in town for ‘writer’s spring training’ weekend.

But Wilber, 81, can still claim his fair share of encounters with greatness. Although he only had 19 home runs in his major league career, on August 27, 1951 he hit three homers in three at-bats on three swings for the Phillies. One home run shy of tying Lou Gehrig and Bobby Lowe’s record of four consecutive home runs, Wilber arrived at the ball park the next day to find he wasn’t the starting lineup. Wilber got his chance when starting catcher Andy Seminick came down with a mysterious illness. Unfortunately, Wilber flew out to deep left field and when he got back to the dugout, Seminick told him that at least he was able to get him up to bat.

But there is one story that even his son, who family refers to his father as ‘Skip’ because of his managerial experience, has not heard until this night.

As an army serviceman stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. in the early 1940s, Del and other ballplayers in the service crossed the Mississippi River into Illinois every Tuesday and Friday to play against Negro Leagues teams. There he faced an overpowering right-handed pitcher who Wilber thought could win 30 games a year in the major leagues. In 1948, at the age of 42, that pitcher got his chance. His name was Satchel Paige.

“That’s amazing,” Skip a beamng Rick Wilber says. “You never told me that before.”

He has spent his entire life around baseball and each day he is stills learns more about the game he loves.

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ters who see rock art as a good invest­

A nd according to Davidson, to the gallery to

the music they grew up on.

Wilber first visited the present Naimoli Complex set of ball fields in 1968 as a pitcher for Southern Illinois. Coming off a shutout of the Naval Academy he was feeling a little cocky as he prepared to face the New York Mets rookie squad that spring day more than 30 years ago.

“They thrashed me,” Wilber said. “It was a wake up call for a college player who thought he was really good.”

Wilber turned to teaching at USF Tampa and writing. Currently teaching a book-publishing course on the St. Petersburg campus, Wilber has published several science fiction novels and short stories. But as the saying goes, “you write what you know,” so Wilber also writes about baseball.

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