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On the job training

**BY EMMA SYLVESTER**
**STAFF WRITER**

Sometimes it's good to have friends in high places. Or at least acquaintances.

The latter seems to have worked out well for Blaine A. Brownell, the interim dean for the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg. Brownell replaced Ronald Hill and will stay on until a permanent replacement can be found.

Brownell's appointment, which began last November, came through knowing Regional Chancellor Karen A. White.

"I had been acquainted with the regional chancellor since the early 1990s," Brownell said. "She wanted to know if I was interested."

As dean for the College of Business, Brownell is in charge of all matters related to staff, faculty and education.

"It's a little unusual, a little different when you're in an interim situation because you know it's temporary," Brownell said. He described his job as keeping the college moving forward and laying a solid foundation for his permanent successor.

Brownell is taking his new responsibilities in stride.

"It's been a difficult system because there's so much new to learn and this is the first experience I have had with this institution and the first experience I've had being a business dean," Brownell said. "But people have been very helpful and supportive and I'm learning many new things everyday."

Among his many former posts, Brownell was the dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he was also the dean of the graduate school, director of the Center for International Programs, and founding chair of the department of urban studies at different times during his 16-year career with the university.

Brownell said the immediate agenda for the College of Business is to help ensure that USF St. Petersburg's accreditation process goes smoothly. His long-term goal is to make the College of Business a nationally ranked program.

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**Missing: his smile**

**BY CHRISTINA CASTELLANA**
**STAFF WRITER**

Known for his kind words and positive attitude, Jerome Dennies brightens the day of those lucky enough to know him.

"Stepping" with purpose (above): Dance troupe Step Afrika kicked off the campus celebration of Black History Month.

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"Stepping" with purpose (above): Dance troupe Step Afrika kicked off the campus celebration of Black History Month.

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They're here: SACS Committee inspects campus this week.

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J-prof explores the role of narrative in creating meaning

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI
EDITOR

As an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg, Cheryl Koski's research interests are nothing if not unique. Later this semester, she will have the opportunity to share the results of her academic work with scholars across a wide range of disciplines.

In May, Koski will present "From the Ivory Tower to the Cuckoo's Nest: Physician as Malcontent" at the Narrative Matters conference at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Her paper focuses on a group of physicians who graduated from prestigious universities in the United States and wrote autobiographies that shared similar outlooks on their training as doctors. Common to them all is the view that the medical profession does not hold the emotional rewards they had expected it to; as a result, the doctors feel as if they had been duped into their careers. For this reason, Koski labels them "malcontents" who were seeking an ivory tower and found they had entered a cuckoo's nest instead.

Koski's work is the result of researching 30 such accounts that have been published by American physicians since 1965. Calling the topic "the autobiography of medical education," Koski has presented similarly-themed papers at conferences for the Society for Literature and Science. She said she hopes to one day write a book about the subject.

This will be the third Narrative Matters conference, which was first held in 2002. The theme for this year's conference is "The Storied Nature of Human Experience: Fact and Fiction?" Over 300 presenters from around the globe and representing a variety of disciplines are expected to attend.

"Dr. Koski's focus on storytelling as a form of healing is a common one among many of the conference presenters and I am certain that her paper will make an important contribution and stimulate fruitful discussion," said Janice Jest, professor in the department of languages & literature at Acadia University and chair of this year's conference, via e-mail.

Other talks will focus on the way narratives shape a person's sense of self and reality, and how ancient myths were created and evolved into the present form.

"All sorts of people try to make sense of their experiences by writing about them; physicians included," Koski said by e-mail.

For Koski, the connection between journalism and her research is clear.

"As a journalism professor, I consider factual accuracy to be of paramount importance in narratives that claim to be true stories," Koski said. She referenced the controversy over the Ionescus' Feux book "A Million Little Pieces" as evidence that one author's dishonesty can cast doubt on the entire genre of writing.

"Nonfiction authors owe it to their readers to be absolutely truthful," she said.

Koski has incorporated her research into her courses in the journalism department. She taught "Writing about Health and Medicine" two years ago and is teaching "Journalism as Literature" this term. She recently shared with her students an article she wrote titled "The Nonfiction Novel as Psychiatric Casebook: Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood".'

Koski admirably subjects her students to wary of her teaching style.

"Don't automatically assume that just because a book is categorized as nonfiction that it contains nothing but the unadulterated truth," she said.

Aside from presenting her paper, Koski is also looking forward to visiting Nova Scotia to satisfy other interests.

While teaching nonfiction writing at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in the mid-1980s, Koski became fascinated by the inhabitants of small Cajun towns, many of whom had migrated from Louisiana to Acadiana.

Under the microscope

The application process, which started over two years ago, has reached the next critical stage with the site committee's visit. On February 9, the site committee will inform the USF St. Petersburg SACSCOM team whether they will recommend separate accreditation.

Then, in June, the Commission on Colleges will vote on the accreditation application.

The first two days of the site committee meeting are scheduled for students, faculty and staff members. The team members' main objective is to determine if all of the SACSCOM requirements for accreditation are being met. USF St. Petersburg is in compliance with all of the prerequisites set forth by the SACSCOM committee; the compliance certification can be viewed at www.spc.usf.edu/sacscoc.

If accreditation is granted by the committee, USF St. Petersburg will be the first regional campus in the state to have separate accreditation. Such an achievement could then open the door to inspire other regional campuses to move forward with their own bids for separate accreditation.

Receiving accreditation from SACSCOM means much more than just being the first regional campus to do so. Associate Professor Robert Dardenne, of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, said the St. Petersburg campus would be expanded and developed.

Separate accreditation will also allow USF St. Petersburg to apply for grants as a separate university. Under the current structure, the campus could be ineligible to apply for a particular grant already awarded elsewhere in the USF System.

If the campus left separate accreditation in June, USF St. Petersburg will still be accredited through USF. V. Mark Durand, regional vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said that if the campus doesn't receive accreditation in June, the site committee would probably schedule a return visit either next year or the year after.

The site committee is composed of the University of Southern Alabama, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas; Carol A. Kostkowski - associate vice chancellor for institutional effectiveness and efficiency, Mercer University, University, Georgia; Steven A. House - dean, the college of arts and sciences, Elon University, Elon, N.C.; Linda A. Duran - senior policy officer, Tennessee Board of Regents, Nashville, Higher Education Commission; John F. Walshe - academic affairs, University of North Alabama, Florence, Ala.; and Jose Garcia - vice president for finance and administration, Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas.

If accreditation is granted, the campus will be able to expand its curricula and offer different courses beyond those approved by Tampa. Because USF St. Petersburg is under the accreditation of USF, the courses currently have to follow Tampa guidelines.

Dardenne added that degree programs on campus can also be expanded and developed.

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One-minute news

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI
EDITOR
FASSA Frenzy -- This month, students and parents can get help with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Financial aid counselors will also provide assistance with scholarship opportunities and other forms of financial aid.

-- Dates for FASSA Frenzy in Bayview Hall:
- Thursday, February 9 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 15 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 21 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 27 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

-- Students are to bring their FASSA pin number and completed FASSA pre-application worksheet, which is available at www.spc.usf.edu/fafaid.

-- If you need more information contact the Office of Financial Aid at (727) 873-4128 or finaid@spc.usf.edu.

Movie Night: "Ray" -- "Ray," a movie biography of musician Ray Charles starring Jamie Foxx, will be shown in the Campus Activity Centers Friday, February 10, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact the Hardware Activities Board at 873-6499.

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 Gelpie, alumni affairs coordinator, in the Williams House. Applications are due February 17.
I appeal to the foreign language department— have mercy on my soul! I’m a senior. The only thing that stands between me and graduation are the classes I’m taking this semester and the three classes I intend on taking in the fall. One of those classes fills me with so much dread and fear that I’ve saved it for my last semester.

A few weeks ago I wrote about how I’ve been repairing the damage my young self did to my grade point average. In all but one area the damage has been fixed. That one area: the foreign language requirement.

My history with foreign language has always been rocky and fraught with bad decisions making on my part. I went to elementary school in Philadelphia and at the time we made students take a language in junior high and high school. In junior high the choice was between Spanish, French, German and Latin.

I still remember Mike Nosal, my friend who went to Catholic school, telling me that I’d be crazy to take Latin. Other friends told me I HAD to take Spanish not only because Senorita Barron was an easy teacher, but also because Senorita Barron was prone to wearing low cut blouses and was known as an easy grade seemed like an obvious choice.

Why didn’t I choose Spanish? Why did I think that French was the place for me? Bad choice number two was made because I wanted to know what Paul McCartney was singing in the song “Michelle.” So I’ve sort of won the time ensemble. The Internet was still five years or so away. I was floored when I realized that this semester I either need to take two more semesters of a foreign language or take French II and get better than a D. If I want to graduate, I either need to take two more semesters of a foreign language or take French II and get better than a D.

...in high school. For the first two years, I was in Philadelphia and for the second two years I was here in Florida. Both states required two years of a foreign language. Again my choices were Spanish, French, German and Latin. I should have taken a language I was at least somewhat familiar with, regardless of the fact that I got an A out of Senorita Barron’s class was how to say “Me llamo es Salvador.” (For some reason Senorita Barron thought I looked more like a Salvador than a Scott.)

Why didn’t I choose Spanish? Why did I think that French was the place for me? Bad choice number two was made because I wanted to know what Paul McCartney was singing in the song “Michelle.” So I’ve sort of won the time ensemble. The Internet was still five years or so away. I was floored when I realized that this semester I either need to take two more semesters of a foreign language or take French II and get better than a D. I’m a senior, isn’t it? After hearing this story, you wouldn’t be opposed if the foreign language department let me slide, would you? Honestly, how many of you who have taken two years of foreign language can actually hold a conversation in that language?

In my defense, my wife speaks a foreign language. She was born in Israel and speaks Hebrew with her parents on the phone and when they come to visit. Luckily, they speak perfect English, but I can ask them how they’re doing and if they want to play backgammon. Plus, I also know how to ask them for the check! That’s got to count for something doesn’t it? How about this: In one of my previous Crow’s Nest pieces, I not only properly used the word “wonderland” (that’s German), I also used the French word “chicâtre.” How about them pomes?

Foreign language department—I’ll be waiting for your decision, but let me know before I have to register in the fall. Thanks!

--- Scott Wachtler is a senior in the journalism program at USF St. Petersburg.
Steppers often circle around an individual stepper who shows off their moves. Typically, steppers will break their group performance and give each stepper a chance to shine.

**DISCIPLINED TRIO** —
Step Afrika performers show their dedication and discipline as they perform the formal call and response military-style drills.

**GUMBOOT DANCE** —
Step Afrika performs the traditional South African Gumboot dance as they tell the story of the gold miners' hardships. First practiced as a form of communication between mine workers, the Gumboot dance became their celebratory dance when the work was finished.

**LIKE THIS** —
Rashad Coston, from Azalea Middle School in St. Petersburg, participates in Step Afrika's audience participation portion of the program.

**IN TRAINING** —
Audience members Jered Morant, from John Hopkins Middle School, and Rashad Coston, from Azalea Middle School, learn a few moves from the performers.
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fraternity or sorority. Stepping is
often a part of the process when
pledging African-American
sorori­
tes or fraternities and provides a
mechanism for bonding. A mix of
military-style drill marching, percus­
sion sounds and team harmony, step­
ing performances illustrate group
cohesiveness.

Practiced in some form by many
cultures throughout the world, s tep­
dancing _ has roots all over the world.
Some variation of step dancing is
performed in Ireland, Scotland,
Canada, Greece, America and Africa.
In Africa, traditional dances are
performed in celebration as well as
mourning and are a form of
communication.
The South African
Gumbo ot dance is an example of a
communicative style of dance
performed by workers who invented
it to communicate with one another
as they worked in the harsh condi­
tions of gold mines. It later became a
celebratory dance after their work
was complete.

Step Afrika participates in over
150 events around the world each
year. Additional information on the
troupe can be found at

PERCUSSION STEPPING — Step
Afrika's Jason Newsor his body to add
percussion to his step routine. By clap­
ping, slapping and stomping rhythmi­
cally, Jason demonstrates the sites and
sounds of percussion stepping.

A SHORT NARRATIVE — Step
Afrika's Brian McCollum smiles as he
narrates the history of stepping. He is
a graduate of Morehouse College in
Atlanta, GA and a member of Alpha Phi
Alpha Fraternity.

INTRODUCTION — Regina Young
Hyatt, director of Student Affairs,
introduces Step Afrika on Thursday night in
the Campus Activities Center.
which will include a site visit. February 7-9, goes smoothly.

The College is also making preparations to be separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Brownell is anticipating a site visit from that organization in late 2007.

"We're in the process of making sure we qualify when the time comes," he said.

Regarding more immediate goals, Brownell said that it is important to serve students in the best possible way, continue developing faculty, and recruit new faculty as needed.

"The main goal is to make sure that whether I'm still here or not, the college receives its professional accreditation," Brownell said. "And also to move it forward in all the ways that the chancellor and vice chancellor expect it to move forward.

"The search for a permanent dean is underway, but Brownell doesn't know when that person will be hired.

"My general plan is that I would stay until a new dean was hired, but there is no specific agreement," he said.

The earliest a permanent dean could be expected would be in the summer, but it may be as long as a year and a half.

"The most important thing is to make sure the university has the right person and the best person," Brownell said.

Brownell specializes in U.S. urban history and international education.

Prior to joining USF St. Petersburg, Brownell served as the founding president and chief executive officer of U21pedagogia Ltd., in Charlotte, North Carolina. The company describes itself as an international supplier of quality assurance services to higher education.

Brownell holds a master's degree and a doctorate in U.S. history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He also completed a year of postdoctoral work in the Institute of Southern History at Johns Hopkins University from 1971 to 1972.

Brownell's first academic appointment was at Purdue University from 1969 to 1974. Since that time he has held many leadership positions in U.S. universities and other non-profit and for-profit organizations. He has traveled to more than 25 countries and is the author or co-author of seven books.

He is also serving as the vice chair of the board of directors of the International Student Exchange Program. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Brownell is married with two children and four grandchildren.
“Matador” gets gored

BY CHRISTINA CASTELLANA
STAFF WRITER

The idea was decent, the actors did well in their roles, but the direction and the mix between seedy humor and serious subject matter were simply incompatible—except to make a thematic catastrophe.

“The Matador,” starring Pierce Brosnan and Greg Kinnear, is a dud. The former 007 actor plays an unsuccessful assassin named Julian who is quickly losing his cool. Kinnear’s character is an all-around nice guy named Danny who finds himself intertwined in Julian’s world when both end up in Mexico for different reasons: Julian is hired to kill a significant player in the corporate world, while Danny tries to save his corporate career.

During their stay in Mexico, Danny learns of Julian’s job as a professional “facilitator of fatalities” and slowly succumbs to the idea of getting rid of a person permanently in order to get ahead. “Don’t people—all successful people—live with blood on their hands?” Danny asks. Although the plot seemed somewhat interesting, the way it was executed left a lot to be desired.

Brosnan appears aged and overly tanned with a thick gold chain around his neck to complete his sleazy disposition. The actor has said on television talk shows that he has always wanted to perform the opposite of his dashing and debonair roles. And he has certainly gotten his wish in this film.

Brosnan was believable in this role and clearly demonstrates his versatility as an actor. The only lingering disappointment is that he could have played the villain in a better quality film.

Kinnear, known for his signature role as Simon Bishop in “As Good as it Gets,” does well in his role. Wearing khakis and brightly colored polos, he is the spitting image of a white-toothed corporate employee. All he wants is to secure a new account for his boss so he won’t lose his job or his beloved wife, Joan, played by the talented Hope Davis.

For the majority of the film, Danny curries favor as an honest, sensitive, respectable man until a secret that bonds him with Julian is finally revealed at the end of the film. When the secret is revealed, we realize that under desperate circumstances, even the good guys go bad.

The one theme that subtly trickles through the movie and explains the title is that of the matador and the bull. While in Mexico, Julian takes Danny to a bullfight. During the fight, the matador teases the bull until he is his ready to hit with only one quick bullet. When he finally revealed at the end of the film, Julian suffers a mental breakdown, and the bull dies with pride, and the matador to save his job, his life, his beloved bull.

Danny, on the other hand, starts as the vulnerable bull whose head is at stake if he does not get the new corporate account, and turns into the matador to save his job, his life, his wife, and even Julian in the end.

My rating — 2 stars

"Good Night, and Good Luck" provides a model for today’s journalists

BY JUSTIN LOWERY
STAFF WRITER

The year was 1953. Communism loomed large over much of the Eastern hemisphere. In the United States, the “Red” scare created an air of paranoia, but its threat was grossly exaggerated and exploited by Senator Joseph McCarthy.

This is where George Clooney’s recent film, “Good Night, and Good Luck,” picks up the story. It deals with how CBS reporter and broadcaster, Edward R. Murrow—with the help of his producer, Fred Friendly—exposed McCarthy for the fraud that he was.

Clooney focuses his film on the ethical issues that arose during Murrow’s broadcasts. As a journalist, was it Murrow’s job just to report the news? Or should he have used his position as a public figure, looked up to by millions, to help bring down someone who he knew was a liar and a fraud?

“All my life,” said Clooney in a recent interview in “Rolling Stone,” “I have been fascinated with what are probably the great three moments in American journalism: Murrow on McCarthy; Walter Cronkite stepping from behind his desk, pointing to the map of Vietnam and saying, ‘This is a mistake’; and Woodward and Bernstein exposing Watergate.”

Some contend that a journalist’s number one job is to communicate the truth. But a journalist also has a duty to spread knowledge. We sometimes forget the importance of the journalist’s role in watching over the government. In light of the prevalent corruption and power of the day, Murrow’s devotion to report the truth was downright heroic.

The film’s story has parallels to today. People question whether or not their civil liberties are being lost in our war on terrorism.

And that’s why we need more journalists like Murrow—one of the great figures of the 20th century, along the lines of Martin Luther King and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Today’s journalists must be brave enough to hold our government accountable by asking it the tough questions and getting the answers we all deserve.

“Good Night, and Good Luck” provides us a glimpse into an important period in our nation’s history, makes us aware of its parallels to the present, and shows that society needs a federal government accountable by asking the tough questions and getting the answers we all deserve.

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"Good Night, and Good Luck" provides a model for today’s journalists

BY JUSTIN LOWERY
STAFF WRITER

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office to find the stack of exams nearly piled beside the recycling bin. Dennis was the janitor on duty that day, and the one who relieved Dardennes of more worry and distress.

On another occasion, Dardennes misplaced $40. When he came to work the next day, Dennis told him that he had found the money in the trash.

Regina Young Hyatt, director of Student Life, remembers that when she moved in to her office at the Campus Activities Center during summer 2005, Dennis was eager to help move in all the furniture and heavy boxes, even though it wasn’t part of his duties. A few days after she moved in, Dennis would stop by to see how she was doing and if she needed anything. Young Hyatt said he was “very accommodating and very sweet.”

Don McCarty, coordinator of Student Life, said that Dennis was always “keen on doing his job well” and doing it to the satisfaction of those who worked in the areas that were under his responsibility.

Sadie Tschiderer, campus events coordinator, remembers that when the Williams House was turned into a haunted house a few years back, Dennis offered to volunteer for the weekend event. He wasted no time in doing anything he possibly could to ensure a clean and fun environment for all who attended. Besides setting up props and concessions stands, he even got into the Halloween spirit by putting on a costume and joining in the festivities. Tschiderer said “he worked tirelessly and efficiently” and that she “will always remember his participation fondly.”

This isn’t the first time Dennis has faced an unfortunate period in his life. But when his house burned down in 2001, he continued his duties on campus with his usual diligence.

Dennis has made positive contributions to many lives. His unflagging desire to help and his pleasant demeanor is unique, and should inspire all of us to be a bit more helpful and a bit more pleasant, even when things look their worst.
Honors organization reaches out

BY JUSTIN LOWERY
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to attract high school students to college while also expanding its membership reach, the USF chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars will be hosting a few upcoming events over the next few months at the Tampa campus.

Shannon Chisolm, the chapter's president, said the events will help make students aware of the honors organization they have at USF in Tampa, while also making high school students aware of the benefits of going to college.

"We want to get more kids to go to college, even if it's not USF," Chisolm said.

The scheduled events include Planning College Success, Relay for Life, and various assemblies at different high schools in St. Petersburg and Tampa. Planning College Success will take place March 10 and will involve taking students from local high schools by bus to USF Tampa. The event - geared toward 11th- and 12th-graders - will include lunch, prizes and guest speakers.

From April 7-8, the NSCS, along with the American Lung Association, will sponsor the Relay for Life, a cancer walk at USF in Tampa that will raise funds for cancer research.

The NSCS will also go to different high schools around Tampa Bay and tell students how they can get into college and pay for their education. The honors organization provides assistance with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to help students plan for the expense of going to college. Chisolm hopes the events will make more students want to join.

Currenty the NSCS has about 1,000 members at USF Tampa is the only campus with a chapter, but students at St. Petersburg, Lakeland and Sarasota are encouraged to join as well. To join, students must be in their first or second year of college and have a 3.4 overall grade point average and pay a $75 membership fee.

"We're trying to get more participation on the USF St. Petersburg campus," Chisolm said. "Now with the residence hall going up, we would like to get another chapter going, so they can plan their own events.

"Being a member has tangible benefits. The NSCS rewards first- and second-year college students with scholarships and awards, and provides programs that cover leadership and development activities, service programs and community building.

Chisolm said that having the honors organization on one's transcript can give it some added prestige.

"It will also help your resume," Chisolm said. "If somebody sees that and recognizes the name, that could help you get a job."