3-5-2003

Crow's Nest : 2003 : 03 : 05

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USF seeks, acquires minority poli sci professor

By Linda J. Young

Staff Writer

An aggressive strategy to increase diversity at USF St. Petersburg has become a success story with the recruitment of a black scholar to teach political science courses.

Gary Olson, interim associate vice president and campus Equal Employment Opportunity Commission officer said the drive to attract minority candidates paid off when they hired African-American scholar Nicole Johnson as an assistant professor in the political science department.

Johnson said when she arrived here for interviews, she felt this university was at an exciting time of growth, particularly with regard to the student body. She also liked the way the faculty encouraged each other, new faculty and new ideas.

"I’m really looking forward to being part of something like that," Johnson said. "That’s pretty much what excited me in terms of taking advantage of the offer."

Johnson, currently a professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., said her passion for teaching and desire to touch and influence her students came from her professors at Spelman College in Atlanta. This campus also attracted her because the student body is similar in number to her alma mater.

She remembers the pressures of being an undergraduate with so many decisions to make, worried that if she did not make the right decision "that the world was going to come to an end."

Johnson said caring professors helped her make those major decisions and she wants to do the same for her students on this campus.

An avid interest in presidential campaigns and debates, coupled with working on the Atlanta mayoral campaign for Bill Campbell in 1993 and Bill Clinton’s 1992 campaign nudged her into political science and research, Johnson said.

At the University of Wisconsin, in her doctoral dissertation examined the influence of a candidate’s race on elections. Her research showed cues to a candidate’s race or ethnicity can be conveyed in many ways. These include a name with distinct racial connotations, residing in a neighborhood known to be...

See RITCH on Page 4 →

RITCH leaves administration for the classroom

The associate vice president of student affairs will be teaching leadership courses.

By Nicole Johnson

Staff Writer

After 19 years of leading USF St. Petersburg’s division of student affairs, Steve Ritch, associate vice president, has decided to pursue the culmination point in his career—teaching. Ritch joined USF in 1984 as director of student affairs. His title was changed a year and a half ago to associate vice president.

"This happened when we began the drive for separate accreditation and we began the process of more autonomy for the campus," Ritch said. "This title came with more responsibility and more authority as the campus expanded."

When Ritch arrived in 1984, student affairs employed five people. The division now has 26 employees, not including student assistants. Ritch has helped change the division considerably in his 19 years of administration. He helped bring in the sailing team, campus activities center and food services.

Ritch is currently accountable for the majority of student life on campus. "I am responsible for all of what student affairs is," he said. With his experienced administration career coming to its latter phase, Ritch is ready for the excitement and challenge of teaching. "With every new job there is a risk, and I am ready to take that risk," he said.

See RITCH on Page 3 →
Al-Arian dismissal long overdue

By Alicia Wilty

Guest Editorial

The conflict over the last 18 months came to a head Feb. 26 when USF President Judy Genshaft fired Professor Samir Al-Arian. The decision to fire Al-Arian came after his Feb. 20 arrest on charges of setting up a terrorist cell at USF. The 121-page indictment details Al-Arian's involvement with financial matters involving the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an organization responsible for bombings and terrorist attacks in the Middle East.

The Al-Arian situation has been a black eye for USF. The university has received more press involving the Al-Arian situation than any other issue in the history of the university. This bad press has damaged USF's reputation in various ways, from embarrassment for students who attended "Jihad U." to possible censure by the American Association of University Professors.

No matter which side of the issue people take, they have to agree that this fiasco has been disruptive and harmful to the credibility of USF.

Genshaft and Provost S. David Stamps clearly outlined the terms of Al-Arian's firing in the Feb. 26 termination notice. He was terminated for engaging in activities "outside the course and scope of employment that adversely affected the legitimate interests of the university; creation of conflict between private interests and the public interests of the university and the failure to properly report these activities to the university," which was a violation of Florida statute and provisions of a previous Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Stamps' letter clearly states that the termination is based on Al-Arian's conduct alone, not his ability to speak freely in the classroom or his right to free speech outside the classroom.

Still, many claim that Al-Arian has been denied the rights of due process and freedom of speech. Why all the fuss? Just because Al-Arian is a tenured university professor, does that give him certain unalienable rights? Many occupations—physicians, pharmacists, clergy and police officers, for example—require a strict code of conduct, both on and off the job. Professors also must adhere to certain conduct while off the clock.

Al-Arian has not been victimized in the manner that he and his lawyers would like people to believe. The fact that Al-Arian has been on paid leave, to the tune of $67,500 annually, since December 2001 is appalling.

If the professor in question was a white, former Ku Klux Klan member caught on tape espousing the virtues of slavery and racial slurs, how many people would stand behind him and his right to free speech? Was Al-Arian kept on merely because the university wanted to maintain diversity among faculty? Al-Arian should have been fired long ago.

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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. Letter writers should include their names, position (e.g., student), and phone numbers for verification. Letters may be edited for length or clarity, but otherwise are printed exactly as received. Not all letters may be published. Please email your letters to: crowsnesteditor@yahoo.com.

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Message from your student government president, Cassie Hawkins

USF St. Petersburg student government needs student input on two very high profile issues.

The first is the Albert Whitted Airport issue. SG is leaning toward supporting the mayor’s one runway plan. This plan would allow for the safety of area buildings, reduced noise and disruption, and the ability for the university to grow in order to meet the needs of our campus. SG is looking for student input and comments. We will be putting an information board in the Davis lobby that will provide a short list of facts and will give students the opportunity to comment. We will be reaching out to students, but we need them to come forward with their input.

The second issue is the higher education funding cuts. We are going to lobby the legislature to present the student view on the cuts. Students will have their own opportunity to participate by going to the USF Day at the Capital event. There will be an opportunity to have lunch with the delegation from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. Any students that are interested in attending should call Sue Sietsma at 553-1147. SG is trying to find money to subsidize the cost of the trip to Tallahassee.

If there are any further questions, I'll be happy to answer them. Call 553-1147.

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The Volunteer Service Program is looking for help for the following projects:

Special Olympics: Many positions available for Sat., Mar. 15 at Lakewood High School

Ronald McDonald House: Prepare a meal for families with children being treated at All Children's Hospital

Soojourn bears: Sew or stuff a bear to be presented to a cancer patient

Fruit picking: Donate fruit to the St. Pete Free Clinic

These projects would make great group activities.

Contact Barry McDowell for more information at 553-1622 or mcdowell@stpt.usf.edu.

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Students make contacts, gain experience at Career Expo

By Jana Albury
Staff Writer

Students who attended the Career Expo on Wednesday walked away with new experience in making contacts in today's competitive job market.

Professionally attired students mingled with recruiters and handed out resumes as a first step in the job-hunting process. The 38 area employers who attended the event brought buckets of candy, pens, pencils, notepads, bag clips, cups and calendars promoting their companies.

Tara Mohrfield, coordinator of career development services at USF St. Petersburg, organized the event. The Career Expo was an excellent opportunity for students to begin networking with area employers as well as develop professional interviewing skills, Mohrfield said. She encouraged students to talk to as many employers as possible to get to know them.

"The most important thing is that students make contacts," Mohrfield said. "They are not going to walk away from a job fair with a job. That's not the purpose. The purpose is to make contacts and meet people face to face." Senior accounting major Jodi Henriquez was a little apprehensive but well-prepared for her first career expo. The day before the expo she picked up the list of employers that would be there and also had her resume critiqued by her current manager. She has some experience with bookkeeping in a law firm and is eager to make the contacts necessary to place her in a suitable career.

"As soon as I graduate, I want to get into the field," Henriquez said. "I am also possibly looking for internships. The representative from Raymond James referred me to their Web site. I wasn't able to give them my resume which was disappointing. But what they did was link me to their Web site and told me to get in touch with them. I am trying to get more information about that." She said that she was impressed by the recruiting process. "I think that's a win-win situation because not only will she win in having a job at this wonderful institution but we will win in that we will benefit from her experience and her perspective," Olson said. Diversity among faculty is important because of the experiences and perspectives those minority faculty members bring with them. An obstacle to greater diversity is that many universities have more money or prestige to compete to attract the same candidates, Olson said.

It is too early to know exactly how many minority candidates will be hired from the 61 searches being conducted for new faculty, Olson said. However, he is pleased with the high quality of faculty they have been able to get so far this year. He said that hiring Johnson was one of their success stories in increasing diversity.

Johnson said she and her husband, Chris Robinson, have regional roots and recently vacationed in St. Petersburg. The Buford, Ga. native spent summers with her grandparents in Melbourne, Fla. She'll begin teaching at USF St. Petersburg in August.

Jennifer Gallagher from Easter Seals Camp Challenge discusses job opportunities with Kristal Richardson, left, and Nadege St. Jacques during last week's Career Expo. Easter Seals Camp Challenge is a residential camp for children and adults with disabilities.

Students also had the opportunity to receive information about graduate programs from representatives of USF, Nova Southeastern University, and Stetson University College of Law. Jessica Gordon, who graduated from USF in 2000 and is currently working as a registered nurse, came to the career expo to find information about graduate schools and also to see what kind of job opportunities are available today.

Construction Whitaker, a recruiter for Operation Par, Inc., said the career expo was a wonderful opportunity to solicit volunteers for the residential facility in Tampa that houses abused and neglected children. Students who are interested in social services can gain a lot of experience by volunteering for The Children's Home and may possibly acquire a full-time position with the non-profit agency, Gaur said.

Students who were not necessarily looking for a job also gained experience in making contacts. "The career expo should be geared more toward freshmen and sophomores," Whitaker said. "Students who are interested in social services can gain a lot of experience by volunteering for The Children's Home and may possibly acquire a full-time position with the non-profit agency, Gaur said.

According to Brigitte Whitaker, a recruiter for Operation Par, Inc., the career expo should not be all about finding a job. "The one thing that I look for as a recruiter in filling a position is passion," Whitaker said. "I don't believe in finding someone a job. I want people to love getting up and going to work," Whitaker said.

Students who were not necessarily looking for a career opportunity also benefited from the expo. Several employers, such as the Renaissance Vinoy in downtown St. Petersburg, publicized part-time, flexible positions available for students with herculean class schedules. Jennifer Gallagher, employment coordinator for Easter Seals Camp Challenge, was looking for students to fill full-time summer positions for a camp that caters to adults and children with disabilities.

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The campus is looking for a leadership change and the budget is tight. Ritch is grateful to interim vice president and CEO Ralph Wilcox, whom Ritch credits with valuing leadership studies enough to add it as a minor in the College of Education. Ritch wanted to turn his full-time attention toward building a leadership study minor along with the Bishop program for ethical leadership studies. Given the vast potential for these programs, Ritch presented Wilcox with a request for reassignment. Wilcox agreed to the reassignment. Ritch expects to have 80 to 100 students enrolled in the leadership program within two to three years. A multi-year course schedule has already been developed.

Courses for the fall 2003 term have already been established and courses for the 2004 school year already are in mind to accommodate his goal of something for every major.

Ritch has been in administration for 29 years, but he said teaching is at the heart of what he does. His career goals had been to spend some time as a practicing leader and administrator, goals he has fulfilled. “What I have done in terms of scholarship is to teach particularly in the area of leadership and ethics,” Ritch said.

He hopes this teaching has guided his practice as an administrator, and now wants to teach what he has practiced. Ritch will be engaged in scholarship, writing and submitting articles for publication. Ritch expects to have 80 to 100 students enrolled in the leadership program within two to three years. A multi-year course schedule has already been developed.

The leadership study minor and the Bishop program for ethical leadership studies are two different programs. Louise Bishop, who lives in the St. Petersburg area, approached the university and wanted to contribute money to the name of her late husband, Wally Bishop, and himself to develop a program that would address ethics and leadership.

Ritch learned that USF Tampa was interested in developing a leadership minor and deans are trying to meet with faculty, students, and the National Science Foundation.

While he has taught most of the courses in leadership studies, his special interest is the ethics course.

Students who have experience with leadership from other universities or high schools are encouraged to enroll in the minor. Incoming freshmen with leadership experience may be prepared to take the first course called Leadership Fundamentals, which students majoring in a field where leadership is critical and do not have leadership background are particularly encouraged to enroll. “I am going to look at individual students’ circumstances to be able to advise prospective students more clearly about what courses they can get in,” said Ritch.

The seven courses in the leadership studies program are not lecture courses. Each course stresses student involvement. Ritch’s way of teaching is interactive and uses a great deal of role-play. “We are talking about leadership and we need to put students in experiences where they can actually experience that,” Ritch said. “These courses are fun.”

Once the program begins to take off, Ritch will offer more courses. Diane McKinstry from the counseling department will develop a course called Images of Leadership in Print and Film.

Ritch’s projected reassignment will begin Aug. 7, and a search to replace him will be conducted. Wilcox has asked Ritch to be prepared to stay on a bit longer as associate vice president if the search does not come across a candidate that Ritch or the committee believes will have contingency plans to cover the courses if the reassignment goes past the given date. “I fully expect that I will be teaching these courses,” Ritch said.

After 19 years as associate vice president of student affairs, Ritch said he is ready for a change. “It’s been very challenging and has kept me on my toes,” he said.

He is at the point in his career where he is ready to take the risk and go for the excitement of teaching. Ritch said, “I do not need the authoritative role; I need the challenge of some new thing. ‘I absolutely believe in it or I wouldn’t take the risk,’” he said.

The committee searching for a successor to USF St. Petersburg interim CEO Ralph Wilcox shortened their list to seven candidates following recent interviews.

**News and Notes**

CEO candidates narrowed to seven

The committee is searching for a successor to USF St. Petersburg interim CEO Ralph Wilcox. They shortened their list to seven candidates following recent interviews.

- **Terry L. Hickey**, senior vice president and provost at the University of Akron.
- **Diana Vines**, vice chancellor for corporate and public affairs at the Oregon University System.
- **Gary Kranebuhler**, senior vice president at Arizona State University.
- **Karen A. White**, dean, professor of music and graduate faculty member of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska.
- **Delores Cross**, past president of Morris Brown College.
- **Richard S. Millman**, program director of the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation.
- **Portia Holmes Shields**, president, Albany State University.

Between Mar. 24 and April 4, the candidates will visit the campus to meet with faculty, students, administration and community leaders. The search committee will then recommend final candidates to USF President Judy Genshaft.

**Editor wanted**

The Crow’s Nest is seeking an editor for the 2003-2004 academic year. This paid position is great experience for anyone interested in journalism.

For more information, email crownesteditor@yahoo.com
Ballet challenges only male in class

By Vanessa Espinari
Staff Writer

Randy Taylor, College of Arts & Sciences office manager, is the first man to take a ballet class through USF St. Petersburg, even though the class has been offered for more than a year.

Taylor, 32, registered for Fundamentals of Ballet this spring because he needs the credits. He attended Southwest Texas State University but didn't graduate, and the Texas university required two physical education courses. Ballet meets that requirement. Beyond that practical reason, Taylor has another reason for taking ballet: "I started taking ballet in the 1970s in a ballroom dance class he took in Vienna, Austria. I put in as much time practicing as I do studying for any subject," he said. "Any time you set a trend or do something first there is always someone who thinks it's odd and teases. For me, the teasing means I am doing something right."

In fact, being the only male in a class full of women seems to have its advantages. "It is a positive environment," Taylor said. "The girls are very supportive, they comment on how much I have been improving."

And Taylor's classmates enjoy having him in class. "I think it's great if a guy is brave enough to take it," student Kelly Davis said. "He is one of the hardest workers in class. I think everybody respects that."

Classmate Kalie Jackson agreed that there are advantages to having a male in class. "He gives a different outlook to ballet class," she said.

For Taylor, the class has been a learning experience. The only dance training he had previously was a ballroom dance class he took in Vienna, Austria. "Ballet is as tough as any academic subject," he said. "I put in as much time practicing as I do studying for any other class."

However, being the only man in class has some challenges. "There is a little flair to the steps that is different for males than females," he said. "There aren't any other males to measure my progress against. But I've never felt that it mattered who the students are as long as you're learning."

"The Recruit" could use more training

By Carl David Blake
Staff Writer

James Clayton (played by Colin Farrell), a cryptology wiz who graduated at the top of his class at MIT, wants to get recruited by a major computer company. At a computer job fair, Clayton gets the interest of Walter Burke (Al Pacino) by showing his (impossible) technology that lets one hijack any video screen anywhere and run a Webcam on it. Instead of being recruited by a large computer company, Clayton is recruited by Burke of the CIA.

Clayton is then thrust into CIA boot camp called The Farm, where he meets his love interest, Layla (Bridget Moynahan). We find out that Clayton is the son of a mysterious father who disappeared a decade ago, which Burke knows something about. Clayton eventually washes out of boot camp—or maybe not—and finds himself on a secret mission from Burke to root out an attractive double agent among his peers at the farm. You can guess who that attractive person is.

The plot revolves around a CIA-developed computer program that a double agent is trying to steal. Clayton follows her as she copies the code in a clever way that any 12-year-old with a computer could figure out, but the CIA cannot. As the suspense builds, it becomes clear the old maxims uttered by Burke, "trust no one" and "nothing is as it seems," are true when a CIA agent becomes more confused, as does the audience.

Although the spy games at the beginning of the film are fun, the story gets worse as it progresses. Al Pacino and Colin Farrell are good throughout but can't carry the movie.

Rating: 2/5 stars
Young people fix flaws with cosmetic surgery

By Lisa Rosenthal

Kathy Lotz looks like the girl you wanted to be (or date) in high school. Long, shiny hair, big eyes with thick lashes, perky nose, smooth skin, petite and slender. Think Marcia Brady in a brunette. But Lotz wasn't happy. She hated her breasts. Well, not her breasts, exactly. 'I have 'hips,' she said. 'I was shaped like a pear. If I found a dress I liked, I'd have to have the top altered or wear a push-up bra.'

When she was 18, Lotz jokingly mentioned breast augmentation to her father. To her surprise, he said she could get the procedure as her high school graduation gift. A few months later, she was having surgery.

'It didn't hit me I was getting it done till the day I went in,' she said. Now the 20-year-old is a full size larger. 'I don't flaunt them,' Lotz said, 'but when I go out, people do notice. I'm happy.'

Once considered the domain of Miami Beach matrons with sun-ravaged skin or breathe-voiced movie stars, cosmetic surgery is becoming common among those in their twenties and younger. According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, in 2001 more than half a million people under 34 had some kind of procedure—and most of them were women. Lotz said she's more confident and able to wear sexier clothes. Although her friends didn't think she needed the procedure, now some of them are following her example.

"It took one person getting it done for it to be okay," she said. 'And I'm open about it. I say, 'Yeah, I got books.'

Sander Gilman, director of University of Illinois' Humanities Laboratory and author of "Making the Body Beautiful," said he's not surprised. "People always have intervened in the way they look," he said. "They want to match up to societal norms. We see cosmetics and the gym as appropriate for someone 16 years old. Cosmetic surgery is the natural next step."

Laura Willis, 23, of West Palm Beach, agreed. 'I use makeup. I get my hair done. I paint my nails. If it makes you feel better about yourself, then why not do it?" So two years ago, she had her nose done. And redone. But she's still not happy with it. It never matched up to the "after" picture the surgeon promised on his computer monitor.

'It's not the 'perfect' nose like you see in magazines and on TV," Willis said.

This search for perfection is common among college students. Cory Wallack, psychology intern at USF's Counseling Center for Human Development, estimated that 25 to 40 percent of students are dissatisfied with their body, many to the point of a disorder. He said college puts a special strain on students to be perfect.

"Fifty years ago, you didn't have to go to college to get a job," Wallack said. "Now it's expected. And it's becoming expected to go to grad school. That means good grades in high school, good grades in college. And that carries over. I see students who feel they have to have not only perfect grades, but a perfectly clean house, a perfect relationship and a perfect body."

On this "ideal" body, the kind that's displayed on magazine covers, research shows waist and hip sizes are getting increasingly smaller, and breast sizes have gotten larger.

Television, movies and celebrities like Britney Spears all influence how young women want to change, said Dr. O. M. Suliman, chairman of St. Anthony's Department of Plastic Surgery in St. Petersburg. And that can be a problem, he said, because the girls become dissatisfied with who they really are.

"African-Americans want a smaller nose. Caucasians want larger lips. Someone may want cheek implants or a breast augmentation when they look fine. If they bring in a picture, I tell them that some things in magazines are done through makeup and even digital retouching."

But even as Suliman tries to convince them, his waiting room holds the latest issues of "Glamour," "Bazaar" and "People." Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones graces one of the covers.

So it's hard for people to believe in "just being yourself." They want to look like everyone else, or as they perceive everyone else in a privileged group looks. Gilman calls this phenomenon "passing." It started, he said, in the early 20th century, when immigrants wanted to move into mainstream society without being seen as different. They wanted to "pass" as white, Christian, non-ethnic and modern. Now they want to pass as sexy. Hence, breast augmentation surgery proliferated.

In 2001, more than 125,000 women in the country under 34 had their breasts surgically enlarged, which, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, is up from 30,000 in 1992. For this age group, it's the second most popular type of cosmetic surgery—nose reshaping is first. Gilman contends it's just a way for people to take control of their lives, and this active participation is a good model for all of medicine.

The women who won free cosmetic surgery courtesy of Tampa radio station 93.3 FM were active participants. Each had to write an entertaining essay about why she wanted a procedure and the 12 winners of the "Pick Your Plastic" contest could select from a menu of eight possibilities, from breast augmentation to tummy tuck to liposuction. On the other hand, the 12 who won the "Boobapalooza" contest limited to that procedure, but not in size. Winners were chosen based on creativity and originality, and the reason they gave for wanting surgery didn't have to be real.

"We got all kinds of things," said Sara Winn, the station's director of promotions. "Some sent in songs, poems. They'd say they wanted to start their lives over, or they couldn't get a man because they had no boobs. One said she wanted to draw attention away from her too that had been cut off."

Winn said the station's primary listener is 18-to-34-year-olds. She didn't see any negative aspects of the contest. "We are helping people improve their self-esteem," she said. "We're not playing on their insecurities."

See SURGERY on Page 8
Gov. Jeb Bush's proposed dismantling of the state library of Florida may eliminate jobs and resources in Tallahassee, and the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library staff worries about the effects it may have at USF St. Petersburg.

The dismantling of the state library, now part of the Florida Department of State, would save the state $5.4 million, according to Bush's proposed 2005-06 budget. The savings may cost Florida in the long run. "It will be a major loss," said Kathy Arsenault, dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. "It's an amazing library that has been around since the beginning of this state. They have been building the collection for so long, now it may be distributed. It will be tragic."

While the Division of Library and Information Services is now part of the Florida Department of State, Bush wants to eliminate it and move each department to other agencies.

The Library Development arm, which administers federal programs and state aid to libraries, would be incorporated into the newly-formed Department of State and Community Partnerships.

Records Management would relocate to the Department of Management Services. The library itself provides library services to state agencies, along with public libraries throughout the state. The library also manages state documents, which would be eliminated and its records would be dispersed. It has not been determined where the records will end up.

State Archives would shift to the Department of Environmental Protection. Distributing these divisions to various state departments is dangerous, said Jim Schnur, Poynter's assistant librarian of special collections. "Archivist's make big decisions about what goes in the trash can."

Schnur should know. His graduate education focused on archiving and preserving historical treasures. "It's easy disintegrating our heritage," he said. "It's easy to make history disappear."

Along with the dismantling of the state library, its staff of well-trained librarians and archivists would be terminated. "Materials will be in the hands of people that know nothing about them," Schnur said. "These collections don't belong at Florida State University or Nova Southeastern. They are state treasures."

In January, FSU rejected the collection because there were no state funds to support the massive collection. On Feb. 25, the Associated Press reported that more than 350,000 volumes will be moved to for-profit Nova Southeastern University in Broward County. Bush's office said the transfer will save Florida $10.2 million over the next four years. "It's like set of baseball cards," Schnur said. "They have more value together than apart. These treasures need to stay together."

The state library also administers construction, cooperative, literary, library service and technology grants and state aid. More than a century of Florida library history

The state library began with statehood in 1845, but the creation that became the state library was among the first 15 acts of the new state's Legislature, said former state librarian Barratt Wilkins in a recent letter to librarians.

The history contains the Florida Collection of more than 236,000 items including printed materials, state government documents, maps and microfilm reels. There's also a 113-file drawer of pamphlets, manuscripts and other materials collected by Florida's first state librarian, W.T. Cash, former state librarian Dorothy Dodd and the state library staff for more than 80 years.

The general collection alone contains 960,000 items including bound books, federal documents, periodicals, films and more than 9,700 videos.

More than one million items that document Florida's history are housed in the state's R.A. Gray Building in Tallahassee.

First-hand knowledge

Schnur has an in-depth knowledge of the R.A. Gray Building. As a master's in library science student, he spent two summers at FSU, and said the records at the state library date back to the 1500s. He continues to utilize their sources today. The state library staff offers suggestions on ways to house collections, to preserve various publications and use the state library's facilities.

At least once a month, I phone them," he said. "They are my court of last resort.

Not just university librarians use the repository. The unique facility is used by the Legislature, state agency and state staff. Students, historians, genealogists, writers and lawyers depend on state librarians. The Tallahassee staff answers phone, e-mail and fax inquiries—as many as 2,000 a day.

Product of State Library

Historical preservation isn't the only thing affected on the USF St. Petersburg campus. In the early 1980s, the state library played a major role in establishing the interlibrary loan system used at state and public universities throughout Florida. The initial carrier system was established by a state library grant and provided technological support that many state universities couldn't afford.

"The state library oversees interlibrary loans, as well as network issues," Schnur said. "It provides a conduit for electronic libraries (and state library systems) and also saves money for the constituent."

If the proposed budget is approved, Florida would be the only state without a state library.

Bush is seeking the Legislature's approval during the current session.

Gov. Jeb Bush said. "These collections have more value than one million items that document Florida's history are housed in the state's R.A. Gray Building.

They have more value together than apart. These treasures need to stay together."

Grants in jeopardy?

Bush's plan really hits home for USF St. Petersburg because the state library plays an important role in securing grants for the campus. And while Bush has determined how to dismantle the 150-year-old institution, how its grant department will function is not clear. "It directly affects our ability as a state university to go for grants," Schnur said.

USF St. Petersburg received several grants through the state library, including two for historical renovation totaling more than $450,000. In the early 1990s, Schnur was part of USF St. Petersburg team that traveled to Tallahassee where they presented their case to grant administrators. The grants were awarded and helped preserve the Smith and Williams Houses, both of which now are on the USF St. Petersburg campus.

The preservation of historical sites throughout Florida is not a haphazard system," Schnur said. The current grant system involves political finesse and Schnur worries that if placed in the hands of private businesses and inexperienced administrators, the state process will become bogged down in corporate politics.

Grants such as loyalty, conflicts of interest, accountability, truth telling, honesty, and courage.

The Florida Collection of more than 236,000 items, including printed materials, state government documents, maps and microfilm reels, provides a wealth of information to students and researchers.

Ethics Across the Professions Conference Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12-3 pm</td>
<td>&quot;The Insider&quot;</td>
<td>An Oscar award-winning film about Dr. Jeffrey Wigand.</td>
<td>FCT 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>burnetts</td>
<td>Wigand tells his story and challenges his listeners to consider the consequences of choice in the era of business, media, and the law.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Town meeting</td>
<td>Town meeting with Jeffrey Wigand</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffrey Wigand</td>
<td>Wigand leads an open discussion exploring themes such as loyalty, conflicts of interest, accountability, truth telling, honesty, and courage.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Scholars and the Professions</td>
<td>Fifteen ethics scholars present their ideas about five themes.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45-1:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catedrados</td>
<td>Scholars present a number of different ethical decision models in decision-making matrices.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-3 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Models for Florida</td>
<td>Dr. Kristen Swain moderates a panel of researchers and journalists who discuss how the public, scientific communities, government and public service agencies have dealt with bio-terrorism.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15-4:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bio-terrorism: A Case Study in Ethics</td>
<td>Dr. Kristen Swain moderates a panel of researchers and journalists who discuss how the public, scientific communities, government and public service agencies have dealt with bio-terrorism.</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-5 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Summing up</td>
<td>What conclusions can be drawn from the day's discussions about ethics across the professions?</td>
<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>The South Porch Society hosts an evening of fellowship and conversation.</td>
<td>FCT 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two research papers sessions and six panel discussions.</td>
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<td>Florida Marine Research Institute</td>
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"Ethics Across the Professions comes to USF St. Petersburg March 18-21.

"Ethics Across the Professions" is a national colloquium and conference. Fifteen scholars will share ideas and present papers, with an emphasis on applied, practical ethics. Their assignment is to compare issues in journalism ethics with issues in other fields of professional ethics to see what each profession can learn from the other.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Wigand opens the conference March 19. Wigand is the tobacco company whistleblower featured in the movie "The Insider."

For more information or to register, go to www1.stpt.usf.edu/peec.
Intentional or not, the contest reflects women's negative views of their bodies. A 1996 "Psychology Today" study revealed that 56 percent of women were dissatisfied with their overall appearance. In the same year, a study in "Self" magazine reported more than half the respondents said they'd change their breasts if they could.

Beauty has always been modeled, said Rita Freedman, author of "Beauty Bound." But in the past, beautiful body images projected by artists were considered romanticized ideals that could never be reached. Today, the boundaries and ideals are blurred and many people think what they see in the media is not only real, but obtainable.

"People used to take a generation for an idealized image to change, now it can happen overnight. So one day your lips, breasts or cheekbones are "in," the next they're "out." This effect goes beyond looks.

"The connection between appearance and worthiness for females can become so deeply ingrained during puberty that it remains throughout a woman's life," Freedman said, "making her continuously insecure about her appearance, and, consequently, about herself.

"The pressure's out there" she said. "Women feel pressured when it comes to beauty."

Her under-30 clients want permanent eyeliner, eyebrows, lip liner and lip color. The idea is to wake up in the morning and look like you have makeup on, but Kolodner said she just enhances features they already have. "They'll always add on to it in the afternoon and evening with more makeup," she said.

Even after a procedure, some women feel like they still don't look good enough. And those who do often worry it won't last. Mel Lan, 24, who works in an upscale cosmetics store, said she wouldn't consider cosmetic surgery...yet. "But after I had kids," she said, "I'd think about a breast lift."

In addition to television, movies and magazines promoting the idea that you can always look better, there's advertising by the plastic surgeons themselves. What can start as a vague doubt about a perceived flaw can be fanned into a raging insecurity by the numerous ads for cosmetic surgery procedures.

"I was sold. I almost wish I hadn't done it. It was a whimsical thing. It was a good deal. That's how they sold it to me, and I said, 'Okay, I'll do it.'"

Advertising is driving a lot of cosmetic surgery practices, according to Bill Savard, surgical assistant to plastic surgeon Dr. Scott Young of Ashland, Oregon. They do mostly reconstructive work, such as recreating breasts after a mastectomy, and don't advertise. However, Savard said for many practices, the ad starts when a client walks in the door. ""An office is decorated like a millionaire's home," Savard said, "and they see all the fancy decor and think, 'He must be good!'"

Savard feels the problem is a socio­logical one that goes much deeper. "Advertising affects everything, whether it's Bush's popularity, opinions about the war, or plastic surgery. They'll tell you whatever's necessary to sell the product. What we're not hearing is, 'Here are the facts. You decide.' People need to ask, in general, 'Why am I doing this? Is this good for me?' But that's what sales are about—making you feel not good enough now."

Although Lota is an advertising major, she hadn't thought about how ads might have affected her decision to have breast implants. "It's not so much advertising as more and more girls are getting them," she said, "so more and more feel like the need to get them." But for some surgeons, Yellow Pages advertising isn't enough. Last year on the radio, Tampa plastic surgeon Dr. Dan D’Arcio offered a tax-month special of $3,000 off breast implants before April 15. He also provides his services for 98 Rock’s “12 Boots of Christmas" contest, which is similar to 93.3’s "Boobapalooza," in which Dr. William Adams of St. Petersburg donates the procedures in exchange for promotion.

According to Suliman and Savard, as well as the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, board certification is very important. In addition to five years of general surgery and plastic surgery residency training, the member must also pass comprehensive oral and written exams, regularly attend continuing education courses and adhere to a strict code of ethics, which includes no participation in contests.

Suliman said that part of his personal code is to make sure the client has realistic expectations. He is especially aware of this with the younger patient. "I want to wait for maturation of the body," he said. "Part of the practice is emotional. I won't operate on an emotionally immature girl. If she comes in and says, 'I met a guy in a bar and he was looking at another girl with big breasts,' or 'I want these in one week for my wedding,' I would tell her it's not going to happen. The same if she wants something done that is not appropriate for her height and weight."

Other plastic surgeons agree more with Gilman's "take charge of your life" attitude. Adams' Web site says, "Today, plastic surgery is requested by men and women in almost equal numbers...and at earlier ages. Why? It's a competitive world."

Although any M.D. can perform plastic surgery, even without special training, it's important to do some research before selecting a surgeon. There are several lawsuits pending in Florida against unqualified doctors who performed liposuction, resulting in patients' deaths.

Willis wishes she had done research instead of choosing her doctor by price. Her first surgery left her nose swollen and crooked. Even after the second, her nose still has a bump. She said if she had done more research she would have gone to a plastic surgeon who is board certified.

"If I could afford it, I'd buy my mother a facelift," she said. "I'd definitely get a boob job to look more proportional. And I'm not against liposuction. If I could, yeah, why not?"

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