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Class to set sail on acting ship

By LORI GRAYS  Contributing Writer

Some theater students will be moving to a larger stage at USF-St. Petersburg this semester. The backdrop will be the panorama of the sky. Applause will come from the slap of waves. The script may even get the occasional ad lib provided by Florida's fickle weather. For these students will be attending class aboard the sailing ship Amara Zee docked in Bayboro Harbor.

The four-week directed study course entitled "Theatre of Discovery" will meet Feb. 12 to March 1 and offer one to four credits. The course is an introduction to the process of creating learning tools to utilize theater as an educational exploration process," said Paul Kirby, director of Caravan StageBarge and captain of the Amara Zee.

Created in 1970 by Paul Kirby and Adriana Kelder, Caravan started as a one-wagon puppet show on Vancouver Island. It grew to become a theatrical organization with a 25-person company of actors, musicians, artists and technicians touring in six wagons. After 27 years of touring contemporary professional theater, Caravan has moved its theatrical productions on to the deck of the Amara Zee, which claims to be the first "tall ship" theater in North America.

Since it first set sail in 1997, the StageBarge has traveled and performed along the East Coast of the United States and Canada. Caravan shows are all original productions that incorporate the deck, masts and rigging of the Amara Zee along with the surrounding water and land.

During the course this semester, students will take at least one excursion on the Amara Zee. With the deck of the Amara Zee as their stage, cast members perform a scene from "Trapped: A Whale of a Tale" during their 1999 tour. USF students can take a theater class on the sailing ship this semester. (Photo courtesy Caravan StageBarge).

"There will be a couple of times when we take the ship out just so people can see some of the things we do when we travel," Kirby said. "The working together process goes hand in hand with taking the ship from point A to point B. People learn how to work together and trust each other because on stage, everything is trust." The production company consists of blacks and whites who lived primarily in the northern part of the state to a fast growing and ethnically diverse state," Paulson said. "In light of the southern connection it is definitely a different southern state."

Paulson described modern Florida as a bellwether state like California that sets political and social trends instead of following them. Cross-listed under the title "Academic Frontiers," the seminar series will count as course credit for Paulson's political science class, an honors class taught by Dr. Thomas Smith, a history class led by Dr. Dave McCally and journalism students enrolled in Dr. Jay Black's class. Each class will have different reading assignments to connect the speakers to their particular subject.

On Jan. 22, Black and Smith will give ethical and philosophical perspectives on the political issues facing Florida today. Future sessions will include Native American speakers, panel discussions on The partisan conflict and roller coaster ride through the courts that surrounded Florida's decisive role in the presidential election probably solidified, for better or for worse, this state's position as one of the more important political landscapes in the country.

This semester, with election turmoil still fresh in many minds, USF-St. Petersburg launched a timely Monday night seminar series on ethical issues in Florida politics and history. The weekly programs began Jan. 8 with a familiar face, USF political science professor Dr. Darryl Paulson. Paulson said his presentation was focused on giving students background on the political trends in Florida history so that they will have an easier time analyzing and making connections between future speakers.

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Lectures to highlight ethics issues for Florida

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

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It has a nice ring: St. Pete JC-U

The following is reprinted from the Fall 2000 issue of The Florida Community College Advocate.

After 36 years of neglect, the dysfunctional St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida is being showered with millions of dollars worth of attention in a last-minute attempt to dodge sure-shot Sen. Don Sullivan's silver bullet.

It may well be too late. The Seminole senator barely missed his target last spring. He already has his guns loaded and is firing away. The Senate president calibrated the gun sight.

So the fates of USF's branch, which was born of legislative fiat and promptly forgotten, is in serious jeopardy.

Community colleges ought to be watching the action closely because one of their own is going to be involved. From the start, Senator Sullivan has said he wants freshman and sophomore students at a newly-created Suncoast University to be taught by St. Petersburg Junior College. To this day, the senator remains very close to SPIC and its veteran president, Dr. C. M. Kunter, Jr.

The matter of quick credentialing will be foremost in the minds of Dr. Kunter, Senator Sullivan, and the senator's chief influential Republican supporter, Senate President John McKay of Bradenton.

That may be the reason Senator Sullivan, several weeks ago, floated the idea of totally merging SPIC into the new Suncoast University. This would have the effect of accomplishing almost immediate credentialing because community colleges are accredited — with faculty having master's degrees or better and 18 hours in field — to teach baccalaureate subjects.

Chances are the new university will be crafted in such a way that SPIC, which is Florida's oldest community college and historically one of the most distinguished, will maintain its identity.

USF also is fighting a battle on another front. The university is trying to stave off the potential loss of New College and the Sarasota campus of the university.

New President Judy Genshaft is moving fast to split the local leadership of these schools and double enrollment, programs and facilities. She wants $42 million to do the job.

She has appointed USF Vice President Laurey T. Stryker to lead the Sarasota-Manatee campus. Michael Bassis, who has led that campus as well as New College for the past two years, will remain in charge of New College, a nationally well-regarded liberal arts school.

You might remember that Dr. Stryker was assistant commissioner of academic affairs for Betty Castor and attended many State Board meetings to represent Commissioner Castor.

Senator McKay, among others, seems to be saying that USF is an hour late and a dollar short. He wants to determine which new programs are needed at USF branch campuses. He and other senators want five-year forecasts of student enrollment, a determination of facilities need — and how better Manatee Community College can figure into the equation.

Back in St. Pete, where the Sullivan salvos are most intense, you have in Dr. Kunter at SPIC a very different hombre. He's certainly not one of the boys in the Community College Council of Presidents. He could care less about his detractors. He rows his own boat, unashamedly makes friends in high places, pays his people well and absolutely expects them to loyalty perform, surrounds himself with capable academics — and gets the job done, with millions of dollars, from Tallahassee and Washington.

With his nine campuses ready to provide instruction countywide, Dr. Kunter will be at the table, watching and waiting, perhaps even remembering what he felt was shabby treatment when former USF President Betty Castor started serving freshmen and sophomore students at USF St. Pete on her way out the door.

Senator Sullivan, I believe, not only will include Dr. Kunter in whatever kill-and-create plan is designed but also will seek his advice up front. It may be payback time.

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Career Expo 2001 set for job seekers


The annual job fair will be held Jan. 25 in Davis Hall from 3-8 p.m.

The expo is organized to provide opportunities to students on all USF campuses and is open to the public.

Students who are interested in co-operative education, internships, part-time employment and full-time professional degree positions should bring an updated copy of their resume.

Students should attend the job fair even if they are not currently looking for work, said Sandy Blood, senior health and wellness educator at the Career Center.

A full listing of employers scheduled to send representatives to the fair is available at www.career.usf.edu under "Networking Fairs."

Letters

Tax dollars pay for public access to 'medicine cabinet'

Failure on the part of community leadership and membership to provide for the health needs of those who are sick and "in need" is the equivalent of being a "deadbeat." I am inclined to believe that the refusal to foster a proactive policy regarding this issue is a human rights violation. Specifically because the accumulated fruits of research and development which constitutes our present arsenal against disease and human suffering is encumbered by a "social medicine" being that it has been husbanded all along the way by special financial incentives which all our citizens past and present have in one way or another made their respective contributions.

At the very least, if hospitals and health care professionals refuse to treat those who are unable to pay..., then (direct and immediate access) to the "arsenal of medicines" which do exist should be available "over the counter" at whatever price they can afford.

In short, we all own an undivided ownership in the contents of the "universal medicine cabinet."

Daniel P. Quinn
St. Petersburg

Steps can hike chance of finding stolen goods

By OFFICER JOHN SPICUGLIA

As the semester gets under way, students may experience theft of textbooks and other unattended valuables.

These thefts are known as "crimes of opportunity" that can be reduced or eliminated by keeping your valuables in sight at all times. Thieves typically occur in libraries, labs, cafeterias, classrooms, activity centers or campus stores. Whenever you leave items of value unattended they may disappear.

Textbooks are common targets because they are easily converted to cash. They are an expensive and necessary part of your college education. Since they do not have serial numbers, I recommend that you write your driver's license number on three pages of each text. Use the pages that coincide with your date of birth. If you were born on Nov. 27, 1980, place your driver's license number on pages 11, 27, and 80. If your license is from another state, place the two-letter state code in brackets after your number.

If you do not have a driver's license you can get a Florida ID card and number. These driver's license and ID numbers can be accessed 24 hours a day by campus police.

Most other items of value such as cell phones, laptop computers or calculators will have a serial number. Make a list of these items including the make, model, color and serial number and keep it in a safe place. This information will make it possible to enter the item into the national computer system if it is stolen. This will also provide proof of ownership if necessary. As an additional precaution, you may also etch your driver's license number onto these items.

By taking these precautions you can prevent theft or increase the chance of recovering your property if it is lost or stolen. Please report all incidents of theft or lost property to the campus police.

If you have any questions for the university police, please call 533-1140.

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EDITOR
M.E. "Buddy" Baker

STAFF WRITERS
Chris Curry
Joy Wilke

PHOTO EDITOR
Aaron Quinn

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jordan Dye
Lori Grayson
Officer John Spicuglia

FACULTY ADVISOR
G. Michael Killenberg

Office: Campus Activities Center
Contact us at 727-553-3113 or usfnews@usp.edu (no attachments, please)

Crow's Nest

Jan. 10 – 23, 2001
Policies mixed on cell phones

By JORDAN DYE
Contribution Writer

Tampa—Although some instructors and students find cell phones disruptive to learning, USF has no specific guidelines for their use on campus.

Debra King, senior counsel at USF, said that general disruptions in the classroom are prohibited under the “disruption of academic process” policy noted in the school catalog.

King said the policy “prohibits disruptions whatever the source might be.”

Dr. Graham Tobin, chair of the geography department, said the department has no set policy addressing cell phone use in classrooms.

“Although there are times when a cell phone might need to be turned on, like when there’s a family emergency going on, in the vast majority of cases, it’s not necessary,” he said.

Tobin has developed a handout on course policies that deals with ways in which students must respect the classroom environment. The handout, which he reviews the first day of class each semester, includes “turning off cell phones, (and) pagers.”

“Students have been very good in responding,” he said.

Education professor Barbara Cruz said that in emergency situations having a cell phone on is acceptable. On such occasions, Tobin and Cruz said students should notify the professor before class that the cell phone will be on.

Cruz said cell phone use in her classes has increased.

“Most students are respectful and turn it off before class,” she said.

Some students turn it off when it rings. “Others take the call and go out outside the class,” she said, “and others take the call in class — that’s unbelievable.”

During an evening class last semester, a student got a call and left the room, Cruz said: A friend had called the student with an update on the Bowl game.

Tobin said that although some students might perceive his approach as tough, he’s in the classroom to teach.

“It’s not a popularity contest,” he said.

“Education can be fun, but the mission is important — disruption takes away from that mission.”

Vladimir Pierre, 22, a junior majoring in chemistry, said he “hates it” when a cell phone goes off in class because it causes him to lose focus.

“Professors don’t like it,” he said, “but they’re not going to embarrass the person.”

But not all professors report a problem with cell phones.

“Most students are using it responsibly,” said Pritish Mukherjee, who teaches a general physics course for premed students.

Mukherjee said that when a phone rings, usually about twice a week, it provides a break from the tedium of his 75-minute lectures. Sometimes he jokes, for example, telling the students that if the call is for him, take a message.

In other settings, cell phones can be an aggravation for new instructors.

Physics graduate assistant and lab instructor Nicole Levi said cell phones might go off as many as three times during her three-hour physics lab. While she said a lab environment is less formal than a lecture, there are times when a ringing cell phone can be an unwelcome distraction.

“It’s not good for the other students when they’re taking a quiz,” which, she said, are timed.

Nonetheless, Levi does not discuss cell phone use with students.

“I ignore it,” she said. “I don’t want to be a meanie.”

Deepa Sitaraman, 28, a graduate assistant who teaches English composition, recently moved to Tampa from India. She said when she taught in India, she told students to have their cell phones off in class.

“She has a lot of them on. I’m not sure I approve, but who am I?”

The student-teacher relationship is different than in India, she said. “Students have more power in India. They can complain and expect it to be acted upon,” she said.

Sitaraman finds cell phones distracting in her graduate courses as well as in the library where, she said, there should be a rule against cell phone use.

For Garley, a technical assistant supervisor, the library has not adopted a policy restricting cell phone use in the library because no one has complained.

“We’ve never received a complaint,” he said.

School counselor King said faculty can address disturbances and make rules to prevent them.

“If students make complaints, I think, individual faculty have a responsibility and, I think, a desire to address them,” she said.

SHIP

From Page 1

18 people: 12 performers, two theater technicians, one cook, one engineer, and one first mate as well as Kirby. All members of the production company also serve as crew of the ship.

Along with learning the value of teamwork, students can anticipate the exploration of issues that are relevant to this region of Florida.

“I want to gauge the group’s interest in different areas and see what they bring to the course initially,” Kirley said. “It’s the idea of creating original theater based on anything from a theme to an issue to a character to a set of characters and using it as a tool to make discoveries about their communities or issues that are affecting their communities.”

Students will be working with text, poetry, humor, music, movement, special effects and masks. Makra, Kirley said, is an interesting tool because one of the most delicate things in theater is the stripping away of the character that the actor brings to the process and replacing it with the character that that person is playing.

“As an actor, you spend four, five, 10 years or a lifetime learning how to completely strip away as much of your own individual character as you can,” Kirley said. “And for some people who have never been involved in theater, that can be both a very intimidating and difficult process. The use of mask is a very easy tool to allow that to happen.”

Due to limited space on the ship, only 15 students will be allowed to enroll for Theatre of Discovery.

For registration details, call Paul Kirley at (917) 208-4976.
Bayboro sail club lights way to dual honors in boat parade

Bayboro Sail Club brought home double honors last month for USF-St. Petersburg in St. Petersburg's annual lighted boat parade.

The Sail Club boat, Someday, was invited to lead the 24 boats in the Dec. 9 nighttime event. Later, the club was awarded second place in the sailboat class.

This was the second year in a row for the club to win an award in the parade, according to club president Gerri Witter. Dr. Steve Lang, club advisor, captured Someday. A second USF boat, The Wanderer, was skippered by Recreation Coordinator Stan Hyatt.

About 20 members of the club were aboard the two boats.

King event seeks USF marchers

Students at USF-St. Petersburg are sought to participate in the annual downtown parade marking the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The Drum Major for Justice Parade" will begin at 11:30 a.m. Monday.

**Students can be part of Superbowl event**

USF students have a chance to be part of this month's Super Bowl celebration in Tampa.

MTV Music Television, which is producing the half-time show for the annual football extravaganza, is looking for college students to be "on-the-field fans" during the show. Aeromith and N'Sync are scheduled to perform.

All participants must be members of a club or organization. The organization leader must provide a list of at least 25 persons. At least three mandatory rehearsals will be held beginning Jan. 18.

Deadline for registering is Thursday. The game will be held Jan. 28.

For more information, contact Dr. Juanita Fountain, 553-1575. The procession will begin at Vinoy Park and end at Tropicana Field.

Students, departments and organizations can register at DAV 112. For more information, contact Dr. Juanita Fountain, 553-1575.

**Deadline near for Rays concession signup**

Volunteer fair will be held Jan. 17 in Davis Lobby. More than 20 agencies will be represented providing opportunities for course fieldwork, career networking, and community involvement.

Fair hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. These agencies also can be a resource for students taking the service learning class, said Barry McDowell, volunteer services coordinator.

For more information, call 553-1622, or visit BAY 110.

Patronize Crow's Nest Advertisers

**SCHEDULE**

*From Page 1*

March 9 - Making Florida Home
Anne Henderson, former director of the Florida Humanities Council, will discuss the lack of community in Florida and the difficulty this creates in trying to work together to solve the state's problems.

March 19 - Ethical Issues in Business in Florida
A panel discussion involving executives of several leading Florida corporations will focus on why business is paying increasing attention to ethical issues.

March 26 - Reforming Florida's Government
Ben Wilcox, president of Common Cause in Florida, will explain some of the reforms his organization believes are needed to make the state's government and politics more fair and effective.

April 2 - Growth Management in Florida's Future
Steve Selbert, director of Florida's Department of Community Affairs and former Pinellas County commissioner, will discuss the balance between protecting against urban sprawl and the rights of Florida's private property owners.

April 9 - Young v. Old: Florida's Developing Intergenerational Conflict
Susan MacManus, distinguished professor of government at USF-Tampa, will weigh the needs and issues of the young against those of the senior citizens.

April 16 - Character Education: Making Students into Citizens
Mervin Berkowitz, Stanford McDowell professor of character education at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, will explore whether character education can transform students into better citizens.

**LECTURES**

*From Page 1*

Business ethics and education and African American speakers, including Dr. Petersen Times columnist Bill Maxwell on Feb. 19. Paulson said that the instructors are also trying to get noted Miami Herald columnist and book author Carl Hassen.

Paulson said that he would like the seminar series to give students a historical perspective for making their own ethical decisions on what is best for Florida's future.

"Each one of these sessions will have an ethical component attached to it," Paulson said.

The lecture series, titled "Ethical Issues in Florida's Future" is free and open to the public. The programs will be held in the Campus Activities Center. The lectures begin at 7 p.m. and are followed by a question-and-answer session.

**University Police Auction**

Wednesday, January 31

**DAD 130**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Silent Auction All Day

Live Auction at Noon

Items will be on display one hour prior to live auction.

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