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Search for CAS dean continues

BY SHAWN GEARHART
STAFF WRITER

After bringing four candidates to USF St. Petersburg for interviews but finding no one it could agree to recommend, the College of Arts & Sciences dean search committee decided to continue the process.

The committee was formed in early November 2005 by Karen A. White, USF St. Petersburg's regional chancellor. The committee's main purpose was to narrow the list of candidates and offer a recommendation to V. Mark Durand, head of Academic Affairs. Durand would then make a decision with input by the committee.

The committee met on four occasions and narrowed the list from approximately 40 applicants to four. Those candidates were then invited to the campus for interviews.

The interviews took place during the last week of November and the first two weeks of December 2005. However, the committee, chaired by journalism professor Robert Dardenne, was unable to arrive at a consensus, as no candidates received strong support from all members.

"All of the candidates were good choices," Dardenne said. "The unique campus that we have here made it harder to choose the right person."

The university is taking applications until mid-February. The search committee is also looking at applicants that did not make the original deadline. Once the application deadline has passed, the committee will once again narrow the list to three or four individuals. A recommendation for the position is expected to be made by the committee shortly after the interviews take place on campus.

If everything goes smoothly, the new dean will begin his or her duties in full 2006.

WINSTON T. BRIDGES, the interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, is expected to stay on through the spring semester.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY PARADE -- PHOTOS PAGE 8

MARCHING BAND -- The Martin Luther King, Jr., High School band from Lithonia, Georgia, proudly joined the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Parade as the only high school in Georgia named after the civil rights leader.

USFSP: Ready for your close up?

• V. Mark Durand led a recent info session on SAC's accreditation

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI
EDITOR

Before about 35 faculty, staff and students, Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs V. Mark Durand led a one-hour information session on January 20 to help prepare the campus for the next stage in its quest for separate accreditation.

And if there was one message he stressed, it was for everyone to be on their best behavior.

From February 7-9, 10 representatives of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will visit USF St. Petersburg to study the university, look at its records, and talk to various members of the campus community.

"We want to be as nice as we possibly can to these folks," Durand said.

Two years ago, USF St. Petersburg submitted a revised application for separate accreditation. It then received approval from SAC's to complete a Compliance Certification and schedule a site visit.

That certification, which was returned to SAC's on January 4, 2006, responded to 175 items that covered a variety of issues, including governance, educational programs, and the handling of finances.

On the last day of their site visit, members of the visiting committee will meet with USF St. Petersburg's SAC's Leadership Team for an exit interview and give them the outcome of their findings.

Then, in June, SAC's will officially vote on whether to grant separate accreditation to the campus.

Although accreditation is technically a voluntary process, it is important for schools that want to show dedication to quality higher education. According to the Principles of Accreditation document on the SAC's Web site, "Accreditation indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that it is successful in achieving its stated objectives."

During the meeting, Durand emphasized that regardless of whether the campus is granted separate accreditation in June, it will continue to be accredited by virtue of being a part of the USF System.

Durand said he "worst case scenario" would be that the relative newness of USF St. Petersburg's programs would cause the site visitors to hold off on recommending accreditation until instead choose to make a return visit next year or the year following.

However, he was optimistic that the site visit would go well.

"The good news is all these people (site visitors) are coming from places like ours," Durand said.

To view the compliance document, go to www.sacaccred.org.

Separate Accreditation -- The Big Deal

Although USF St. Petersburg is already accredited by SAC's by being a part of the University of South Florida System, Durand explained that separate accreditation will have multiple benefits for the campus.

On one level, it will help the campus distinguish itself through branding, allowing it to showcase itself as an academically autonomous place of higher learning. And because it will be a unique university, USF St. Petersburg will be able to apply for grants it would otherwise be ineligible for if USF had already received the same grant funding.

Once it is accredited, the campus will also be able to open up major new degree programs.

However, there is another reason why USF St. Petersburg is going through this time-consuming process -- the Florida legislature mandated it.

Durand said that as Florida continues to grow, the legislature doesn't want to create new universities for each region of the state. So separate accreditation for regional campuses is a way to solve the problem of accommodating more students.

Because of that mandate, USF St. Petersburg has the chance to be a pioneer. Currently, none of the other state universities in Florida have a separately accredited regional campus.

"We think this will be a model for the other institutions," Durand said.
About the contest

- The contest was started by members of the SAPL who were very interested in creative writing.
- Contestants submit two copies of their previously unpublished short stories.
- The entries should be 2000 words or less.
- According to the contest Web page, entries should be double-spaced on one side of standard letter-size paper. The title and the page numbers should also be on the story.
- All entries are judged anonymously, so names are not on the actual stories.
- Be sure to keep an original for yourself, as copies will not be returned.
- If suitable entries are not received, the SAPL reserves the right to not award prizes.
- Applications can be found online at the Web site.
- Entries should be dropped off at, or mailed to: Bayboro Fiction Contest, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
- USF St. Petersburg
- 140 7th Ave. S.
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USF Ambassadors Seeking Members

USF Ambassadors, a student organization sponsored by the USF Alumni Association, is seeking new members as part of its annual recruitment. The group serves the University by attending high-profile events and networking with alumni, donors and friends of USF. Applicants must have at least a 2.7 GPA, 12 credit hours earned, and not be graduating until next spring at the earliest. Applications can be picked up from Kate Gioga, alumni affairs coordinator, in the Williams House. Application are due February 17.
A look back at the Christm... er, holiday season

BY CHRIS GEORGE

"It is definitely a day our country should be proud of because it brings out the best in people. Like when a man showed me a remarkable sense of giving in a parking lot at K-Mart. So what if he was giving me the finger? The point is that he cared enough to do it."

As soon as Santa appeared on his float at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, waving to all the children on the verge of hyperthermia, the country knew what time of year it was. Now that Christmas has passed, let’s look back and reflect on the time of year that is supposed to appeal to even the hardest of hearts.

A day after sitting down to a dinner with family and offering thanks, the time had finally come to give. And what says giving better than the day after Thanksgiving? A day when the entire country wakes up early in the morning just so we can spend our hard earned money for others.

A day that exemplifies everything Christmas is about. All of the ideals Christmas was built upon are on display. Like selflessness, kindness and sacrifice. It is definitely a day our country should be proud of because it brings out the best in people. Like when a man showed me a remarkable sense of giving in a parking lot at K-Mart. So what if he was giving me the finger? The point is that he cared enough to do it. Or how about all of the people who were so courteous as to yell in my ear to get away from the way? All so they wouldn’t run me over. Ah, yes, what a beautiful day it was.

And what a horrible season it has become. To say that Christmas is too commercial is such a cliché that any outrage is immediately dismissed as being self-righteous. I would say those people have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, but it’s doubtful that they knew the meaning to begin with.

And those who claim to know what the season is about are probably the same ones who put on a show of, what the season is about are probably the same ones who put on a show of, what the season is about are probably the same ones who put on a show of...
From dining to décor, Chipotle serves up a winner

Chipotle. To many people, the name of this New Wave fast food restaurant conjures such excitement and enthusiasm that on any given day, a line of farmboys will trail from the serving counter to the entrance doors. The menu is short and sweet, and everything on it is made with fresh ingredients. From the tacos to their famously large and delicious burritos, Chipotle serves great food at sensible prices. The average meal (drink included) comes to roughly $7, and the quality of the food and generous portions make every penny well spent.

Ingredients are kept in heated metallic bins behind a glass shield so customers can see what they are getting and choose from a variety of fillers and toppers. Sides like rice and pinto beans or a basket of tortilla chips can accompany any meal. Tacos and burritos can be filled with whatever one's hungry stomach desires, including a selection of sauces that accommodate everyone's heat tolerance. Chipotle also serves a delectable selection of fruit drinks that cool down the after-effect of spicy entrees.

But Chipotle is not your average fast food restaurant. Yes, the food is prepared quickly and is tailored to satisfy one's taste, but this eatery provides the fast food patron with something more. The moment customers step inside Chipotle, they are greeted with an attractive industrial design décor. The mix of metal and wood creates a unique and inviting environment where friends, family and colleagues can gather for a leisurely lunch or dinner. Intricate Mayan collages created by Chipotle's hired artist Bruce Gueswel adorn the walls and add a hint of ancient ethnic beauty with a modern flair. A medley of industrial toe-tapping beats is piped in through speakers, which completes the dining experience.

According to the Chipotle Web site, the restaurant's motto "Food with integrity" is based on his fervent desire to provide Chipotle customers with the best meat and produce. The restaurant only uses meat from naturally raised cows, chickens and pigs; that means these animals graze spacious fields instead of factories and have not been injected with any hormones or antibiotics. According to the Chipotle Web site, it also rewards farmers who use healthy practices as opposed to mass production.

The only drawback to consuming a delicious Chipotle meal is the possible expansion of one's waistline. At a whopping two pounds (depending on number of ingredients) the burrito packs 1,000 calories and 40 grams of fat. For those who don't count calories, or have no concept of fat grams, let's just say if you're not an Olympic swimmer, a soccer player or marathon runner, the burrito is not a wise choice for everyday eating. For the average student or faculty member, a trip to Chipotle every once in a while can be a very good thing.

Dining Flair -- Chipotle's unique design includes Mayan collages created by Chipotle's hired artist Bruce Gueswel.
State Theatre spruces up, showcases its diversity

• An original, relaxed atmosphere and eclectic acts help make downtown St. Petersburg's State Theatre a unique concert venue

BY MEGHAN RULISON CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When John Bodziak purchased the State Theatre in March 2005, he hoped to offer a different type of concert experience from that provided by other local venues. Even one popular spot owned by Bodziak, The State Theatre, located at 687 Central Ave., holds anywhere from 10 shows on a slow month to 22 shows on a busy month, and is known for its mix of local and national acts.

Bodziak is the founder of Jannus Productions, which he created with the purchase of another downtown St. Petersburg concert venue, Jannus Landing, in 1997. He said his company puts on close to 65 percent of the concerts that take place in St. Petersburg.

Bodziak explained that part of his interest in buying the State Theatre was to provide a venue for bands that couldn't necessarily fill a place like Jannus Landing, which holds close to 1,250 people. Because the State Theatre can accommodate about 500 people, it is easier for lesser known acts to sell out a show.

Since Bodziak's purchase, he's been bringing more nationally known bands to the State Theatre. It is now more common to see acts like OneRepublic, Yellowcard or AlterBridge on the weekend, while local bands are showcased during the week.

The venue's decor has also been upgraded. Alex Rolfe, who used to perform with the death metal band "Desperate Cry," described the State Theatre of five years ago as a "delightful diorama of dirt and darkness." He remembers it had a pretty modest bar, not many places to sit and being very loud.

The walls of the main lobby are now bordered by electric guitars, all of which have been signed by artists who have performed either at the State Theatre or Jannus Landing. Bodziak has also installed granite counters and new carpeting on the second floor balcony and has added a second bar and mobile game room on the first floor.

"The arcade games in the game room are portable," said Ken Johnson, manager of the State Theatre. "We take them out for shows that are aimed for older people, providing more drinking space, and we bring them back in for shows that attract a younger audience."

ABOUT the State Theatre

History of the State Theatre

The building now occupied by the State Theatre opened in 1924 as Alexander National Bank. The bank lasted only two years, and the building became host to a succession of tenants until the State Theatre opened up in 1949.

Upcoming Concerts

- February 3 — Luna Halo
- February 9 — George Clinton & P-Funk
- February 10 — Average White Band
- February 20 — Thrill Kill Kult

Visit www.statetheatreconcerts.com for concert times and ticket fees.
Confessions of a former wunderkind wannabe

BY SCOTT WACHTLER

"I'm now the older guy in your classes... the guy who notices that you talk to me with some type of deference just because I'm older than you."

After an almost 15-year layoff, I have now been back at USF for over a year. Back in 1989, my first attempt at a college education came to an unceremonious halt when the folks in the Registrars Office kindly asked me to leave USF simply because my GPA had dipped below 2.0.

At the time I blamed USF. It didn't occur to me that hanging out in the dorms (this was in Tampa), smoking pot, not handing assignments in on time or studying for tests were factors. In my mind, USF failed me! Plus, I didn't need no book learning anyhow. I was going to be some major magazine, a good job and I was set on writing the great American novel.

For the first few years I thought I was on my way I had a short story published in a major magazine, a good job and I was writing every day. I was set on showing all those teachers at USF who failed me just what they missed out on.

Skip ahead 14 years. I noticed that I still too old to be considered a wunderkind, and because the good job I had was now a full-time dead end moose of a career, I hardly had a chance to write anymore.

I went back to a local junior college in order to repair the damage the younger me did to my GPA and eventually was able to re-register at USF.

I'm now the older guy in your classes. I'm the guy who's almost the same age - or older - than some of your teachers. I'm the guy who notices that you talk to me with some type of undeserved deference just because I'm older than you. That deference is strange to me because I still feel like I'm one of you since we're all learning.

I'm often reminded of a time during my student in the journalism program at USF during my freshman year.

I was just trying to fit in, get my degree and realize that he was right all along. Of course, no one could have told me this back then. I had to come to that conclusion on my own.

So here I am - too old to be the wunderkind that I once thought I'd be - just trying to fit in, get my degree and hoping that I don't come off looking to you like the dude in the ratty Zeppelin shirt.

--- Scott Wachtler is an undergraduate student in the journalism program at USF St. Petersburg.
Movies opening in theatres Friday, Jan. 27:
- Anticipation
- Big Momma's House 2
- New releases on DVD/VHS Tuesday, Jan. 31:
  - The Corpse Bride
  - Superwoman
  - In Her Shoes
  - The Legend of Zorro

As total revenue for 2005 experienced its worst decline since 1985 and failed to reach $9 billion for the first time since 2001. So, was it the quality of movies? Let's review.

2005 was the year that saw Jedi, a giant ape, Osama Loompan, and two guys that crashed a lot of weddings.
The top money earner was the easily forgettable "Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith." Until two months ago I would have said that the quality of the movies was the problem. But, thanks to some recent films by veteran directors, including Steven Spielberg, George Clooney and Bennett Miller, 2005 showcased some of the best movies of the last decade. These movies were so good in fact, that films like Miller's "Capote," about the life of Truman Capote, and "Caché," a superb French thriller, just missed the top 10.

Two hilarious films also came out in 2005: "Wedding Crashers" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." These films made us laugh like we haven't in a long time, a feat Hollywoosd has forgotten how to do in recent years.

Overall, 2005 was the year of the thriller. Six of the 10 best films were thrillers and each movie could easily have been the best film in a less competitive year. So whatever the problem is with movie theater attendance, it ain't because of what they're showing.

The 10 Best Films of 2005:

1. Munich — After striking out in the summer with "War of the Worlds," Steven Spielberg is back with his tact political thriller about the aftermath of the 1972 Olympic Games, where 11 Jewish athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. His finest work since "Schindler's list." "Munich" is a work of spectacular excitement. It has been left out of many of the year-end critic's races, the Golden Globes, and will very likely be left out of the Oscar ballot next month. But why? Is it too controversial? No and no. Spielberg's film challenges the viewer to discuss issues that have long been seen as dead to both sides.

2. Match Point -- After a number of disappointing films the past few years, Woody Allen is back with an adult thriller that echoes the spirit of Alfred Hitchcock. The story follows two Americans (played by Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers) who are marrying into a very rich and prominent English family, but end up falling for one another. By keeping himself out of the movie and changing the location from New York to London, Allen has put together a tightly written thriller that is one of the year's most clever films. "Match Point" would make the master of suspense, Hitchcock himself, very proud.

3. Syriana -- One critic pointed out that a movie shouldn't make you think this much, and while "Syriana" is heavy on plot, it's also a movie that makes you think why more movies can't be this good. With its interlocking stories about greed, corruption, oil, United States, and terrorism, too name a few, "Syriana" is an important movie in an age where oil runs much of the world. It also features some nice acting from Matt Damon and George Clooney.

4. Good Night, and Good Luck -- George Clooney's film about broad-caster Edward R. Murrow, who helped bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy during the Red Scare of the early 1950s, is perhaps the most important movie ever made about journalism and its message is as vital ever.

5. The Uprising of Anger -- Joan Allen stars in this comedy/drama about a sharp-witted suburban wife whose husband has disappeared, leaving her to raise her four teenage daughters alone. She ends up falling for Kevin Costner, an ex-baseball player turned radio disc jockey. Costner's best acting performance and the always great Allen help make this the year's best love story.

6. The 40-Year-Old Virgin -- Pressured by his buddies because he's never been "done," Steve Carell ends up falling for a single mother and gives the year's funniest performance in a gross-out comedy that also has a sweet side to it. Comedy is said to be harder to do than drama, which makes it an easy choice on this list.

7. The Matador -- Pierce Brosnan is no longer James Bond but with movies like this, who cares? Brosnan stars as an aging assassin who is hired by Greg Kinnear, a legitimate ba-

8. The Constant Gardener -- Along with "Syriana," there is another film that makes you pay attention and think. Fernando Meirelles's first English-language film is a smart political thriller that has much to say about corporations and prescription drugs. The thriller is based around a romance between Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz.

9. Walk the Line -- Joaquin Phoenix goes up one on Jamie Foxx by doing all his own singing. "Walk the Line" tells us about Johnny Cash's life, but rather about how he met and fell in love with June Carter. People often forget that at the time that "At Folsom Prison" was recorded, Cash was outshining the Beatles. "Walk the Line" features some great acting by Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, but lacks in biographical details.

10. Wedding Crashers -- Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, the best comedy duo since David Spade and Chris Farley, provide huge laughs as divorce mediators who crash weddings in their spare time to meet girls. As the number of weddings they crash pile up, they learn the secret of true love. Along with "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Wedding Crashers" has a sweet side that most comedies lack. See it for Christopher Walken, who steals the show as the father of the two girls that Wilson and Vaughn fall for.
MLK Day Parade

BAND -- (PHOTO AT LEFT) The St. Petersburg High School band was one of many that participated in the 21st Annual Justice Parade to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Hundreds of citizens lined the streets to honor the fallen civil rights leader. The parade began at Third Avenue South and Martin Luther King, Jr., Street and ended at Vinoy Park.

BEADS -- (PHOTO AT RIGHT) "Big Mike," from 95.7 The Beat, joined the parade while handing out beaded necklaces.

Sailing Coverage
The Crow's Nest's spring 2006 sailing coverage starts next week. Upcoming regatta dates are:

February 4-5:
- South Points -- at Rollins College (coed)
- 2X2 Team Racing World's Qualifier -- at USF (coed)

February 11-12:
- Spring Women's Championship -- at College of Charleston
- Mendelblatt Team Racing -- at USF (coed)

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