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87 voters decide campus elections

By Jelena Ljestina
Contributing Writer

After another uncontested election and voter turnout of about 2 percent, USF St. Petersburg’s Student Government for fall is full of familiar faces.

Cassandra Hawkins, current vice president and senior majoring in political science, is president-elect. Susan Sietsma, a sophomore majoring in political science and current secretary, will take Hawkins’ spot as vice president. Brian Palik was elected for secretary and Steve White was re-elected treasurer.

Out of 3,853 students currently enrolled at USF St. Petersburg, only 87 cast their vote during the four-day election in Davis Lobby last week, said Nancy Coscia, director of student life and advisor for student government. Hawkins, Sietsma and Palik each received 83 votes and White got 85.

Although he didn’t seek re-election, current Student Government President Bobby Koonce said he will remain active for student government. Hawkins, Coscia, director of student life and advisor for student government. Hawkins, Sietsma and Palik each received 83 votes and White got 85.

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Observations of a "senior" senior

By Larry Halstead

Looking back over three years as a part-time non-traditional-age student, several things come to mind.

Having a student identification card that got me free admission into Raymond James Stadium and the Sun Dome for USF sports events was pretty cool. I liked the power of walking up to the ticket office saying, "One student please," and watching the expression on the face of the clerk.

I liked my class on Politics of the 1960s" with Dr. Arsenault. I lived through those times, but must have missed all the fun. His class reminded me that a nerd is a nerd, no matter what generation.

I finally understood what people had been saying for years about Albert Whitted Airport. No, I didn't "almost" get hit by an airplane. I just think it's a nice amenity for a very few.

Coming over the planes to St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport and using the land for USF expansion or parkland makes more sense.

Seeing the changes autonomy made on this campus in such a short time makes me take back some of the bad things I think I said about Sen. Sullivan and Sen. Sebesta. While I was adamant about the five-year plan going into effect behind the decision, I'm sorry I can't tell him that I have a job waiting for me upon my graduation May 5.

I'll regret being able to tell someone at a party that, "I'm a senior," when they ask what I do.

I'll miss the cheap brews at the Tavern. Wait, I don't have to.

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Accreditation hinges on two issues

By Linda Young Contributing Writer

Despite a letter citing that USF St. Petersburg is struggling with accreditation issues, David Carr, chairman of the accreditation steering committee for USF St. Petersburg, said things are progressing smoothly.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional governing body for academic accreditation, recently cited inadequacies in USF St. Petersburg's infrastructure that could hinder its quest for separate accreditation from USF Tampa.

Two major issues with which SACS officials are concerned are that the head of the campus will continue to answer to the president of USF Tampa, and USF St. Petersburg will not be financially independent.

For separate accreditation to be approved, USF St. Petersburg CEO Bill Heller can't be in a subordinate position to USF President Judy Genshaft, said a SACS letter.

Accreditation signifies that an institution has met SACS' standards in its academic programs, faculty credentials, campus facilities and other areas, and became mandatory for USF St. Petersburg as part of state legislation enacted last May.

Officials at USF St. Petersburg want to complete accreditation in 2003, said Carr.

There are other problems, however, that USF St. Petersburg must amend to satisfy SACS.

For example, USF St. Petersburg must change the way its highest-ranking official, who is now CEO Bill Heller, is appointed and removed from office. SACS would prefer that the local board of trustees have power to hire or fire the St. Petersburg head, Carr said.

Right now, the position is determined by USF President Judy Genshaft, said Deborah Kurelik, director of USF St. Petersburg's media relations.

"As far as the reporting structure goes, he [Heller] reports to President Genshaft. He is comfortable with that structure," Kurelik said.

Kurelik said the only remedy for SACS' request in regard to Heller and Genshaft is for the legislature to change the relationship between USF St. Petersburg's CEO and USF's president.

Another issue with SACS is outcome reports. These reports, which are created by faculty, measure how well students learn and write, Carr said.

The problem with outcome reports is that they are made by professors in a departmental basis, which means those reports are in department files in Tampa, Carr said.

Once the academic departments of the two campuses are separate, USF St. Petersburg faculty will generate their own outcome reports, which should satisfy SACS, Carr said.

To facilitate the 2003 accreditation goal, Heller and Genshaft have decided to meet with SACS officials in Atlanta on May 7.

Two vice presidents, Winston Bridges, of academic affairs, and Herm Brames, of finance and administration, will accompany them, Kurelik said.

Although the SACS letter cited deficiencies in SACS' structure, USF officials remain optimistic about meeting the self-imposed 2003 accreditation goal.

"We didn't think that the letter [from SACS] was negative at all, they just raised some areas that they needed more information about, so that is the approach," Kurelik said.

In the meantime, Carr said, some exciting benefits of autonomy begin, namely because of a new program, Graphic Design, and small class sizes.

Please see CREDIT, 6

USF pitches campus perks to high schools

By Angela Klitzt Community News Writer

As USF St. Petersburg evolves from a commuter-driven campus for older students to a traditional four-year school with on-campus residents, it is trying new approaches to enroll young students.

Non-traditional-age students have filled the halls of USF St. Petersburg for most of its existence, primarily because it catered to working professionals and parents who decided to finish pending degrees. "Until two years ago, USF only offered junior and senior classes," said Nancy Coscia, director of student life.

This year, the Academic Advising Center and the Campus Activities Center are trying to change USF St. Petersburg's reputation through new recruiting strategies and activity planning.

The advising center helped in doubling the enrollment of USF's younger students this year. By visiting high schools in the area, and advising students on the choices they must make when picking out a college.

Creating awareness about the low-key campus is part of the challenge of adding youth.

John Vassel, the student recruitment coordinator, said his department contacted more local high schools to make them aware that the USF St. Petersburg exists. "We found that many high school students didn't know that we offered underclass students," said Vassel.

Many high school students, Vassel said, were unaware of the campus and the benefits that it now has to offer to recent high school graduates, such as its convenient location, small classes and recreational activities.

Vassel started recruiting high school students for the campus a year ago. Since then the number of undergraduate students from ages 18-20 has doubled from 100 to 300. Last year, more than 200 freshmen enrolled.

As a campus recruiter, Vassel makes routine trips to local high schools and speaks to students and college counselors, about the benefits of the campus.

He informed them about the campus' waterfront location, and other added benefits of attending a smaller campus such as one-on-one communication with teachers. "We are always going to be guaranteed transfer students, so our focus is getting freshmen," said Vassel.

The Campus Activities Center staff has also tried new things each semester to accommodate new young students. Don McCarthy, the coordinator of student activities, said, "last year we implemented a new program with a target audience of the freshmen/sophomore student in mind.

Developing activities for new students is part of those programs.

Harborside Productions, for example, is a student club that organizes events at USF St. Petersburg, and has a full calendar of activities planned for each semester.

Harborside's schedule includes: Dinner and a movie, where students watch a movie and get a free meal; button day, where students' pictures are placed in a shirt pin; and Easter fest, where students can bring their children to hunt for Easter eggs.

Other Harborside productions are more specific to young students, said McCarthy.

Harborside Productions has incorporated interactive activities such as a bungee run, mechanical bull and spring fling which is a week dedicated to summer activities, hosting a pool bash as the last event.

Coscia added that Harborside Productions' calendar is larger than past semesters. "If you compare this year's calendar with last year's, you will see that events are going on almost weekly," she said. In previous semesters they were only offered sporadically throughout the month.

USF St. Petersburg will also provide off-campus housing. It has plans to buy existing buildings and then build dormitories beginning in 2003.

According to Coscia, dorms will make the campus seem more like a traditional four-year university, and university officials are certain of student demand. "We already have the students now who want to live on campus. If we could offer housing now, we would fill 120 (dorm) beds."

Coscia said the dorms should also help USF St. Petersburg create a separate identity from USF Tampa. "We will finally be looked at as our own school," she said.

USF is trying to promote its image to a fresh new crowd, said Vassel. "One thing this campus offers is quality education and an enjoyable experience. However, the bottom line is that USF wants to have all students no matter what age."
The Dali Museum is celebrating its 20th anniversary with an exhibition of The Persistence of Memory, on loan from the Museum of Modern Art in New York until June 8.

"We've been trying to borrow it for years, but we couldn't," said Jim Universal, director of visitor services at the museum. "The Museum of Modern Art is undergoing extensive renovations, and they've actually closed the museum. So they agreed to loan it out at this time, for three months. We're very fortunate to get it."

Universal also said that Persistence (1931) is one of Dali's more famous surrealist pieces. This brings the museum more visitors than usual. "Attendance has been high," said Universal.

The Dali Museum found a home in St. Petersburg 20 years ago, started by a couple who fell in love with Dali's art when they fell in love with each other. In 1943 Eleanor and A. Reynolds Morse purchased their first Dali painting as a first anniversary gift. They spent the next 40 years assembling the largest private collection of Dali's art in the world.

From 1970 to 1980, the Morses exhibited their collection in a wing of their office building in Beachwood, Ohio. After a few years, when their collection had grown too large for those quarters, they began to look for a more permanent setting for the artwork.

Their one requirement was, because their collection spanned Dali's entire career, the artwork and all of their supplemental material must be kept intact. It was not an easy task.

"They [the Morses] wanted to keep all the works together," said Universal. "But the museums that were offered the collection wanted to break it apart."

St. Petersburg attorney James W. Martin, who read of the Morses' problem, recognized the value of the complete collection. He organized a community group, The Dali Task Force, and helped secure funding from city and state officials to build the museum and fund its operation for the first five years.

Two independent foundations were established to receive and manage the Dali collection on behalf of Florida residents. The museum officially opened in St. Petersburg on March 10, 1982.

Today, along with the exhibition of The Persistence of Memory, visitors to the Dali museum enjoy a large collection of Dali's works. The museum rotates 95 original oil paintings, more than 90 watercolors and drawings, 1,300 graphics, sculptures, photographs and an extensive archival library, allowing visitors to see and study the full development of Dali's artwork from 1914 to 1980.

Visitors also can take a guided tour, likely led by Tallulah Taylor, an employee at the Dali museum since 1982. Taylor said her favorite part of the tour is the visitors' discovery of hidden imagery in the paintings after she has pointed them out.

"Sometimes I'll hear people discussing a work after I've gone through a tour, and they're noticing things they've never paid attention to before," she said. "I love that people seem to really enjoy it and take something from it."

This is why people should visit the museum more than once, she said.

"This is my second time here this month," said Matt Copabianco, museum visitor and resident of St. Petersburg. "I really love the Dali paintings. I especially love the fact that I can get up close and see the detail and brush strokes. It adds a humanness that is sometimes hidden in the art."

Visitors are not limited to Tampa and St. Petersburg residents. Universal said there are visitors that come from all over the world. There are also visitors from other parts of the state.

Roslyn Hart came from Orlando for the weekend to see her family, and also to pay a visit to the museum. She said she enjoys Dali's work.

"Sometimes I look at his paintings and I'm like 'Yeah, I get it,'" she said, and laughed. "But sometimes I wonder, 'What was he on?'" The museum continues its showing of The Persistence of Memory until June 8. For more information, call (727) 823-3767.

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The Crow's Nest is seeking an editor for the Fall 2002 semester. The job involves assigning stories, coordinating photos, copy editing and managing the newspaper staff.

Graduate students interested in the position must carry a 3.0 GPA and be registered for at least six hours. For undergraduate students, a 2.5 GPA and at least nine hours are required.

For anyone interested in journalism, this is a great opportunity for building up that resume.

Nearly any newspaper or magazine requires work on a college publication for job consideration. This position gives you first-hand experience in what it takes to produce an ongoing publication. You will have a chance to write editorials, sort through letters-to-the-editor to decide which ones to print and cover campus events for breaking news.

The job pays the equal of a half-time assistanceship for grad students and an hourly wage for undergrads. See Nancy Coscia at 553-3333 for more details.
Campus loses friend in Dreiller's passing

By Kristie Martinez
Assistant Editor

He had a nickname named Mama's Boy and was once mistaken for CIA.

He walked the halls of Yale and universities in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

He told the judge to reschedule his wedding because he had to go to class.

And as an academic advisor at USF St. Petersburg, the late Gerald Dreiller infected his co-workers with his sense of humor, and his students with a sense of pride.

Over 600 upperclassmen in the College of Arts and Sciences kept Dreiller busy every semester, and he made an effort to accommodate each one, said Director of Academic Advising Cindy Collins.

"If a student came by, he'd try to squeeze them in. He didn't want to turn people away," Collins said. "He enjoyed people and got to know a lot of the students he worked with. He knew the strong students, he knew which ones needed more encouragement."

Dreiller was Donna Winchester's counselor when she went back to college in 1996.

"I had been out of school for a number of years, but Dr. Dreiller told me I had a rich educational background, which made me feel good," Winchester said. "He was very encouraging and always let me know I could do it."

Dreiller advised Winchester to work toward the English degree she received three years later. He also encouraged attending graduate school to pursue her dream of being a journalist.

"There was something about him. I wanted to trust him," Winchester said.

Winchester now writes for the St. Petersburg Times, an accomplishment she credits to Dreiller's influence.

"He was very serious about making sure students were properly advised," said Dreiller's wife, Aletta.

Dreiller made sure students weren't sent everywhere to work, he knew the strong students, he knew which ones needed more encouragement.

Dreiller's humor is one of the things Mrs. Dreiller feels like. "He really enjoyed the world at large and appreciated the contributions of other cultures. I think that was the key to Gerry and his view of the world," said Bridges.

Before coming to USF St. Petersburg, Dreiller worked for a Bradesco post of Yazigi International, a well-known English language institute centered in Brazil.

"He loved the people, the spirit and pace of life," said Mrs. Dreiller. "Latin cultures have an openness and friendliness. He liked people and enjoyed the challenge of learning the language."

Appreciation for the culture was what the Dreillers had in common. Mrs. Dreiller was a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil and her husband studied in Spain as a junior at New York University.

Together they operated a language school in Portugal during the Portuguese Communist Revolution in 1974. It was here that the Dreillers were suspected to be CIA.

"It was a pretty interesting time," said Mrs. Dreiller. "For a whole year, all the universities were closed, so the school did well."

The Dreiller's son, Josh, was born in Portugal. Even after having their second child, Sarah, the family continued to travel. They visited Mexico frequently and took shorter trips to Italy, Paris and England.

"Most of us envy his ability to arrange his life and get out and go places," Bridges said. "We got locked into a routine and can't take advantage of those opportunities."

Dreiller's last trip to Spain was in October to visit Salvador Dali museums in Barcelona and Madrid.

"Gerry was exceptional," Tush said. "He brought all his knowledge and interests in Spanish culture to the fore. He knew what it was about the classes that interested him, and had a vivid understanding of what we were talking about."

Tush remembers Dreiller's tours as unique, engaging and heartfelt.

"It was like he spoke from memory, like he was telling a story," Tush said. "His manner and disposition were very low key and focused. No other docent had a presence like that."

Dreiller was unusual yet knowledgeable, Tush said. "He had gravity. He'd strike you at first as a stern individual."

Cynthia Hanks, volunteer coordinator at the Dali, said even though Dreiller had a doctorate degree, he was down-to-earth.

"He was very friendly, very approachable. I felt like I could ask him anything," Hanks said.

In the academic advising office, Collins recalls Dreiller's sense of humor most.

"He loved to tease people," she said. "He always made these bizarre comments that would crack everyone up."

Dreiller's humor is one of the things Mrs. Dreiller misses most.

"He really enjoyed jokes. He loved to interject humor into every conversation," Mrs. Dreiller said.

Since Mrs. Dreiller and her husband had begun a new

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Volunteer Projects

There are numerous community needs for volunteers and service-learners. A sample of the projects:

- Sojourn Bear - Make a stuffed bear for a cancer patient. Sew or stuff.
- YouthLead - Be a mentor for a high school student leader. Monthly sessions.
- Caravan Stagebarge Theatre Company
- Suncoast Trailblazers - help with therapeutic horseback riding.

For more information on these or other projects, contact Barry McDowell, Bayboro 111, 553-1162.
Library's old relics have new manager

By Angela Klutz

Old, pricey documents have a new caretaker at USF St. Petersburg. James Schnur, the library's new special collections librarian, will keep track of and preserve the university's rare and valuable records.

A special room, designed to withstand fire, will also hold up to the elements. "When the new building was built in 1996, this room was made specifically for preserving items," said KathyArsenault, library director.

Arsenault, has been at USF St. Petersburg since 1982. "Since they built the new library in 1996, the campus always had plans to build up the department. It just took time to get it funded," she said.

The new library is much bigger than the old one, which was in what is now known as Bayboro Hall. Before, the campus special collection's area fit into a 10x10 room.

"Now that the library has an established special collections department that will continue to grow, students and the community have better access to a wealth of valuable and unique information," Arsenault said.

The special collections department is filled with books, pictures and old documents. These documents range from local history to USF St. Petersburg's in areas such as marine science, journalism, literature and humanities.

Schnur's responsibility includes storing these artifacts, and also restoring and organizing them into a retrievable order. "Many students don't know about the items we have stored in this room," said Schnur.

"As a graduate student I helped build this department, and I am excited to be back to continue with the project," said Schnur, a graduate who worked at the library while attending classes.

Schnur is also a part-time instructor at Eckerd College where he teaches history and research methods. Soon, he hopes to teach sessions on how to use the special collections department at the campus. "I am willing to help anyone that is interested," said Schnur. "It is a librarian's job to help."

A few examples of major collections stored in the department are: The Papers of Nelson Poynter, longtime editor of the St. Petersburg Times and founder of the original library at Bayboro Hall; The Kennedy Assassination Newspaper Collection, a bulk of newspaper documents on the events following the November 1963 assassination; and the Briggs Collection of Ichthyology.

Briggs was a for­mer professor of marine science at the campus who donated extensive collections of works on ichthyology, natural science, botany and biology.

Schnur also encourages students to come to special collections or him personally for assistance. "I have always been a history buff, and I'm involved with many organizations," he said. "I could probably help students find the information they need much quicker."

The department is located on the third floor in the Nelson Poynter Library. Hours are scheduled by appointment, telephone or e-mail. The department also has a Web page at: www.nelson.usf.edu/spccoll.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

APRIL
24
0 ,
26
LAST DAY OF CLASSES

MAY
5
Commencement
Mahaffey Theater

2:00 p.m.

13
 Honor Code Discussion
CAC

29
 Honor Code Discussion
CAC

At USF Tampa, professors often deliver lectures in a 200-300 person class, while the lab portion of the course is divided into small classes under the tutelage of 10, 12 or 15 graduate students, Carr said.

USF St. Petersburg, on the other hand, can follow the model preferred by the National Science Foundation of having the professor teach both the lecture and lab, Carr said.

"This is a better way of keeping the material integrated, I think maybe for the students, more intellectually profitable," Carr said.

For a decade the NSF has talked of new approaches to learning. This includes having undergraduate students conduct the type of research projects normally done by graduate students. There could be community-based projects with the environmental sciences, and it could be something of national significance, Carr said.

Carr added he would also like to conduct this type of research in areas such as sociology and history.
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government members - four officers and nine representatives - represent the whole USF St. Petersburg student body.

Because student government hasn't been full in the past few semesters, Hawkins said one of her goals as the president will be to take a more active role in promoting student government and seeking student input. "The only way you can have effective student government is to have full student government," she said.

This summer, Hawkins said, student government will actively recruit more representatives. One of the ways student government plans to promote its work and attract more student involvement is by establishing traditions and annual or semi-annual events such as a campus barbecue, Koonce said.

Representatives will also promote student government more actively in class, he said. Reporting student government's work to students in class and getting their feedback is the representatives' most important objective, Lenahan said. It is only this way that the student body can be better represented, she said.

Another incentive, Hawkins said, are the suggestion boxes that student government set up in the library and in Davis Lobby. More boxes will be added throughout campus, she said.

Although the level of involvement on campus is completely up to the individual student, all those enrolled in classes should be active in some way because they pay a fee to be represented, Coscia said. In the cost of every credit hour, there's a fee of $9.16 that goes in the so-called service and activities account, she said. Every student with a full course load therefore pays about $100 each semester, she said. "Do you take advantage of that?"

Since the student government budget depends on enrollment, the available funds have been increasing semester after semester with the rising student population at USF St. Petersburg, she said. This year's budget is $600,000.

But in a few years, with a projected enrollment of about 8,000 students, the student government budget will top $1 million, she said. "I don't think students realize the power and quality of a good student government."

Since Student Government makes large budget decisions, having adequate student representation is necessary to make the best use of students' fees, she said.

Most students are unaware of the fact that decisions about things on campus shouldn't be made without their input, Lenahan said.

Student voices are heard even more clearly than administrative voices when it comes to large decisions, Coscia said. As USF St. Petersburg grows in the next couple of years, student government and therefore all students will be key players in important decisions such as physical restructuring because of residents and increasing enrollment, she said. New academic programs and health services on campus are also planned, she said.

Student Government is also working to establish a health center on campus, Koonce said. For a flat fee of about $25 per semester and $3.25 per credit hour, students will be able to use the center for basic medical needs as well as for immunization shots, he said.

Homecoming and graduation programs, once underfunded, also received more financial support, he said, because the student government budget was restructured this year to accommodate students' needs. "There's always surplus. The problem is not lack of funds but lack of student input as to how to spend the money that's available, he said.

Because USF St. Petersburg is a commuter campus, student involvement on campus is more challenging, Coscia said. On-campus housing should help because residential students are more likely to be involved, she said.

Even if there's enough student participation with residential students in the near future, commuter students will still need to be more active on campus so their interests aren't overlooked, Coscia said.

"You have to participate if you want your voice to be heard."

There are 168 hours in a week and spending 2-3 hours involved with campus issues should not be a problem for any student, Lenahan said. "It's our school. We have a say on what's going on."

Daycare Information Update

Do You Have Children In Licensed Daycare?

If so, you can apply for the Student Government Child Care Subsidy Program each semester you are enrolled at USF St. Petersburg through the Financial Aid Office, Bay 105. Pick up applications for full details at the Financial Aid Office or call 553-1128 for general information.

WANTED....

ENERGETIC PEOPLE TO PLAN STUDENT EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
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Harborside Productions would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer

See everyone in August!!!

April 17 - Spring 2002
Students continue binge drinking bouts

By Nick Chapin

Carilion Daily (Virginia)

(U-Wire) Results from a new national study show that about 1,400 college students die every year in alcohol related incidents and another 500,000 are injured.

The study, released last Tuesday, was conducted by the Task Force on College Drinking of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The study also shows that over 600,000 students are assaulted by other students who have been drinking, and 70,000 are the victims of alcohol related sexual assaults.

The first year in college and even the first few weeks are the most dangerous times, according to the study, and in juries to students who drink.

The study also utilized a survey given to students nationwide that showed four out of five college students drink and 31 percent of college students met accepted standards for alcohol abuse.

Aaron Laushway, assistant dean of students at VCU, said the number of students related to alcohol, the NIAAA used national data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and other analyses. Because college students make up 31 percent of all Americans ages 18 to 24, the NIAAA assumed college students would account for 31 percent of all deaths and injuries in that age range.

The study also expanded on past analysis that focused on individual deaths and injuries to students who drink. Interest in expanded data on incidents caused by intoxicated students, which increased the overall number of estimated injuries and deaths.

Reactions to the NIAAA study at the University indicated administrators are already well aware of the consequences of drinking appear to have failed.

"We don't need a study to tell us there is a problem, we have our own stories to confirm that," Dean of Students Penny Rue said.

"Regardless of how many die, and studies will always quibble over those numbers, it is too many."

In order to estimate how many deaths and injuries were related to alcohol, the NIAAA used national data from the NIAAA study expanded on past analysis that focused on individual deaths and injuries to students who drink. Interest in expanded data on incidents caused by intoxicated students, which increased the overall number of estimated injuries and deaths.

"We are one of the leaders nationally," Rue said. "We use many programs, like social norming, which is a data driven program to decrease perceptions and downplay peer pressure."

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"The suggestion the data makes is

Students have taken proactive measures to address concerns and to alleviate them."

Laushway said he believes such studies help increase community dialogue.

The NIAAA study also discussed potential remedies for problems, almost all of which Rue reported are in use at the University.

"We are one of the leaders nationally," Rue said. "We use many programs, like social norming, which is a data driven program to decrease perceptions and downplay peer pressure."

The NIAAA study said current anti drinking policies are ineffective and have done little to reduce high risk drinking among college students.

Community Service with Big Brothers-Big Sisters

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Pinellas County began a new mentoring program last year: Site-Based Mentoring. For college students, this new program will offer them a chance to become a Big Brother or Big Sister in a more structured environment and with a time commitment they can live with!

In this new program, a volunteer meets one-on-one with a child one hour a week until the end of the school year at a designated neighborhood site.

Currently, there are two designated sites in St. Petersburg—the Childs Park Recreation Center’s after-school program and the R’Club after-school program at Tyrone Elementary. Other sites include: the YMCA after-school program at Belleair Elementary School in Largo, the Boys and Girls Club at the Perry Center in Pinellas Park and the R’Club after-school program at Palm Harbor Elementary School.

This new program does not take the place of our traditional mentoring program. Our agency simply decided to follow our National Federation’s suggestion to implement a different brand of mentoring in addition to our Community-Based Program. Many of our fellow agencies around the country have been providing Site-Based Mentoring as an additional service with great results to the children in their communities.

After completing an application to become a mentor, a one-hour orientation session is required for both programs. For information on Site-Based Mentoring or becoming a Big Brother/Big Sister, please call Toni Karpa at 727-518-8860.