Recruitment efforts pay off for USF St. Petersburg

Enrollment is up 54 percent over the last five years

By MATT NELSON
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg, with efforts from a full-time recruiter and good word-of-mouth, has increased enrollment 14 percent for the second-straight year.

John Vassel, Coordinator of Student Recruitment at USF St. Petersburg, works full-time to recruit students from Pinellas County and surrounding areas. "The main goal from a recruiting standpoint," Vassel said, "is to get out there and let them know there is a place students can go in Pinellas County that is apart of a major research university."

Vassel talks or has some type of communication with about 3,000 potential students a year. "Even though all students are welcome to apply and attend the campus," Vassel said, "our philosophy is, first and foremost, recruiting freshmen."

When Vassel first started his job nearly two years ago, many in the high schools didn't know USF St. Petersburg existed. "When we said USF, they automatically said, 'Oh, Tampa,'" Vassel said. Now, with the help of guidance counselors and meeting with students one-on-one, the campus has a stronger presence in local high schools. Vassel said networking through guidance counselors has a profound effect on students and where they go.

Vassel, a graduate of USF St. Petersburg a decade ago, uses his own experiences to give an idea of what the campus has to offer and its commitment to academic excellence. "I really stress to incoming freshmen that they are going to in with an elite group of students," he said. Vassel said most of the faculty "are getting younger, which students like, and are full-time and have their Ph.D.s."

Records indicate a 54 percent increase in enrollment at the campus in the last five years, with a 28 percent increase the past two years. There are now about 4,000 students enrolled at the campus. Before Vassel arrived there was no full-time recruiter. Ralph Campbell, who worked in the Academic Advising office and was a part-time recruiter, resigned in 2000.

Vassel's arrival meant less work for other faculty and staff. Dr. Susan Fernandez, director of the Learning Community, was doing all the recruitment for the program herself before Vassel's arrival, while teaching and researching full-time. The Learning Community is a two-year program for beginning freshmen who will share many of the same classes and curriculum. "When the Learning Community started in 1998 there were no freshmen-sophomore advisors or recruiters here," Fernandez said. "I was both of those."

She said that having a full-time recruiter here means a lot less work for herself and others. The past two fall terms she has been able to focus more on the program and curriculum. "It's good to have a professional to go out in the community and access more people," she said. Fernandez also said she trusts Vassel's work as a journalist.

A USF grad student served prison time for his work

October is breast cancer awareness month.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Imprisoned for his work

A USF grad student served prison time for his work as a journalist.

Students view "unprecedented" film

The film explored Florida's botched 2000 presidential election.

Airport land probably not in campus future

Chances are the valuable land won't be turned over to USF.

Leadership conference in USF student's future

Twenty USF students will attend an upcoming conference.

Racing for a cure

A 25-year-old cancer survivor now volunteers to help others fight the disease.

USF launches boat races

For the first time, Homecoming events will include cardboard boat races.
Opinions

Al-Arian issue should be an internal matter

For those who are unaware, USF President Judy Genshaft is seeking to fire a tenured computer science professor, Dr. Sami Al-Arian, because of his alleged ties to terrorist activities. The university accuses Al-Arian of abusing his position by, among other actions, founding the World and Islam Studies Enterprise Inc. as a front for terrorist activities. Al-Arian and his supporters say WISE is a think tank and that his actions fall under the umbrella of academic freedom.

In an update regarding Al-Arian, Genshaft called the situation "the source of intense disruption for the university," and that certainly has been the case, especially so for the Tampa campus, where Al-Arian has been a professor since 1986. (See Genshaft's complete statement at http://www.usf.edu/president/archive/2002_alarian_update.html.)

However, this "intense disruption" could have been diminished if the matter had remained an internal one, and those with little stake in the matter had not become involved. Some examples of the interference by those outside USF are:

* FOX TV talk-show host Bill O'Reilly interviewed Al-Arian a year ago-two weeks after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks-about his alleged ties to terrorism. Although a PBS documentary addressed the issue as far back as 1994, The O'Reilly Factor was the first to make the issue nationally known. Clearly Floridians have an interest in Al-Arian's future because state residents pay the university's tuition. The professor, in turn, has asked a judge to set the matter aside. With the issue before the courts the only winners will be the attorneys, and the matter might be settled about the time today's freshmen receive their bachelor's degrees. It's true that USF first brought the matter to the court system, but the courts could have refused to become involved. It's not too late for the court system to drop the lawsuit and turn the issue back to the university.

The situation is reminiscent of squabbling children who, left on their own, eventually work out their differences. But when an interfering adult steps in the matter gets more complicated. While no one is suggesting that Genshaft or Al-Arian are acting like children—they are not—and this matter is much more serious than a childish disagreement, the principle remains: non-affected parties should stay out of the fight. Let Genshaft make her decision to fire or retain Al-Arian without undue influence from those outside the university.

If the courts are wise they will grant Al-Arian's request to drop USF's lawsuit. Let the matter get resolved where it should be—within the University of South Florida.

Opinions wanted

Do you have an opinion on a topic affecting USF St. Petersburg or the surrounding area? The Crow's Nest is seeking well-written, thoughtful letters to the editor. Letters should include your names, position (e.g., student), and phone numbers for verification. Letters may be edited for length or clarity and not all letters may be published.

Please email your letters to:
crowsnesterditor@yahoo.com.

On the Lighter Side

Congress at work

Hidden Curriculum Luncheon

Every Wednesday at Noon in FCT 118S

The Program for Ethics in Education and Community (PEEC) invites all students, faculty, staff and community members to attend this free lecture series and discussion forum, which features issues usually left unexplored in the university community.

Oct. 9 The Globalization of Higher Education
Oct. 16 Media Ethics: A New Model for Decisionmaking
Oct. 23 Character Education
Oct. 30 Florida Politics: Lessons Learned and Ignored

RSVP by Monday to 553-3851 to reserve a Free Lunch!
Sponsored by the USF Foundation and the Marie E. and E. Leslie Cole Endowment.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

In an effort to promote safety, the St. Petersburg Fire Department and various USF officials will conduct fire drills throughout the campus. Students, faculty and staff are asked to cooperate with these drills, which are planned to minimize class disruptions, but will require a full evacuation of each building. Under the supervision of USF police officers, the drills will last until the end of October.

CROW'S NEST

The student-sponsored newspaper of USF St. Petersburg. Published every other Wednesday during the semester.

EDITOR
Joe Wisinski

PRODUCTION
Edgar Huang

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Jeremy Soulliere
Lisa Rosenthal
Matt Nelson
Jimmy Grinaker
Elizabeth Gregov

ADVISORS
Janeen Ursitti
George M. Killenberg

OFFICE:
Campus Activities Center
Contact us at (727) 553-3113
crowsnesterditor@yahoo.com
Imprisoned for his work

Two Nigerian former political prisoners now attend USF St. Petersburg. This is the first of their stories. The second will run in the next issue of Crow’s Nest.

By LISA ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

Niran Malaolu casually unpacks a plastic shopping bag that contains proof he is not dead. Often during the 16 months of imprisonment and torture in Nigeria, he thought he was dying, or prayed for it. But Malaolu, 42, a graduate student in Journalism Studies, is a professional. He handles the articles detailing his horror, the photos of those who betrayed him and the “Free Malaolu” T-shirts as factually as he would back-handedly do with his friendship with a spy. They just didn’t like what I was saying, they knew I wasn’t a spy. They just didn’t like what I was saying.

Editor of the Nigerian newspaper The Diet, Malaolu was arrested in 1997 for allegedly helping plot a coup against the American embassy official. It was a story about the freedom of the press, and the Americans, and they thought why wouldn’t I be named a prisoner of war. They just didn’t like what I was saying.

“Why things happen,” he says.

After a trial in which he was defended by a maker of the military regime who had arrested him and wasn’t allowed to speak, he was sentenced to life imprisonment, later reduced to 15 years.

Despite Malaolu’s begging of his captors to tell him his offense, they would never really say. It most certainly had something to do with the things he wrote, particularly an article that said, “For this country, it is time for a change from the regime.” It was a story about the freedom of the press, and the Americans, and they thought why wouldn’t I be named a prisoner of war.

“Why things happen,” he says.

From that time period, inside the windowless square, there is only a notebook. He lays out a student composition book the color of a half-healed bruise, with a drawing of a man in graduation gowns on its cover. In it are the 60 poems he wrote while in prison. There are poems about the day he was arrested, about the prison and the guards, to his friends, many to his wife and children, and poems to God.

“Your are in the middle of nowhere,” he said. “You have nobody to talk to, you are just alone, so you begin to talk to your inside. See, every man is made of two men, the man outside and the man inside. That is your best friend; that is the person who cannot betray you.”

A poem to the prison cat, named Broken Bottle, who would eat her own kittens, begins:

Hungry pussy cat,

Now he sits at a table in the Journalist Studies program that doubles as a graduate student lounge. His elegant woolen shirt and perfectly tailored slack suits are a recent concession to Florida casualness, having taken the place of suits and shirts with French cuffs. Even here, he is a professional, and he has a job to do.

As people come and go, microwaving their lunches, Malaolu doesn’t look up from his papers.

“Every person has a character. When you listened, you could tell that it was this person moving around. You could hear their chains.”

When asked if you could talk to the others, his eyes grow wide. “No! You cannot!” The fear of the rule is still fresh.

“Why things happen,” he says.

The only time a prisoner saw anything but the four walls was when the door was opened to bring in one of the two daily meals or for a trip to the bathroom.

“Your are in the middle of nowhere,” he said. “You have nobody to talk to, you are just alone, so you begin to talk to your inside. See, every man is made of two men, the man outside and the man inside. That is your best friend; that is the person who cannot betray you.”

A poem to the prison cat, named Broken Bottle, who would eat her own kittens, begins:

Hungry pussy cat,

Students view Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election

By JIMMY GRINAKER
Staff Writer

USF students and community members recently viewed Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election, a somewhat controversial new documentary on the 2000 presidential election. The showing was hosted by the movie’s co-directors, Richard Ray Perez and Joan Sekler. The movie outlined what Perez and Sekler saw as numerous civil rights violations that occurred in Florida during the election.

The co-directors say that thousands of voters were unjustly purged from the voter rolls due to a sloppily run computer program which labeled many citizen-s as felons, although they had no criminal history. According to Perez and Sekler, this is a widespread African-American and/or Democratic. Perez and Sekler said Republican Secretary of State Katherine Harris knew about the election, but took no action to correct it. In an election determined by only 537 votes, a small percentage of votes could have reversed the outcome of the election.

Numerous other irregularities also occurred during the recount, from the notorious “Butterfly Ballot” which led many to vote for the wrong candidate, to one of these. In situations with a narrow margin, regular voting procedure demands a manual recount in every county because it provides more accurate results. Despite this, manual recounts only occurred in a few counties, leaving thousands of ballots unread. The Bush campaign was determined to stop any recount, while the Gore campaign initially settled for recounts in only four counties.

The Florida Supreme Court ordered a manual recount of the state’s under-vote, but this was overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court, ending the recount. A year later, a consortium of media outlets conducted an exhaustive study of the ballot. The results showed that if those ballots had gone through a manual recount, Al Gore may well have been the 43rd president of the United States.

After the showing, the audience had
Airport land probably not in USF's future

By MATT NELSON
Staff Writer

Students, faculty, and administration: Don't hold your breath and "lust" for any land from Albert Whitted Municipal Airport any time soon.

"I'm an expert in lust," said Martin (Marty) Normile, special advisor for campus development at USF St. Petersburg, in response to Professor Darryl Paulson's, crowd-pleasing humorous remark that "USF is lusting over the airport's land."

The buzz around USF St. Petersburg is that the campus will soon be able to expand onto land next door, but strong opposition may defeat USF's measure to use some of that land.

In a public forum Wednesday night presented by the League of Women Voters at the downtown St. Petersburg Times building, men representing four different ideas for what the city should do with the 110 acres presented their viewpoints and suggestions.

"I want USF to be part of the discussion regarding re-dispersing the airport's 110 acres," Normile said. "USF has not claimed any land, he added.

While USF would love to expand across 1st St. R, the airport is "not going anywhere for a long while," Jack Tunstill said. Tunstill, apart from his duties on the airport's advising committee, is a concerned business owner committed to keeping Albert Whitted Airport afloat on the Tampa Bay.

Tunstill said not only will it be very costly to clean up the land ($70,000 an acre), but it is also illegal to change the zone of the land according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA gives grants, not loans to the airport and because they are private contractors to develop the land for residential property to help pay for the cost of amenities such as an amphitheater and large parks.

The idea for selling land to private interests caused a stir at the meeting. "It's amazing we are even having this discussion: said Thomas Reese, an environmental lawyer, to laughs and applause from the audience. "According to the city charter, in order to sell city owned waterfront property a city-wide referendum needs to take place and that will be very hard to pass."

Reese said the land is in evacuation zone A and according to the state's Growth Management Act using city funds to build infrastructure for population concentrations in a coastal high hazard area is prohibited. "The city has made assumptions and has not carried through with their own research," Reese said.

The matter of the airport will not be solved anytime soon, and with the future of the land in doubt, Normile said the school will stay focused on the cultural and educational resources that USF St. Petersburg can provide under present conditions.

USF Bulls Football Schedule
(home games in bold)

August 29 Florida Atlantic W, 51-10
September 7 Northern Illinois W, 37-6
September 9 at Arkansas L, 42-3
September 28 at Oklahoma L, 31-14
October 5 at North Texas 8:05 p.m.
October 12 Southern Mississippi 7 p.m.
October 19 at East Carolina 2 p.m.
November 2 Charleston Southern 7 p.m.
November 9 Memphis 7 p.m.
November 16 Bowling Green 7 p.m.
November 23 at Houston 3 p.m.

Classifieds

Attention Education, Marine Science and Nursing students!
Student Government Representative positions are still available for your college.
To apply, please stop by the Student Government Office (CAC/727-553-1147) for a candidate packet ASAP.

Looking for a good time?
We'll be looking for you at our next event! Watch for events sponsored by the Harborside Activities Board.

Orientation Leaders needed!
The Student Life Office is currently accepting applications for New Student Orientation Leaders. If you are interested, applications are available in the CAC.

Kayaking - Student Life is sponsoring a Kayak Trip to Wheelon Island at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13. If you are interested, sign up at the Waterfront Office in CQ 108.

HOUSE FOR RENT
St. Petersburg, near campus and Gateway shopping.

Available through December and by lease after December.

With back porch, carport, back yard, unfurnished, 2 bd/1 bath, $500/month plus utilities. 527-2159.

Position Available!
Student Government is currently looking for an administrative assistant.
Job requires basic office skills including typing, copying, and filing.
Pay is $6.00 per hour.
Federal Work Study or OPS position.

Advertise with us!
Call 727-553-3113 or email crowsnesteditor@yahoo.com
USF students to attend leadership conference

By ELIZABETH GREGOV
Staff Writer

Nancy Hunter Denney, a nationally known author and speaker, is presenting a leadership training seminar in Brooksville, Fla., this weekend. Twenty USF students will be attending the conference this year, which is nine more students than last year.

Denney, owner of POTENTIAL Leadership Training & Lectures, wrote "Life by Design," a motivational trade book and created the inspirational video, "The Future is Yours to Create." Since 1993, Denney has spoken about life and leadership topics at numerous conferences around the nation to thousands of people from the education and health care fields and community service agencies.

Friday evening, Denney's speech, "Let Your Leadership Speak" will present six enhancement strategies to teach students how to motivate others by using their own self-motivation. Students will attend three training programs on Saturday.

Nancy Coscia, Director of Student Life at USF St. Petersburg, is glad that USF students will have the opportunity to listen to Denney present, and hopes the conference will make a difference in the lives of those students.

"Nancy Hunter Denney kept the students focused and enthusiastic throughout the whole program," Coscia said. "She is very motivational, inspirational and full of energy."

Coscia wants to present the speech to USF students during a future conference.

See Leadership on Page 8

USF University of South Florida
St. Petersburg

USF St. Petersburg students
now have a new recreational option!

USF St. Petersburg students who obtain a St. Petersburg Tennis Center Pass may have access to the St. Petersburg Tennis Center at Bartlett Park.

The SPTC Pass is available to all currently enrolled USF St. Petersburg students.

To obtain an SPTC Pass visit the Campus Activities Center Information Desk and show your USF ID.

SPTC Features
- 15 Har-Tru Clay Courts
- Day & Evening Play
- Pro Shop
- Demo Rackets & Racket Stringing
- Dressing Rooms with Showers & Lockers
- Year Round Instructional Programs
- Leagues, Lessons & Tournaments for all Ages & Skill Levels
- Ball Machine available for Rent

SPTC Pass Privileges
- USF Students with this pass may access the tennis courts for free after 12:00 p.m., except Mondays - Fridays, October 1 - April 30, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- All other times, this pass entitles the USF student to a 50% discount on fees.
- Guests of USF students pay full price at all times. [Guest Fee - $6 or $4.50 (1-4:00 p.m.)]

SPTC Hours of Operation
- Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Hours vary during certain seasons.

SPTC Information or Court Reservations
- (727) 823-2225
- Campus Activities Center Information Desk (727) 553-1596

This program is sponsored by Student Government.
Young cancer survivor races for a cure

By JEREMY SOUILLERE

Staff Writer

Early on a recent Saturday morning, nearly 12,000 volunteers gathered in North Straub Park in downtown St. Petersburg ready to run the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for a Cure. Their stories were different but they shared a common purpose: raising money for breast cancer research and education. Among the crowd of 5K runners and walkers were women clad in pink T-shirts and headed out early. After all, she’s a breast cancer survivor. Humphries is one of the few women who face this form of cancer at an especially young age. She celebrated her twenty-fifth birthday on May 26, and within a month she had a double mastectomy to remove a cancerous tumor.

While many students slept away the morning, dashed off to work or caught up on assignments, St. Petersburg resident Jennifer Humphries, 25, donned her pink T-shirt and headed out early. Humphries was told by her doctors, and she decided to participate in Race for a Cure. She said her condition left her restless and unable to sleep, so late into the night she did some of her own breast cancer research through the Internet. Upon discovering the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Web site, she learned that the foundation was the top fundraiser of its kind. "Komen is number one, and I immediately wanted to get involved," Humphries said.

The foundation has raised more than $300 million since its inception in 1982, and it’s growing with 114 local affiliates in 45 states.

The Komen Florida Suncoast Breast Cancer Foundation is Florida’s affiliate foundation, which organized the local Race for a Cure. The Suncoast foundation will receive 75 percent of the money raised by the race for local research, education, screening and treatment programs, and the other 25 percent will go to the main foundation in Dallas, Texas.

"What I do outside of work in the future definitely will change," Humphries said. "I would like to volunteer full time."

Jennifer Humphries, 25, survived breast cancer and now works as a volunteer to educate and support women stricken with this disease.

WOMEN AND BREAST CANCER

Statistics according to BreastCancerInfo.com, of the Komen Facts for Life (Estimates for 2002)

- 1,500 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer
- 400 women will die from it
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women ages 40-59
- Less than 5 percent of all cases occur in women under age 40
- Self-exams are recommended beginning at age 20
- Mammograms are strongly encouraged beginning at age 40
- Free or low-cost mammograms are available by contacting your local Komen affiliate at 1-800-653-5355.

Humphries’ life has changed in many ways from this experience, both physically and emotionally. Before her surgery, she was studying elementary education at the Nova Southeastern University Brandon campus, which she has had to put on hold. She plans to continue her studies eventually, but in the meantime wants to become a volunteer for a breast cancer foundation.

"What I do outside of work in the future definitely will change," Humphries said. "I would like to volunteer full time."

Drawing support from a volunteer and breast cancer survivor who visited her in the hospital throughout the ordeal, Humphries cherished her words of encouragement and wants to do the same for other women battling cancer. An out-of-the-blue phone call from the volunteer six weeks after the surgery helped Humphries realize how much she valued the connection with someone who could relate with her pain from their own personal experience.

See Survivor on Page 8

Volunteer Projects: Your Chance to Give

You are needed! Whether it’s for one hour a month, once a week, or as an unpaid internship, there are many, many opportunities for students to help as individuals, groups, families, or couples throughout Pinellas County.

You may even need a fieldwork assignment for a class or you might be exploring jobs and careers. Whatever the motivation, the Volunteer Office, located in BAY 110 and 111, can find a project for your needs.

A few upcoming activities:

American Heart Walk Saturday, October 12

Tropicana Field

Volunteers needed, not to walk, but to help with refreshments, set-up, etc.

Meals on Wheels Delivery

11:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Deliver lunches to 10-12 homebound residents

Sojourn Bears

Sew or stuff bears to be presented to cancer patients.

This project is co-sponsored with Phi Theta Kappa.

All Children’s Hospital

Help with group activities and other activities

CASA (social service agency serving abused spouses)
Help design training programs

St. Petersburg Tennis Center

Volunteers needed in the afternoons to help children play tennis and with their schoolwork. The Center is on 18th Ave. S., just off 4th St.

Call Dr. Paul Thompson at 894-3734.
Tennis skill is NOT necessary.

To land a hand or to get more information, contact Barry McDowell at 553-1622 or mcdownell@stpt.usf.edu
Row, row, row your boat, gently down the bay

For the first time this year, cardboard boat races will be added to homecoming events

By ELIZABETH GREGOV

Staff Writer

History is in the making at the USF St. Petersburg waterfront, as the Third Annual Cardboard Boat Race will be included in Homecoming events for the first time.

The event, scheduled for Nov. 4 and 5, is just one of several activities in which teams will compete to earn points that are tallied up throughout the week. The increased student enrollment led the Waterfront Staff to create new activities to attract students and encourage campus participation. Mike Kirschner, waterfront coordinator, said his staff dreamed up a cardboard boat race three years ago with the intention of beginning a new tradition. "We wanted to start an event that would be fun and geared toward younger students," Kirschner said. "The idea of a cardboard boat race was ideal here because of the location of the campus right on the waterfront."

Susan Sietsma, Student Government executive board member, said that Student Government hoped to build upon the unusual aspect of having a university on the water and celebrate it with the Cardboard Boat Race. "We want to incorporate the Cardboard Boat Race in the activities this year and get more people to attend and be involved in the race," Sietsma said. "It will be a lot of fun."

An announcement system will entertain the crowd and provide a commentary of the races. Kirschner hopes the using the PA system will make students from all over campus curious about the activities and draw a bigger crowd. "Using the PA system and viewing the teams can get really funny," Kirschner said.

The number of teams and observers of the race has grown each year. The first year, six teams participated in the event; and last year eight teams raced, while about 100 observers cheered from the waterfront. Kirschner and Director of Student Life Nancy Coscia expect even more participation this year.

She said there are many wonderful opportunities on the waterfront for sailors, but holding activities like the Cardboard Boat Race allows all students and observers to appreciate it. "This is a unique opportunity where everyone can participate and get involved in a fun activity on the waterfront," Coscia said.

The mission of the race is to build a boat out of cardboard and other materials provided, to launch it on the beach, race it one lap around the course, and return to the beach dry. "You may design the boat any way you want provided you follow the rules and only use the materials provided," Kirschner said. The materials include one 6-foot by 15-foot piece of cardboard, plastic wrap, wood strips, duck tape, string and a ruler.

Teams will be able to look at a generic model of a cardboard boat, but Kirschner said that this is an opportunity for the teams to have some fun and use their creativity to build their own specialized boats.

Dr. Steve Ritch, a participant in last year's race, challenged his staff to build the boat and if they succeeded, he promised to somehow get the contraption around the course. "They swear they do the best they can, but the last time the boat promptly sank," Ritch said. "Living up to my promise, I swam the boat around by kicking. Finished last, but finished. The race is a load of fun."

Harborside Activities Board

Activities for STUDENTS by STUDENTS

Hispanic / Latino Month
Display in Davis Lobby through October 4

Sundae Monday
October 7
Davis Lobby
11:30-1:30pm
and
6:30-7:30 pm

Make YOUR own Sundae

Dinner & a Movie
October 4
In the CAC @ 7:02 pm
Free Pizza and Sodas

The Harborside Activities Board (HAB) is a student-run group dedicated to bringing quality entertainment to students at USF St. Pete.
Recruitment continued from Page 2

judgment in securing the best mix of students for the Learning Community program.

USF St. Petersburg started admitting regular freshmen in 2000, two years after the start of the Learning Community. Vassel said the Learning Community has been helpful in his recruiting and has been the base for improving and enlarging the freshman-senior sophomore program on campus.

The biggest battle USF faces when recruiting students locally is equality vs. convenience in competition with St. Petersburg College, Vassel said. Even though, SPC is more convenient because it's easier to get into and has an open-door policy, Vassel stresses the quality of education one will get at the USF St. Petersburg campus.

Students at the campus agree that the quality of education is better at USF than at any community college. Jeannie Johnson, a freshman, drives from USF St. Petersburg from Bradenton because she questions the quality of education she would receive from Manatee Community College. "Going here, I don't have to move away from home but I still get an university education," she said.

Shawn Russell, a senior majoring in psychology, agrees. "USF St. Petersburg is close to home but I still get the same, if not better, education in St. Petersburg than Tampa," he said.

Vassel is positive about the direction the campus is taking. With on-campus dormitories in the works, he says we can soon start branch out to the Orlando, south Florida, and Staples areas.

Vassel sees and speaks to many students each year and he knows he will not get them all to attend here but he says the bottom line is "We are getting the word out and getting the students to say: 'Hey! There is a place down in St. Pete that you can go to college.'"

Imprisoned

continued from Page 3

aware of any of the efforts on his behalf, nor that the country had elected its first democratic government in 28 years.

"This is an article about the day I was released. This is a letter from the Nigerian Institute of Journalism where I gave a lecture. This is picture of my son."

In an era of talk show trauma drama, it's surprising to hear Malooh say that he suffers no psychological scars.

"No, no, I'm just myself," he said. "You people have around you who are very kind, loving and sympathetic, so it doesn't take very long to pick up the pieces of your life."

He returned immediately to journalism, becoming deputy editor-in-chief of another paper, The Anchor. Last year, at a Poynter Institute seminar, Malooh spoke to professor Robert Darcken in the Journalism Studies department and decided to get his master's degree at USF St. Petersburg.

Malooh arrived in August and is presently staying with Moshood Fayemiwo, another former political prisoner and journalism graduate student from Nigeria.

Dr. Mike Killenberg, head of the Journalism Studies department, said Malooh and Fayemiwo add an international perspective to the program.

"Their accounts of life in Nigeria contrast so starkly with what most of our students have experienced living in America," Killenberg said. "They can share with us what journalists face when there are few laws and no First Amendment to protect them. Their courage as journalists facing government reprisals and punishment is impressive and inspiring."

What other students would consider problems, Malooh takes in stride. Before he got a car, he took two cabs and the Greyhound bus from Tampa to campus and then back home again. The price: $100 a day. His wife and sons, Oba, 8, Ore 4, and baby girl Tise, three and a half months, are half a world away. But hardship is what he endures to move toward his vision.

"God said that I should use my journalism to bring people together and then to recreate and reinvent the Nigerian nation. To me, it's more of a calling. It's a way of life. It's even life itself."

The conference table is now covered with 16 months of this life. Malooh begins to stack everything into one neat pile and place it back in the bag. He has finished, and the room is quiet except for the hum of the air conditioner. The typical reporter's questions—How do you like living here? What do you miss about home? What do you do for fun?—go unasked. But he has answered the one thing you want to know.

"I got through it with God. And being on the side of truth."

He packs up his bag and walks out. He is smiling, the way only a journalist with an important story can.

In the next issue: Moshood Fayemiwo's story.

Film continued from Page 3

an opportunity to ask the directors questions. While discussing the problems as members of a team. For a day is in power. They don't challenge, and the workshops in a way that fostering interactive information that supports the sole focus on leadership development."

File continued from Page 5

and the workshops in a way that involves the students, gives them information that fosters interactive activities, and lets them solve the problems as members of a team. For a day and half, students focus on leadership and life skills, and are surrounded by individuals with whom they can build relationships that have the same focus.

"The conferences are always very intense with the sole focus on leadership and development," Coscia said. "Students attending a weekend conference like this one absorb leader-

Leadership continued from Page 6

to the end of the discussion a member of the audience shouted out "Let's not make this movie a series" seeming to express the disgust of the audience at what they saw as a stolen election.

For more information about Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election, see www.unprecedented.org.

For more information about Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election, see www.unprecedented.org.

we decided to make a movie about it."

The conference made a difference held on campus. The conference made a difference held on campus.

To learn more about the Kamen Leadership Program at USF St. Petersburg, please contact Killenberg at killenberg@usf.edu.

Survivor continued from Page 6

Humphries' goal is to spread the word that breast cancer knows no age limits, and that support is available to every woman facing the diagnosis.

She stressed the importance of preventative exams for women, along with a commitment to follow through with several preventive measures if something just doesn't feel right. When Humphries first discovered an abnormality, the doctor told her that the growth was normal, and without a second opinion, which didn't come till six months later, her cancer likely would have reached a much more dangerous stage.

"I learned that I would have followed up right away," Humphries said. "I should have gotten a biopsy right after he told me it was normal because I knew it wasn't!"

To learn more about the Komen Florida Suncoast Breast Cancer Foundation and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation visit their website at www.komensuncoast.com.