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Looking West, dean likes view

By M.E. BAKER
Editor

Bill Heller has had a vision. It isn’t apocalyptic; rather it is revelatory. And he believes it’s prophetic.

Heller, dean and chief executive officer of the St. Petersburg campus, accompanied USF President Judy Genshaft on an Aug. 28 trip to a branch campus of Arizona State University. What he saw there, he believes, exemplifies how USF St. Petersburg could operate within just a few years.

The West campus, as it is known, is located on 325 acres in Phoenix. Twenty years younger than the St. Pete campus, it has roughly double the students and faculty of USF St. Petersburg. Yet, Heller considered its similarities to the St. Petersburg campus striking.

West is about the same number of miles from its mother school in Tempe as St. Petersburg is from the main campus in Tampa. The Phoenix-area population is approximately equal to that of Pinellas County. And the schools here and there are situated close to community colleges. USF St. Petersburg just began accepting first- and second-year students. West got approval to do the same only days ago.

Yet there is one dramatic difference between the Phoenix and the St. Petersburg universities. The West campus, since its inception, has operated autonomously from the main school. This means the school’s budget is separate from the ASU campus in Tempe. It is free to make its own decisions about course offerings. It is accredited separately from the other campus.

Heller’s and Genshaft’s trip is one of the latest in a series of events precipitated by a bill introduced this past spring by state Sen. Don Sullivan. The legislation was passed, would have made USF’s St. Petersburg campus independent from USF, and transformed it into a campus for a currently hypothetical Suncoast University. The bill, which generated much controversy from school administrators and faculty, as well as local civic leaders, died on the last day of the legislative session. Sen. Sullivan recently talked to Crow’s Nest writer and USF graduate student Aaron Quinn about the bill and the future of USF St. Petersburg.

Q: Senator Sullivan, you proposed a bill in the last state legislative session that, if passed, would have made USF’s St. Petersburg campus independent from USF, and transformed it into a campus for your currently hypothetical Suncoast University. Why did the bill fail?

A: The bill died because of time restraints on our legislative session, not because of a lack of willingness for others to take it up. There is a lot of public support for this idea.

Q: Why will this campus be better off as a part of “Suncoast University” rather than USF?

A: Florida higher education is unique in that to graduate with a four-year degree in the state you must attend a research university. All of Florida’s four-year universities are accomplished research institutions, and we need to concentrate on graduating more people.

Q: Where does the state of Florida stand in higher education nationally?

A: Florida leads only one state in the country as far as the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded per capita, and that’s Mississippi. Suncoast University, with the St. Petersburg campus as a member, will take a step towards graduating more students because it will be open to more people.

Sullivan: St. Pete must control its destiny

By AARON QUINN
Of the Crow’s Nest

[EDITOR’S NOTE: This past spring, State Sen. Don Sullivan, (R, St. Petersburg), introduced a bill which would have spun off USF campuses in St. Petersburg and Sarasota into separate independent universities. The St. Petersburg campus would have been known as Suncoast University. The bill, which generated much controversy from school administrators and faculty, as well as local civic leaders, died on the last day of the legislative session. Sen. Sullivan recently talked to Crow’s Nest writer and USF graduate student Aaron Quinn about the bill and the future of USF St. Petersburg.]

PHOTO BY AARON QUINN

Nataly Scott takes the lead in the "Cardboard Boat Race" Sept. 8 on Bayboro Harbor. She was the only competitor to stay fully afloat from beginning to end. (See story on page 8).
By ELTON WONG
Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa -- Christine Maggiore is a well-known AIDS activist, but she is what you might call a non-traditional one.

Maggiore, who heads Alive & Well AIDS Alternatives in Burbank, Calif., has come under considerable fire for her theories on AIDS and what causes it.

Her central belief can be described simply: the HIV virus is not responsible for AIDS. Therefore, Maggiore recommends that patients diagnosed with HIV cease treatment and not worry about spreading the virus.

If you accept the first proposition, the rest of Maggiore's ideas sound almost reasonable. One crackpot alone is rarely able to do much harm. What makes Maggiore's case so noteworthy is that people listen to her. Thabo Mbeki, the president of South Africa has met with her and is a supporter of her views. The Foo Fighters promote her ideas on their web page.

Crackpot or not, it is impossible to dismiss Maggiore as irrelevant. For instance, President Thabo Mbeki has called for more research into whether or not HIV causes AIDS.

In response to this bewildering request, 5,000 shocked scientists signed a declaration calling the evidence for the HIV/AIDS link "clear-cut, exhaustive and unambiguous."

This uniform response from the scientific community has not fazed Maggiore. Although she has never earned a college degree nor been trained in any science, she asserts through speeches, books and interviews that HIV tests are unreliable, that there is no AIDS epidemic in Africa, and that the 420,000 Americans who supposedly died from AIDS were actually killed by their prescription drugs.

Either that, or they died from recreational drugs, or "a profound fear of AIDS itself. " This all fits into Maggiore's grand conspiracy theory.

Before discussing Maggiore further, it must be made absolutely clear that Maggiore is wrong. Dead wrong. Even trying to point out how and why she is wrong is to give her "theories" more credit than they deserve. Arguing that HIV leads to AIDS is much like defending the fact that the earth is round, current biological diversity arose from evolution through natural selection or that the Holocaust happened.

In fact, Maggiore and her followers sound remarkably like flat-earthers, creationists and Holocaust deniers. What is different is that, especially when compared to the two former cases, the AIDS issue is literally a matter of life and death.

For instance, San Francisco authorities just announced that new HIV cases in 1999 were nearly twice as high as in 1997. "People are focusing on the wrong thing. They're focusing on conspiracy theories rather than protecting themselves, rather than getting tested and seeking out appropriate care and treatment," said Stephen Thomas to Newsweek magazine.

Thomas directs the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Minority Health.

One obstacle to the popular understanding of AIDS is that most people are not educated in the finer points of biology.

This is understandable because nowadays, the state of scientific knowledge is significantly advanced so as to preclude a layman from understanding what is really going on. Thus, it is nearly impossible for a normal person to tell good science from pseudoscience.

For example, creationist Web sites routinely make blanket statements like "carbon-dating is unreliable" or "it is impossible for functioning proteins to come together out of nothing." Whom among their audience is going to know any better?

One could try to explain and defend the effectiveness of protease inhibitors in fighting the HIV virus by delving into protein biochemistry.

However, if you were suffering from the virus and had little scientific knowledge, how effective would this really be?

It would probably be much easier to believe that HIV is harmless, rather than face up to the fact that your body will eventually die fighting it. Whether we like it or not, science has become the same thing as faith for most people.

Unfortunately, faith is not very discriminating.

In addition, faith easily becomes immune from being disproved. Last year, the Center for Disease Control released data that show the wild success of protease inhibitors in lowering cases of AIDS.

Maggiore shuns these findings, saying that most patients flush their medications down the toilet. In fact, Maggiore credits the downsizing in AIDS cases to the (unsubstantiated) widespread refusal of patients to take drugs.

What is to be done? How can people like Maggiore be stopped? The only answer that can be given is not a pleasant one: nothing should be done. Government policy (e.g. funding for medical research) should obviously be guided by true scientific knowledge. Similarly, the goal of public health education is to make sure everyone has true information.

However, if people then choose to reject or disbelieve this information, if they reject the drugs developed by real science, then that is their right.

To interfere with this right is to be disrespectful and paternalistic.

The free dissemination of information (and misinformation) is protected by the same principle.

Adults have the right to make their own decisions, even if they act on information that is not true, even if they destroy themselves in the process.

This is an inevitable, if tragic aspect of freedom.

Letters

Re: FAMU law school

Tampa Bay is the very best location for the new law school because the bay area is literally "the muddy trenches." Tampa Bay because of its social, political and economic anomalies, are the very reasons why FAMU's proposed law school belongs here. The school needs to be close to the issues. Tampa Bay is in the midst of the fray. The "front lines" are here. It is FAMU's duty to locate here. Tampa Bay is a tough town. A law school here would produce tough barristers.

Daniel P. Quinn
St. Petersburg

Crow's Nest

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Crow's Nest
Sept. 13-26
**Museum studies program hits a hot topic**

By CHRIS CURRY
The Crow's Nest

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Louvre in Paris and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. These are a few of the places where works of art are viewed, studied and revered.

USF is now looking to get students into the same game as these heavy hitters in the art league with a new graduate certificate program in museum studies.

The 19-credit certificate can be applied to a graduate degree in fine arts and targets those with museum experience or an interest in the visual arts. The certificate program was designed to fill the gap while university administrators decide whether to offer a graduate degree in museum studies.

Similar degrees are offered at schools such as Bard College, New York University and the University of California at Berkeley.

"We've tried to get students interested in it," said art department chairperson Wally Wilson.

"There's been a moderate response to this point."

Although Wilson and USF Contemporary Art Museum director Margaret Miller initiated the program at the Tampa campus, Wilson said the state legislature funded it to be run out of St. Petersburg.

"We have more museums," said David Carr, coordinator of the campus arts and sciences program.

"Pinellas has a large number of museums, both art and historical. Just think of what's in a mile radius of campus - the Dali, the Fine Arts, the St. Petersburg Historical, the Holocaust Museum and the Florida International. That's a lot of museums within a tight radius."

Still, the program is not taught exclusively in St. Petersburg. Miller is teaching Problems in Museum Studies, a required course for the certificate, at Tampa this semester.

Museum studies was actually a mid-term addition to the St. Petersburg campus last spring with two courses - Collections and Exhibition Management and Art of the United States 1750-Present - taught by adjuncts. Both classes were cancelled when they failed to draw five students.

This semester, the same two classes and the same two adjuncts - Jennifer Hardin, curator of collections for the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, and Jade Dellinger, an independent curator who works with the USF Contemporary Art Museum - were back for a second try. Seven students are enrolled in each class.

"We decided to suck in our gut and go through with it," Carr said. "If you offer things and withdraw them it looks bad for a university."

Dellinger, who has a bachelor's in art history from USF and a master's in arts administration from NYU, said he is already impressed with the varied experiences of the mix of graduate and undergraduate students in his class.

Four worked at local museums, including the Salvador Dali Museum and the Scarfone-Harley Galleries at the University of Tampa. Two are artists. And there is even a finance major, who Dellinger said could be a valuable asset when the class covers budget and grant writing.

"I'm less interested in it being a class based on a here's a book let's go over it chapter by chapter type thing than getting them some firsthand experience," Dellinger said.

Dellinger said that having courses taught by adjunct instructors would not be a detriment to the program.

"I think sort of their objective in asking me, and probably Jennifer too, is they wanted to get museum professionals, or professionals in the field with more experience than your average university professor type."

Hardin, who holds a doctorate in American art history from Princeton University, said her class will give students a historical understanding of the collections they might work with in a museum, with heavy emphasis on the years 1850-1950 and respected names like Winslow Homer and Georgia O'Keeffe.

"It will help people who have never worked in a museum and introduce them to what a musem does," Hardin said. "For those who already work in a museum...it will give them a much broader experience."

Hardin said that USF has struck a hot topic in museum studies. "In the '90s, with the growing interest in museums in the popular realm, there have been more programs. If they already existed they've been developed to a greater extent, and new ones have been formed."

The ultimate fate of museum studies at USF has yet to be determined. The graduate certificate program is still not fully approved by the university.

Carr said he would like to see USF move away from a graduate degree in museum studies and instead offer it as a minor for undergraduate students.

"I'm not that enthused about it," Carr said. "I think there's better ways for the university to establish relationships with museums."

Carr said the university should expand the opportunities for students to "learn the ropes" by interning in area museums.

A six-credit internship is a proposed requirement for the graduate certificate.

Wilson said that one option would be to transform museum studies into an intensive two- to four-week long summer program offered at the St. Petersburg campus.

"We would have people come in from museums across the country," Wilson said. "Maybe a summer institute will be a national program like the president (Genshaft) wants."
New coach mixes passion for sailing with business of readying for big time

By MELANIE BARAT  Contributing Writer

Stephanie Doyle is one of the lucky ones. She is able to mix business with pleasure.

Doyle, 24, has a passion for sailing, which helped land her the position last month as head coach of the University of South Florida women’s sailing team, the first USF varsity sport to have its primary training facility on a regional campus - St. Petersburg.

Doyle began sailing at age 8 at the St. Petersburg Sailing Center's summer program and has been sailing ever since.

"Sailing has always been my passion," Doyle said. "And I come from a sailing family. My brother sails for Harvard, my father was College Sailor of the Year in the '70's and my mom sails for the Salty Sisters, an all-women sailing group at the St. Pete Yacht Club."

Doyle graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1995, where she sailed and competed in national competition for three years. Accepted at Notre Dame, Doyle not only sailed, but also coached the team from 1996-99. During that time, Notre Dame qualified to sail in 13 national championships.

Before graduating in 1999, Doyle was elected commodore of the Midwest Collegiate Sailing Association, the organization that oversees women's sailing teams at 30 Midwest schools.

Doyle will lead a USF team that began as a club sport, only becoming a varsity team in the summer of 1999. "The first year was a really solid year," said Stan Hyatt, the interim coach for the 1999-2000 season. "We've consistently been at the edge of being ranked."

Becoming recognized as a varsity team was very important to the team, according to Hyatt, because they were able to begin seriously representing the university at national sailing events. "We competed against the U.S. Naval Academy, Harvard and the University of Hawaii last year," Hyatt said. "And it was very exciting for our team to compete at that level."

Doyle and the sailing team have already met their first test. Saturday at Eckerd College, the USF women competed against sailors from five other universities: Florida State, University of Florida, Georgia Tech, Jacksonville University and Eckerd.

Six women comprised the team last year; now it's up to 15. One of Doyle's first goals is to increase recruitment efforts. "We will be recruiting on all campuses this fall," Doyle said.

Another goal she has for the team is to improve its ranking. "I hope to get the women's team ranked in the top 15 in the country in the next three years," Doyle said. In order to accomplish this goal, she hopes to increase the number of boats in the fleet in the near future. "We only have eight college sailing boats currently," Doyle said. "We would like a fleet of 16."

"We're very fortunate to attract someone as accomplished as Stephanie Doyle to lead our varsity sailing program," USF senior associate athletic director Barbara Sparks-McGlinchy said in a written statement. "Her passion for collegiate sailing is obvious and the combination of her experience and the fact that she is from St. Petersburg makes her a natural fit for the position. We are very excited to have her lead our program."

Campus Calendar

Upcoming activities on the St. Petersburg campus:

SEPTEMBER

13 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Meet representatives of the Natural Law/Reform Party DAV lobby

Noon - 2 p.m. Suncoast Flying Club meeting and election of officers Poolside

4-5 p.m. AIDS/HIV Quilt Project Information Session BAY 117

4:30 p.m. Student Government Meeting CAC 133

14 5-6 p.m. Note Taking Workshop CCC

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Florida Humanities Council Board of Directors CAC 133

15 10 a.m. CTFP Committee Meeting CAC 133

Noon - 1 p.m. College Success Workshop CCC

5:30 p.m. Sail Club meeting Bayboro Cafe

16 8:30 a.m. - Noon USF students will be cleaning up the beach north of the Tierra Verde bridge in conjunction with the nationwide Coastal Cleanup. To volunteer, call Barry McDowell, 553-1622.

7 p.m. FOOTBALL USF v. James Madison Raymond James Stadium, Tampa

19 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Dean's Lunch

20 10 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Club and Organization Workshop CAC 133

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Benefits Fair CAC

4:30 p.m. Student Government Executive Meeting SG office

21 10 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Club and Organization Workshop CAC 133

22 GRADUATION APPLICATION DEADLINE - FALL 2000

24 9 a.m. - Noon Beginning Sailing Class Haney Landing

26 4 p.m. MIS Society Meeting DAV 130

27 4:30 p.m. AIDS/HIV Quilt Project Information Session CAC 133

28 Registration & Directory Forms due

Suncoast Flying Club meeting and election of officers Poolside

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26 4 p.m. MIS Society Meeting DAV 130

4 - 5 p.m. AIDS/HIV Quilt Project Information Session CAC 133

27 4:30 p.m. Student Government Meeting CAC 133

7:02 p.m. Mike DeRosa - motivational speaker CAC

28 Registration & Directory Forms due

Noon - 1 p.m. Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills Workshop CAC

CCC
Urban plan marks busy summer

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

It was a busy summer for the USF Urban Initiative, a program intended to bring the university's resources to the campus' neighbors in inner-city south St. Petersburg. It saw the renewal of a partnership between the program and city hall and the hiring of a new person to work with the city on a daily basis.

First, Dean William Heller and St. Petersburg city officials agreed to renew the contract between the Urban Initiative and the city's Challenge 2001, a similar program launched by Mayor David Fischer.

Under their one-year agreement the city pays $50,000 to evaluate and advise on Challenge 2001 programs in the areas of education, community renewal, economic development and public safety. These programs include St. Pete Reads, an after-school tutorial program for minority children, and the St. Petersburg Small Business Development Center on 5th Avenue South.

The $50,000 payment is the only formal source of funding for the program. Unlike the Community Initiative, a similar program based out of the Tampa campus, the Urban Initiative receives no direct money from USF.

"We're going to make our case for that funding," Heller said.

Then, in early August, former Lealman Discovery School teacher Terry K. Bradley took over as the Urban Initiative's new facilitator. Bradley succeeded Doug Tuthill, who stepped down to start a business in education-related consulting.

Bradley has a bachelor's in sociology from Florida A&M University and is working toward a master's degree in vocational education.

"When I found out the job was a liaison between the university's resources and the minority community, I jumped to it," Bradley said. "I wanted to be an educator and work in the community too so it's like a dream to be on both sides of it."

Bradley will handle the day-to-day operation of Urban Initiative programs funded by the city. As a facilitator, he will also work to ensure that all viewpoints are heard at events such as the annual retreat between the St. Petersburg Police Department and various community groups.

Heller said Bradley, who has worked for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Department of Education, brought to the job a good mix of experience in the Initiative target areas.

City administrator Tish Elston, the project director for Challenge 2001, said Bradley's knowledge of the community and his skill for interacting with people were both strengths.

"He brings a real interest and excitement for what he's doing," Elston said. "I think he's going to be a real enthusiastic contributor.

Bradley said that character was an important qualification for a job targeted at community renewal in the inner city and increased educational opportunities for minority children.

"I am from a small town, Quincy, Fla., where norms and values were presented to me at a young age," Bradley said. "My mother was a teacher for 47 years. My father was a general contractor and my mother was a teacher for 47 years."

"The two big things are the city council's request, City Attorney John Wolfe concluded that the university's assistance to the Uluru complied with a contractual provision that USF's "provide leadership and technical support to inner-city community based groups."

"I've never had a problem with the city," Heller said. "There was just some misunderstanding on what we were supposed to do."

In early July, the city council approved the renewal of the contract with USF, with only Ford voting against the agreement.

Both Elston and Heller said the new contract between the city and the school is more specific than the first one.

"This current agreement is a lot more explicit in terms of services the university provides," Elston said. "The two big things are the evaluation of St. Pete Reads and the Small Business Development Center."

"It's better this time around because it's very specific on what we're gonna do," Heller said. "Last time it was too general."

Under the contract, USF is required to provide the city with quarterly status reports and a final annual report. Bradley is also required to meet with Elston and his counterpart with the city, Challenge Program Coordinator Tina Middleton, at least once a month.

"It's a little more specific in reporting," Elston said. "It requires Council to get reports directly in writing."

Middleton said that she would like to see the city and the university become catalysts for change in the community.

"I think the potential to have more impact than we have had is there," Middleton said.

Meanwhile, Heller is also concentrating on other Urban Initiative programs.

"Last year people got the idea it was just a city project, but that's just one piece of it," Heller said.

In addition to various city programs, the Urban Initiative also includes an educational CD-ROM and web site that detail the African-American heritage of St. Petersburg, an annual community history fair and an SAT preparation course for minority students.

Circus McGurkis

Circus McGurkis taking applications for October fair

Applications are now being accepted from artists, craftspeople and nonprofit community service organizations for next month's Circus McGurkis.

The annual "People's Fair" is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, at Lakeview Park.

To register, call 896-0310 or 327-6726 evenings. A registration form also is available at www.lizardhall.org.

Rain date is Nov. 4.
Counseling center gearing up co-op program to help students with earning while learning

By MELANIE BARAT
Contributing Writer

As the fall 2000 semester kicks off with approximately 100 new freshman and sophomore students, the Counseling and Career Center is gearing up to offer a new experiential learning program which helps students gain work experience while getting their education.

"Our big emphasis this fall is experiential learning and employer relations," said center director Diane McKinstry. "We are going out and talking to CEOs and human relations managers of area businesses and encouraging them to set up co-op opportunities and internships as well as participate in our career fairs and become more involved with our campus. This is very relevant to our younger students but also relevant for changing careers."

Campus Dean and chief executive officer Bill Heller is very supportive of the program. He sees it as an augmentation to a student's educational experience. "I really feel it offers the students a much more complete program," Heller said. "It is one of the ways that students can get acquainted with a career field that they may be interested in, with the potential to lead to employment at the end of the program."

Heller has hired Revonda Schumaker as a faculty administrator, assigned to this program as a liaison between area businesses and the St. Petersburg campus.

Schumaker, who started July 31, is a former executive officer at St. Anthony's Hospital and a past member of the chamber of commerce, which allows her easier access to local businesses.

"Dr. Heller's philosophy is face to face and one on one," Schumaker said. "I make contact with the businesses already with the program to make sure they are satisfied, and work with new businesses that are interested in getting involved as well."

Two types of co-op plans offer flexibility for students. One is the "alternating" plan, where a student works one semester then goes to school one semester for a total of four semesters. In the "parallel" plan, the student works part-time and goes to school part-time.

"Students who quality for the co-op program can complete the program right on the St Pete campus without having to go to Tampa," McKinstry said. To qualify, a student must have completed at least 45 credit hours and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

The center offers both career and personal counseling. "The purpose of the center is to help all students through the whole educational experience personally, intellectually, vocationally, socially and physically," said Perry Kaly, a psychological resident who joined the center in August 1999 as a half-time counselor. "Anyone who is struggling with anything comes here."

The center does not offer academic advising.

Workshops are offered throughout the year that deal with health and wellness issues. According to Sandy Blood, the center's health educator "These workshops include alcohol awareness, the Great Smoke-Out, breast cancer awareness, and AIDS awareness,"

Blood said.

Each year the center sponsors Career Expo, which brings in potential employers from the community to discuss employment opportunities. This event will be held early in the spring semester, according to McKinstry.

The center is located in Davis 115. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be made in person or by phone at 553-1129.
Heller optimistic about USF future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would have split off campuses in St. Petersburg and Sarasota into independent universities. The bill failed to pass, but it has had repercussions. USF St. Petersburg received an additional $4.2 million budget allocation. Increased autonomy for the St. Petersburg campus was one of Genshaft's first pledges when she assumed her office in July.

Consequently, this year's freshmen students can expect to see "phenomenal" changes before they graduate, Heller believed. Some of those changes have, in fact, already begun: the newly acquired ability to admit an unlimited number of underclassmen and separation of St. Pete's budget from Tampa's.

USF St. Petersburg also has received permission to begin planning for on-campus housing, a long-time "no-no," Heller said. A lack of housing would make freshman recruitment much more difficult, the dean said. He noted that "students who live here will be here," which will in turn by good for businesses downtown.

Autonomy would not necessarily mean that the St. Petersburg campus would replicate all the courses available in Tampa. "Not everything would be appropriate here," Heller said. Regardless, he predicted expanded opportunities in arts and sciences, business and marine science. There is both the interest and the population here to support those programs, he said. However, "that doesn't mean you don't do it without some oversight" from Tampa, he added.

Other programs also are under development, Heller said, in environmental sciences and policy and museum studies. He also is the addition of a visual communication segment to the mass communications curriculum here.

Does all this add up to separate accreditation for USF St. Petersburg? "We will look at what it takes," said Heller. The campus already has "experience in accreditation," so it would "reasonable to expect" that a separate accreditation could be achieved.

"We're proud of our university," Heller said. "We want to be part of USF. At the same time, we feel it's time to give us some flexibility and independence." That can happen, he feels, "within the context of the university.

Sen. Sullivan's bill may turn out to "one of the best things to happen to this campus," he said. "The potential that's been here all along is going to happen. I've never been as optimistic about anything in my life."

Sullivan: St. Pete must control its fate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Q: Is there a chance for a compromise with University of South Florida regarding the university keeping the St. Pete campus?

A: Right now USF's President Genshaft is looking at a university that has autonomous campuses. If she can meet the needs of the Florida community with a resolution, that's fine. For right now, though, there are too many people who don't have the access that they need.

Q: Since USF is already a well accomplished, accredited university, why take one of its campuses and make it independent?

A: What the new university will do that USF doesn't do is use student fees that are paid to a campus on that campus. USF student fees all go to a central pot where they are divvied according to the administration of the main campus. Many of St. Pete's student fees are not used on the St. Pete campus.

Q: What groups of people have problems with finding a university to complete a four-year degree?

A: We're talking about people who can't afford to leave home to go away to college. There are huge numbers of people in Florida who are 300 or more miles away from any four-year institutions, and unless we move closer, they won't complete a bachelor's degree.

Other candidates for Suncoast are working people who won't make an hour-long commute after a full day at work. There are also mothers with children that can't leave home for long periods of time.

Q: What evidence have you seen that suggests to you that Suncoast University would attract the attention that you are banking on?

A: About 18 months ago, a distance learning program started among nine state universities. In that short a period, 2,000 people enrolled to take courses. Before long, the distance learning enrollment may eclipse the current student population of USF's St. Petersburg campus.

Q: If Suncoast University acquires the St. Pete campus, what will happen to USF students who use that campus?

A: Students can transfer within the state system just as they do now [or stay with USF at a different campus]. With new computer systems coming online, there is going to be a "seamless transfer" between the Suncoast University system and all of the institutions of the state, including the community college system.

EVENTS

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advances, and information on the Americans with Disabilities Act.
INFO: 359-9983 or www.DeafServiceCenter.org

Oct. 10
7:30 p.m.
"The Great Florida Birding Trail"
Oak Hall Environmental Studies Area
2900 31st St. S.
St. Petersburg
Cost: Free
INFO: 893-7526

Oct. 28-29
CraftArt 2000
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday
Plant Park, University of Tampa
Cost: $2, children under 12 free
See the works of 125 artists in clay, wood, metal, fiber, jewelry, paper, glass and mixed media in this fourth annual event. Artists will give free demonstrations throughout the weekend. Sponsored by Florida Craftsmen, Inc., and the University of Tampa.
INFO: 821-7391

Continuing
"America Through the CBS Eye"
Florida International Museum
100 2nd St. N., St. Petersburg
Cost: $7.95 (college students); $13.95 adults

Keep up with what's happening at USF St. Pete.
Read the Crow's Nest

Sept. 13-26
Crow's Nest
Neither turtle nor hare likes to lose

By GERRI WILNER
Contributing Writer

For a perfectionist with a lifetime of engineering feats to his credit, you could see how painful it was for him to have to slap together a cardboard boat in the space of a 3-hour time frame. I arrived at about 4:45 p.m. and the race was at 5:30. That meant the wood frame of the boat would have to be completed and covered with plastic sheeting within the next 45 minutes.

The rules of the annual "Cardboard Boat Race" stated that we had to construct our boat from start to finish in three hours. Each entry was given some 2x4s, a panel of cardboard, a length of plastic, and two rolls of waterproof tape. The paddle had to be made from a piece of pressed wood. The course in Bayboro Harbor looked pretty long for a cardboard boat, but this was the challenge and the four groups entered were up for it.

Our crew of four workers and four onlookers was slowly cutting pieces of wood to our designer's specifications. It was a meticulous process, with great care being taken to measure and cut everything perfectly, but time was running out. It was terribly hot and, although the workers were in the shade, their energy level was slowing down.

The boat was coming together slowly, too. I thought that by the time I got there they would be putting the finishing touches on the boat, but they were still working on the skeleton.

Jumping into the fray, quick as an Energizer bunny, I found myself in an agitated frenzy, cutting tape as fast I could pull it off the roll, putting onlookers into forced service.

"Here, hold this tape! Pull, quick, pull."
"Here, you take the roll, now, Pull."
"Help him tape, NOW."

We turned the craft right side up and began taping everything down. We were still taping as we carried the boat into the water for the start of the race.

This was a momentous occasion. Our newest member climb gingerly in to paddle around the course. What a trooper. As the to lose. And yet, you might say we showed diplomacy and grace letting the boat and dock director win. But wait 'til next year. We may add torpedoes to our boat to eliminate competition!

All photos by Aaron Quinn

The race has a watery ending for Student Government President Clayton Tieman, left, and Dr. Stephen Ritch. A rescue boat stands by to pull them from Bayboro Harbor. The rest of the contestants head for the turn. This year's winner was Nataly Scott.