10-5-2005

Crow's Nest : 2005 : 10 : 05

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest/395

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Campus nears goal of separate accreditation

DECISION EXPECTED BY JUNE 2006

by assistant editor
GENESSA POTH

At the turn of the millennium, USF St. Petersburg was in the beginning stages of obtaining greater independence from the Tampa campus. Five years later, the school now holds more authority over its hiring, spending and tenure decisions and is issuing its own diplomas. By the middle of next year, it may have separate accreditation as well.

The campus is a candidate for accreditation with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate and master's levels. The school currently falls under the accreditation umbrella of the Tampa campus and no longer awards degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctorate levels.

"There have been changes in academic authority and system-wide governance during the past two years," said Regional Chancellor Karen A. White. "Those changes were in support of the establishment of the USF System and of the autonomy of USF St. Petersburg. Should we become separately accredited, there will be no observable changes for the students. USF St. Petersburg will always be a constituent institution of the University of South Florida System."

SACS initially accredited the USF System in 1965. To remain accredited, institutions are reviewed every ten years to ensure their continued compliance. USF's most recent review took place this year.

In May 2001, the Florida Legislature approved a measure allowing the campus budget independence and separate accreditation. USF St. Pete now receives its funding directly from the Legislature, rather than from Tampa. The bill, which was endorsed by former state Sen. Don Sullivan of Largo, required the campus to begin the accreditation process immediately. The measure goes on to say that if the campus is unsuccessful in acquiring separate accreditation, it must continue to work toward accreditation by correcting any identified deficiencies.

According to the statute, the College of Marine Science, the Florida Institute of Oceanography, the Pediatric Research Center and the United States Geological Survey remain under the administrative control of the Tampa campus.

According to the SACS Web site, the purpose of accreditation is to improve the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that they live up to principles established by the higher education community. The accreditation process is supposed to better enable prospective students to make decisions about college because it forces

---

**Hurricane-PROOF**

DEPARTMENTS ON CAMPUS TAKE STEPS NEEDED TO PRESERVE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

"EVEN IF A STORM WERE TO THREATEN THE CAMPUS... INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE STORED AT UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING FACILITIES IN TAMPA AND LAKELAND."

With the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita visible to millions of Americans on a daily basis, the concern for hurricane preparation has perhaps rarely been higher or cause for greater anxiety for those who live in the oft-threatened areas of the Gulf Coast. At USF St. Petersburg, perhaps one of the most critical aspects in preparing for the force of a hurricane—beyond providing for the safety of human life—is the preservation of data that faculty, staff and students rely upon. Many of the departments on campus make daily use of computer-based documents. The USFSP Web site contains pages with information that, if lost, could cripple the campus' ability to function. Rules, policies, and council minutes—would all of them be lost forever in the event of a direct hurricane strike that flooded the campus?

Not to worry, said Campus Computing Director Jeff Reisberg. "Reisberg, who has been with the campus since 1999, speaks from experience when it comes to talking about the dangers posed by massive storms. He was the former computing director for Florida International University in Miami for 15 years and went through the nightmare of Hurricane Andrew. Andrew caused over $10 million in damage to the university, which had to serve as a base for the nearby National Hurricane Center when it suffered a direct hit from the storm. Because of that experience, Reisberg said he gained a lot of knowledge in dealing with the threat of hurricanes and making contingency plans.

Campus computing has network share drives where faculty can save their electronic documents. Those drives are backed up on a nightly basis. Even if a storm were to threaten the campus, that information can also be stored at undisclosed locations across the state, including facilities in Tampa and Lakeland. When it comes to preserving physical documents, the upcoming relocation of Human Resources is one way the campus is addressing that need, said Regional Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Abdul Nasser. By the beginning of next year, the department will be moved to the area on the second floor of Bayboro Hall currently occupied by the campus computing lab. The lab will then move to a location currently under construction in Davis Hall.

Nasser said that when Hurricane Charley threatened the area last year, physical plant staff were on standby to move Human Resources files to higher ground. Because it's logistically impossible to have emergency staff go to each room on campus and move items to safer areas, quick communication with faculty and staff prior to a hurricane strike is essential, Nasser said.

In addition to sending out security information via e-mail, designated building supervisors, eNews and WUSF; the campus' emergency operations staff is in the process of creating cards for distribution that contain a checklist of things to do if a hurricane approaches.
Health Services searches for new coordinator

FOR NOW, USFSP STUDENTS ARE BEING REFERRED TO USF TAMPA FOR HEALTH CARE

by staff writer
CHRISTINA CASTELLANA

USF St. Petersburg's Student Affairs will soon be screening candidates for the position of coordinator for Health & Wellness Services. Sandy Blood, the former coordinator, left around the end of June.

Located in Bayboro Hall as a function of the Counseling and Career Center, Health & Wellness offers individual confidential consultations and information on a variety of health-related issues, including fitness and exercise, stress management, sexual health, student insurance, tobacco use and women's health. It also provides fitness assessments and wellness workshops.

Until someone is found to fill the opening, Health & Wellness Services will remain closed. For now, counseling center staff are referring students to Student Health Services at the Tampa campus. A program assistant with the USFSMP counseling center said that most calls for wellness services have been regarding health insurance.

Last Friday, Don McCarty, coordinator of the Campus Activities Center and chair of the search committee, said he will begin the process of screening the 27 candidate applications within the next week. McCarty said he expects the committee, which includes three student members, could have a recommendation to send to Charles Brown, regional vice chancellor of Student Affairs, by the end of October.

Brown said he expects Health & Wellness Services to be up and running again by January 2006. The Web site for Health & Wellness Services is www.stpt.usf.edu/saffairs/CCC/Health_&_Wellness/About_Health&_Wellness.htm

ACCREDITATION

From Page 1

institutions to adhere to a uniform code of standards in order to provide a means of accountability. Although accreditation is a voluntary process, it is required in order to receive federal funding.

The process usually entails having a committee of university officials write a detailed self-study. Then an accrediting agency visits the campus for several days to confirm, through interviews and statistics gathering, that the school has met all of the requirements.

"Accreditation is basically an acknowledgement of what we already know - that we are a mature institution with quality faculty and programs," Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Mark Durand said. "Accreditation will allow us to create new programs on campus that will be distinctive in the USF System."

The campus has created a committee called the SACs Leadership Team to manage the internal institutional assessment of compliance. The team works alongside the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness to ensure that the campus complies with all three categories of provisions: core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements.

In the case of the St. Petersburg campus, the final decision is expected to be made in June 2006. If the school becomes accredited, students may have more degree options on campus.

"There are already a number of programs being discussed, including changes in the MBA program and a proposal for a new master's degree in environmental science that we will pursue once we receive final word on our application," Durand said.
Why no respect for women's sports?

by staff writer
TAMMY BARTLETT

Two weeks ago, the Sacramento Monarchs won the Women's National Basketball Association title. After they won, a blurb appeared on ESPN's Web site announcing their achievement. But on the same page, ESPN chose to focus on the Yankees and proclaim that they were back on track after winning several key games. And the baseball playoffs haven't even started.

It seems this is the culture in which most female sports must exist. But I have to make a confession: I don't watch women's sports either.

I can name at least ten players from every NFL team. But I can't name five players from the WNBA. I'm a woman who likes sports. Sadly enough, I'm not a woman who likes watching women's sports.

When I think of female sports, I think of gymnastics, figure skating and sometimes tennis. And a lot of the time, I only watch them during the Olympics or the finals of a tournament.

Women's sports have never approached the caliber that men's sports have in my world. I grew up on Bugs football and college basketball. I'm not sure if it's a social thing or a gender thing. It's not that I don't think they are as interesting; I just wasn't raised in the era of the WNBA and the Mia Hamm's of the sports world.

I can't explain why I don't watch women who compete in sports. I think it's sad that they don't get the attention they deserve. I've asked a lot of guys I know what female sport they watch and I get the same answer: tennis. And I assure you it has nothing to do with the athletic ability and all to do with the grunting.

Women try as hard as men to play their sports and still lack the recognition they deserve. The only female athletic event that gains as much attention as its male counterpart on ESPN is the Connecticut-Tennessee women's basketball match-up every year. It ranks almost as high as some of the Duke University men's basketball games against any one of their opponents.

For me to stand up and tell people to watch women's sports is wrong. I don't practice what I preach. But I think that I and other sports viewers should ask ourselves why. Women such as Hamm and Diana Taurasi have made leaps and bounds in terms of gaining attention for their sports. But they still haven't garnered enough support from the public to move their leagues up in popularity.

I can't say I have an answer for why I don't watch women play sports except that I've never had any interest. I hope our society one day recognizes these athletes on the same level as Tiggers Woodson and Derek Jeter. But until then, I'm left asking why with little else to say.

Tammy Barthlett is an undergraduate journalism student. She can be reached at amelial9@yahoo.com

---

opinions

I'M A WOMAN WHO LIKES SPORTS. Sadly though, I'M NOT A WOMAN WHO LIKES WATCHING WOMEN'S SPORTS...

by staff writer
TAMMY BARTLETT

---

Have a special event upcoming? Need a roommate? Looking for the perfect employee?

ADVERTISE IN THE CROW'S NEST!

Contact Advertising Manager Michelle Bocchino at mbocchino@mail.usf.edu for more information. Be sure to ask about discounts for USF student organizations and repeat advertisements!

CLASSIFIED

MAD SCIENTISTS NEEDED! Posteriors for children's science enrichment programs. Have fun while earning great part-time $5. Apply on line: www.kidsmadscience.org or by calling (727) 895-5995.

---

staff directory

ANTHONY SALVEGGI | editor
usfcrowsnest@yahoo.com

GENESSA POTH | assistant editor
natalie5y@yahoo.com

MONICA WIERUZESWSKI | graphics editor
monica.wieruszewska@jumaplayby.com

WENDY OWEN | senior staff writer
wendyowen332@yahoo.com

CHRISTINA CASTELLANA | staff writer
christinacast@asi.com

TAMMY BARTLETT | staff writer
usfladies@yahoo.com

JUSTIN LOWERY | staff writer
sevastia.lowrey@yahoo.com

PAUL NGUYEN | staff photographer
kiquan@msn.com

BRANT KARMEN | staff photographer
brant.nextSibling@gmail.com

MICHELLE BOCCHINO | ad manager
mbocchino@mail.usf.edu

DEE GRAHAM | adviser
degrham@mail.usf.edu
Professor Judithanne Scourfield-Mclauchlan gave birth to Peggy Anna Burke Mclauchlan on June 8, 2005. Peggy enjoys vacationing by Lake Oswego, NY, blueberry pancake breakfasts in Maine and discussing confirmation hearings with her mom. Photos courtesy of Judithanne Scourfield-Mclauchlan.

Assistant Professor of chemistry Kathy Carvalho-Knighton and her husband Anthony Knighton welcomed James Edward Knighton II on July 12, 2005. James is the couple's first child. Photos courtesy of Kathy Carvalho-Knighton.
IS IT SOMETHING IN THE WATER?

LOTS OF CAMPUS BABIES HAVE CREATED AN ALLIANCE OF SUPPORTIVE PARENTS;

THEY'VE ALSO CREATED A CHILD CARE DILEMMA FOR SOME

You may have noticed a few female faculty members showing a particular kind of girth around the middle and walking with a slight waddle. Maybe your professor can't stop talking about how his or her baby is sooooo cute. You might have even heard the wall of a small person echoing through the corridors by Davis Hall.

Or perhaps you've noticed that conspicuous black bag your professor carries around isn't a briefcase but a breast pump.

Is there something in the water? New arrivals have been piling up for staff and faculty over the last two years and more are on the way. Could they be the future class of 2027?

Whatever happens, one thing's for sure: USF St. Petersburg is experiencing a baby boom.

New and expectant parents have a variety of opinions explaining the sudden surge in the infant population. Assistant Professor of Media Studies and Graphic Design Dorian Angelo believes the baby boom is due to the weather. Angelo thinks that his son, Max, born June 16, may have been a hurricane baby.

Academic Affairs Coordinator Sheila Goethe thinks it's probably a matter of timing. Everyone may just be at a comfortable point in their life where they are ready to start a family, she said. Goethe's son, Thomas McTeer Goethe III, born Oct. 25, 2004, is her first child. Like some other campus parents, Goethe said she waited until later in life to have children.

For Angelo, who also put a family on hold until later in life, Max is his first child. Angelo said that although being an older parent isn't easy, he and his wife have enough energy for their son.

"I'm glad that I waited until later in life," Angelo said. "I would have missed out on a lot of things."

Whatever the reason for the convergence of new arrivals, they have created an informal affiliation of new and expectant parents. Clothing and baby gear swaps and parties and "mommy chats" are in full swing among fellow mamas and papas. Most of these new parents say they feel a sense of emotional support and community from their colleagues. For all, their new additions have brought joy. For some, they've also prompted a search for quality, nearby child care.

Although on-campus child care is available at the Tampa campus and was available to USFSP parents in the past, it is not currently offered. The campus has an agreement with the YMCA where faculty, staff and students can receive discounted child care, but many don't take that option because of the lack of space.

Poynter librarian Mika Nelson, an expectant mother due in December, has already put her baby on a waiting list for the YMCA. They can only accommodate six infants at a time, which would barely be enough room for the new babies on this campus alone, she said.

"My main concern is having something conveniently located," Nelson said.

Assistant Professor of French Martine Fernandes found the available child care wasn't an affordable option. So her mother-in-law is visiting from Brazil to help care for her son Alexandre Bérenger, born April 6. Fernandes said that although "faculty and administration have been very supportive...we definitely need something" along the lines of child care on campus.

Like other parents, Angelo brings his son to work if he has to. Assistant Professor of Government and International Affairs Judithanne Scourfield-McLauchlan had a baby last summer and also brings her child to campus.

Despite the obstacle of finding child care, many new or soon-to-be parents are lending a hand to expectant co-workers. Jennifer Woroner, office manager of the College of Arts & Sciences, is due this November and has already received books and clothes. After she and her child are done using them, she plans on passing them along to fellow expectant mother Beatrice Smith, coordinator of enrollment management.
Sailing team takes regatta in Miami

by staff writer TAMMY BARTHELETT

The USF varsity and junior varsity sailing teams joined forces to win South Points 4 at the University of Miami's inaugural sailing event, held Sept 24 and 25. The Bulls won the regatta by seven points over district rival Eckerd College.

Freshman Kim Witowski and junior Kirsten Murray sailed for the first time for the varsity squad and finished third in the A division with 23 points. Alyson Dagy and Nicole Buechler also made the move up to varsity in the B division. They ended the day well ahead of the seven other teams in the competition and nearly went undefeated. With the victory, USF has won two South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association regattas this season.

Over the same weekend, Bill Jones and Grant Lockhart represented USF at the SAISA Men's Singlehanded Championship at Eckerd. Lockhart and Jones finished eighth and 11th, respectively, out of 15 sailors.

Other members of the coed sailing team traveled to Tufts University Sept. 24 and 25 to compete for the Hood Trophy and finished 12th out of 18 teams.

Seniors Kevin Reali and Ashley Reynolds were fifth in the division. A races, while junior Jesse Combs and freshman Tim King finished 13th in B.

Bulls sputter, fall to Miami

USF BULLS FOOTBALL: EARLY TURNOVERS DOOM USF IN LOSS

by staff writer TAMMY BARTHELETT

In a battle of mistakes, the USF Bulls lost to the Miami Hurricanes Saturday night at the Orange Bowl, 27-7. Turnovers told the story for the Bulls in their first meeting with the Hurricanes, throwing four interceptions and fumbling once. Miami also had trouble holding on to the ball, throwing one interception and fumbling three times. But the Hurricanes took advantage of the Bulls' mistakes—something USF failed to do.

Bulls quarterback Pat Julmiste threw an interception that set up a Miami field goal early in the first quarter. The Hurricanes then added a touchdown after Bulls wide receiver Johnny Peyton fumbled the ball in Miami territory.

Miami running back Tyrone Moss scored the first of his three touchdowns on a one-yard run to make the score 10-0. Coach Jim Leavitt put in QB Courtney Denson to spark the offense in the second quarter, but the Hurricanes defense was too fast and the Bulls trailed at halftime 20-0.

Things didn't get any better in the second half. While Miami didn't score again until late in the fourth quarter, the Bulls never got anything going on offense. Their first and only score came on a Johnny Peyton 14-yard touchdown reception with five minutes to go in the final quarter.

The highlight of the game for the Bulls came in second quarter when cornerback Michael Jenkins ran down Hurricanes tight end Greg Olsen, who was on his way to a 58-yard touchdown, and knocked the ball out just before he reached the goal line. The play resulted in a touchdown but USF gave the ball right back to Miami 11 plays later when Brandon Meriweather intercepted Denson's pass at the Miami 22-yard line.

Julmiste completed eight of 25 passes for 49 yards and threw three interceptions while Denson passed for 23 yards on three of six attempts. Running back Andre Hall also had a tough night, gaining only 56 yards on 19 carries after entering the game averaging 117 yards this season.

The Bulls have next week off to recover before returning to action Oct. 15 at Pittsburgh.

NEWS FROM STUDENT LIFE

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Harborside Activities Board is sponsoring a Hispanic Heritage Display in Davis Lobby October 3-7 honoring Hispanic Heritage Month.

Harborside Activities Board and the Multicultural Affairs of ce are co-sponsoring Noche de Salsa on Friday, October 7 from 5:00-8:00 pm in the Campus Activities Center. A Latin avored dinner will be provided as well as a live band performing and salsa instructions throughout the evening.

AND THIS TOO...

Don't miss out on all of the Homecoming FUN!
Monday, Oct. 17 to Saturday, Oct. 22. Watch for a complete list of all the homecoming events coming soon!

FINALLY...

Family Fun Swim Days at the Waterfront Pool. Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 9 from 11 am to 7 pm.
Bring your friends and family! Free!

CRASH COURSE

Leadership Experience Friday & Saturday, October 14-15 Register today for a leadership experience you'll never forget. Free for USF St. Petersburg students.
Registration forms and additional information available in the Campus Activities Center.

Visit us online at www.stpt.usf.edu/studentlife

FINALLY...
Shakin’ it up at the Garden

by staff writer
CHRISTINA CASTELLANA

Salsa Night at the Garden Restaurant is an enjoyable experience for anyone who loves to dance. The excitement generates a tangible energy that makes everyone want to move their feet to the salsa beats. The personable dance instructor, Leonardo, makes it easy and fun to learn the steps and creates a relaxed environment for everyone to let loose. The only disappointment is their false advertisement about the classes being free. Patrons who came in early paid a $2 fee, those who arrived shortly afterward were told to pay $3. The sudden change in price was not explained and put a slight damper on the evening.

Luckily, the workers collecting cash stamped everyone’s hand after they paid so they could wander downstairs, grab something to eat or have a quick drink, then return to salsa without being charged twice. Other than the variable cover, it is still an event everyone should experience at least once.

The Garden Restaurant prides itself in creating a dimly lit pseudo-Spanish getaway. The aged-spicy terracotta walls and weathered tables create the worn appeal many patrons enjoy. The restaurant portion offers three seating areas where customers can enjoy simple Mediterranean-inspired tapas as appetizers that range in price from $4 to $7 and entrees from $7.50 to $17. People who want to enjoy salsa night and not break the bank should enjoy a few taps and then head upstairs for a night of gyrating fun. The salsa class takes place by the martini bar where patrons can loosen up with a drink before they hit the dance floor.

The exposed pipes in the ceiling create an industrial look that contrasts the mysterious and whimsical nature of a defunct iron elevator covered with cobwebs with a cushy chair shaped like a leopard skin stiletto propped in the corner of the lounge.

Colored lights highlight the movement on the dance floor and paintings by local artists on curly-colored walls complete the eclectic setting. People ranging in age from 20 to 50 twisted, clapped and cheered as they followed the addictive Latin rhythms.

Salsa Night at the Garden Restaurant is a great place for friends, family and first dates to take a break from work and school and dance the night away.

See page 2 for information about this week's Noche de Salsa at USFSP.

Leonardo is now offering a salsa lesson at USF St. Pete every Monday in Classroom 109 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students pay $55.00 and non-students pay $65.00 for a one-hour class every week. For more information, call (727) 528-3304 or e-mail the instructor at lmc@usfcahemba.com

Leonardo is also hosting a "Salsa by the Sea" cruise on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for $25.00 per person. For more information, visit Boatingatthepier.com or ManasotaHanna.com or call (727) 365-4736 or (727) 528-3304.

Shak'in' it up at the Garden

Night at the Garden Restaurant

FACTS | in a | FLASH

Salsa Night every Thursday at 9 p.m. at the Garden Restaurant, 217 Central Ave. (727) 896-1800

Leonardo is now offering a salsa lesson at USF St. Pete every Monday in Classroom 109 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students pay $55.00 and non-students pay $65.00 for a one-hour class every week. For more information, call (727) 528-3304 or e-mail the instructor at lmc@usfcahemba.com

Leonardo is also hosting a "Salsa by the Sea" cruise on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for $25.00 per person. For more information, visit Boatingatthepier.com or ManasotaHanna.com or call (727) 365-4736 or (727) 528-3304.

PRECAUTIONS

(NOT PAGE 1)

Nasser said he is confident there will be enough time for faculty and staff to secure their important documents, which includes saving their electronic information to the network share drive. He also noted that the current Emergency Operation Plan, which was last revised in August 2004, will be updated by early next year to arrange for the evacuation of the Residence Hall when it becomes operational in fall 2006.

FINANCIAL AID

At the Financial Aid office, a system of imaging student documents has been in place for a number of years, ensuring that even if a storm were to destroy all files, the electronic versions would remain and be available for retrieval from any of the USF campus locations. Many of those imaged documents feed directly into OASIS, the online student information system.

Eric Dunn, interim director of Financial Aid, said that the imaged documents are considered legal copies. Since June, Dunn’s office has received the authority to destroy the corresponding paper copies every 90 days. As a result, student files, which used to take up five levels of a vertical filing cabinet, can now fit in just one drawer. Dunn said having the documents in such a compact area has greatly reduced the effort in moving documents when a storm threatens.

"It used to be a major undertaking," Dunn said of the process of moving files from lower drawers to higher locations.

Dunn stated that if a hurricane were to approach the area, her first priority would be to scan any student documents that had been recently received, thus ensuring the creation of an electronic duplicate.

"I would make sure that it gets scanned in the system," Dunn said.

ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS

Kevin Coughlin, director of Admissions and Records, said his department’s documents are stored in fireproof and waterproof cabinets. Original documents include admissions records, student applications, transcripts and test scores. Once a student registers, the office makes service copies of that person’s records that remain with the department in a secured room. The original documents are then sent to USF Tampa where they are also kept safely stored.

If a hurricane were to threaten the campus, Coughlin said his staff would move the entire vertical drawers out of their cabinets, place them in heavy-duty bags, and then raise them six to eight feet off the floor. Other items that are secured include computers, which would be strapped on top of the tables.

The department is also in the process of using a USF-wide imaging system. Coughlin called it “the best way to protect yourself from disaster.” Within the next three weeks, he expects the system will be online and fully implemented, eliminating the need for service files. Coughlin said that because of the imaging system, even if all 35,000 documents in Admissions were to be lost, they’d be able to reproduce them within a week.

STEPS to take in the event of a HURRICANE THREAT

(Back up computer hard drives)

(Protect electronic equipment by placing them inside thick plastic and sealing the ends with tape)

(Move desks, bookcases, filing cabinets and work tables away from windows and doorways)

(In areas susceptible to flooding, remove documents from bottom drawers of desks and filing cabinets)

Provide a means of contact with your building supervisor in the event of damage

**Campus police looks forward to new headquarters**

**DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO OFFER AN ARRAY OF SCHEDULED SAFETY CLASSES**

*by staff writer JUSTIN LOWERY*

When the new parking garage opens next year, the USF St. Petersburg Police Department will move its headquarters, currently located at Fifth Avenue and First Street South, to the first floor of the garage.

The move will coincide with the opening of the residence hall in fall 2006 and is expected to benefit both the USFSP community and the department itself by placing police officers in one of the busiest traffic spots on campus.

"With the bookstore being in the garage also, just about everybody on campus will be in the garage at some point," Sgt. Jon Wierzbowski said. "It will make us more visible to students and provide more of a feeling of safety."

The new headquarters will be bigger, providing more space for an interview room, a forensics area and an evidence room.

The facility will also feature state-of-the-art equipment such as surveillance cameras and a digital communications radio that will allow the campus police to be linked with all law enforcement agencies in the state. This equipment is expected to allow the police to more efficiently handle issues like parking violations and theft. "We’ll be able to do our job better," Wierzbowski said.

One of the features of the new station will be a multi-purpose training facility that will be used to enhance the crime prevention programs the department already offers.

The variety of programs, which are available to both law enforcement and the public, are designed to teach people how to stay safe.

"They’re good for anybody: students, faculty, staff—even the public," said Sgt. John Spicuglia, crime prevention and special events officer. "The problem is people don’t really know about it."

The programs, usually given in the form of a class presentation, can be scheduled any time and last about 20 to 30 minutes, Spicuglia said.

The most requested programs are personal safety classes and those that deal with issues that are currently in the news.

The classes can be adapted to suit any special need. In the past, classes have been held at various locations, including the Campus Activities Center, the Terrace and the Poynter Memorial Library.

Spicuglia doesn’t have a specific schedule for any of the classes, but conducts them as requested. However, he hopes to develop a biweekly schedule once the officers move into their new campus home next year.

"We’re here to meet everybody’s needs," Spicuglia said. "I’ve done classes that ranged from 30 to 40 people. I’ve even done a class of one. It’s not who’s not there that matters; it’s who is there."

**AROUND CAMPUS**

**Happenings**

**JUDO** At the Campus Activities Center on Sept. 28, international judo champion Gedimina Pakalnis taught a student down on the mat to teach him how to fall properly without hurting himself. Pakalnis, who is a junior in USF’s Honors program, teaches a kids class Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. "It is a great class to learn practical self-defense," said Pakalnis.

**PROGRAMS offered include:**

- Personal Safety: Reducing Your Risks
- Drinking and Driving: DUI Information
- Drugs: Health Risks, Liabilities
- Burglary and Theft Prevention
- Operation ID: Engraving
- Date/Acquaintance Rape Program for Both Men and Women
- Cash Handling and What to do if a Robbery Occurs
- Bike Engraving and Theft Prevention
- Child Safety Programs
- Off-Campus Housing: A Guide to Apartment Safety

Programs that are not on the list can be requested by contacting Sgt. John Spicuglia at (727) 553-4476.