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USF St. Pete readies for ‘more’

By AARON QUINN
The Crow’s Nest

"More" is the one thing most noticeable on campus as a new school year begins. More underclassmen. More faculty. More programs. It’s all because of more money.

The largest budget in current administrators' memory, and probably in the campus' history, was awarded to USF St. Petersburg during this year’s legislative session. The $4.2 million appropriation is supporting expansion in conjunction with its newly acquired four-year status and a possible plan for the campus to become more autonomous.

For the first time, freshmen and sophomores this semester can take entry-level classes on the St. Petersburg campus. Campus officials have no idea how large enrollment will be this semester. They do, however, expect overall enrollment to greatly increase because of the changes in underclassmen admit-

tance policy.

"Right now we have approximately 3,500 students on this campus, and in five years that will be double," said campus dean acting vice president William Heller. Of those students, most are expected to be full time. Until this semester, the campus had been at least 80 percent part-time students.

Previously, the only freshmen on campus belonged to the Learning Community, a program that admits as many as 50 full-time freshmen a year and acts as a support system for students who need further assistance from professors.

Expanding enrollment means expanding faculty and making changes on campus. "We're recruiting new faculty constantly," said Heller.

Other plans in the works include adding two science labs to the campus by renovating one of the older buildings and sharing space with nearby agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey and Florida Marine Research Institute.

By the fall of 2001, administrators hope to add courses in environmental science, graphic arts and visual communications, and museum studies. Existing programs such as psychology, government and...
Our legislators have been good to us,” said Heller, speaking of the large budget. “Now it’s time for us to prove that we can increase enrollment; that’s our part of the agreement.”

USF St. Petersburg has considerable control over how budget money is spent. “It is up to the universities,” said state Rep. Leslie Waters, “to spend the budgets in such a way that they serve their students needs and pay for the infrastructure to run each university. If it becomes apparent that any of these needs are not being met, then it is the job of the legislature to step in and make sure that the allotted monies are being spent in the correct manner.” Waters serves on the House Colleges and Universities Committee.

Growth and improvement seem to be in the works for St. Petersburg, but at what expense? State Sen. Donald Sullivan, whose bill regarding St. Petersburg’s campus died as the session ended, has a mind to make the Pinellas campus a public university, however, independent of USF.

Had Sullivan’s bill passed through the state legislature and been ratified, USF St. Petersburg would have been on its way to independence, but USF administrators pulled all of the stops to derail Sullivan’s efforts.

USF officials are actively seeking an alternative to a split. In fact, on Aug. 28, campus Dean and campus executive officer Bill Heller and new USF President Judy Genshaft traveled to Arizona State University to observe one successful method for operating a regional campus system.

The campus toured by Genshaft and Heller was Arizona State University’s West campus. The West campus has approximately 5,000 students, a relatively close count to St. Petersburg’s student population.

“Each regional campus of a large university must be treated differently,” said President Genshaft. “Each has its specialties and specific needs.”

St. Petersburg’s student population is expected to double within the next five to six years, so along with its new goals, significant systemic changes will be common-place.

“This campus is at a critical point, and that’s why we are exploring this option,” said Genshaft. “We’re also hoping that Sen. Sullivan will agree that this is a solution to making the campus more comprehensive.”

"Beyond the Fringe: Florida Fiber"
Sept. 15 – Oct. 27
Monday through, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Opening reception, Sept. 15, 6-8:30 p.m.)
Florida Craftsmen
501 Central Ave.
Cost: Free
New and innovative work by 34 Florida artists. Juried by Ken Uyemura, founder and former chair of the Department of Weaving and Fiber Art at the University of Miami.
INFO: 821-7391

Southern Deaf Showcase
Sept. 22-24
Harborview Center, Clearwater
Registration Fee: $25
Seminars and workshops on "noise exposure – hearing damage," basic American Sign Language, cochlear implants, technology advances, and information on the Americans with Disabilities Act.
INFO: 399-9993 or www.Deaf Service Center.org

25th Hour Bayboro Flashback
Oct. 29 5 p.m.
Bayfront Center
Cost: $50 (reception and show)
Faculty expands to keep pace with growth

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quite a step," Heller said. "We're confident...but a 15 percent enrollment increase is a major increase for most institutions."

Because the legislature did not approve the budget increase until May, USF had to fill several positions without performing the national hiring search the Board of Regents requires of universities seeking to hire tenured faculty. For this reason, nine of the 12 new hires are visiting professors or instructors signed to one-year contracts. USF will conduct a more complete hiring search during this academic year, with all of the new temporary faculty considered candidates for permanent positions.

"You never want to go to a place for just a year, but the university itself and the potential that exists here for a professor is really exciting," said Carroll Mann, a visiting biology instructor.

Mann will be teaching courses in the area of environmental science and policy, one of several new departments, including graphic arts and visual communications, for which the campus administration is planning to offer degrees by Fall 2001. A new graduate program in museum studies is already underway this semester.

"We also wanted to expand our existing programs into full programs," Heller said. "Psychology is a case in point. We wanted to make sure all psychology courses a major needs could be taken on this campus."

According to Bridges, by the fall of 2001 the number of faculty will have increased by 38 percent over fall 1999.

With this jump in faculty, Heller said limited office space may pose a problem.

"As we add faculty and the faculty office space isn't there, it is a little bit of a dilemma," Heller said.

Although office space in Coquina Hall will be freed up in September when the journalism studies program moves into the Florida Center for Teachers, Heller said new buildings would become a major priority.

"Part of our dilemma is teaching loads are different from when the campus was built," Heller said.

"Faculty used to teach four courses a semester. But now we are a research university, and faculty might do research half the time and teach two courses."

The growing emphasis on research is what attracted assistant finance professor Gary Patterson to the campus.

"I liked the blend of research and teaching experience of the faculty at St. Pete," said Patterson, one of three permanent additions to the teaching faculty. "My research helps me stay current in the financial world and that ties directly into my teaching."

Visiting English instructor Ken Minor had a personal reasons for coming to the campus. He wanted to spend more time with his 3-year-old grandson who lives in St. Petersburg.

"I would love to stay here for an indefinite period of time," Minor said. "The people are wonderful over here."

Here, by college, is a list of the new teaching faculty, with position and department:

**ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Ken Minor visiting instructor English
Carroll Mann visiting instructor biology
Jerry Fountain visiting assistant professor geology
Thomas W. Smith assistant professor government/international affairs
George Yanev visiting assistant professor mathematics
Mark Pezzo assistant professor psychology

**EDUCATION**

* Jennifer Khattabi visiting instructor ESOL

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

* Stephanie Duveneck visiting instructor accounting
* Antonio Cris visiting assistant professor economics
* Gary Patterson assistant professor finance
* George Watson visiting assistant professor management
* Leonard Deadman visiting instructor marketing

**Story contest offers challenge, rewards for student writers**

Okay, so you got turned down for Survivor II. Here's another challenge for you: the 2000 Bayboro Fiction Contest.

If you are a full-time or part-time USF student registered for the fall 2000 semester, you are eligible to enter one unpublished short story of 2,000 words or less. Deadline for entries is Oct. 18. Judge for the 15th annual contest is Gabriel Horn. An associate professor of writing, literature and Native American philosophy, Horn has published both children's and adult books and articles. His most recent book is The Book of Ceremonies. He has been selected three times for inclusion in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

The winning writer will receive $250. Two $100 prizes also will be awarded. The contest is sponsored by the Society for the Advancement of Poynter Library.

Mail entries to Niela Eliason, 636 15th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg 33704. Her phone number is 823-4877; e-mail address is niela@prodigy.net.

Submissions will not be returned. The title of the story should appear on every page. Include a cover sheet with name, address, phone number, campus and major and title of your work.

For more information, see www.nelson.usf.edu/contest.html.

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Candidates sought for school leaders

Candidates are sought for various positions within the USF St. Petersburg student government. Open positions on the executive board include vice president and secretary. Representatives also are needed for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Nursing, as well as undeclared.

For information, visit the Student Government office at CAC 127.

Student government meetings are held every other Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in CAC 133. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13.