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BAR HOPPERS: Two writers are in search of the perfect bar hangout. Check out the first week's find.
- REVIEW PAGE 7

With a little online help, professor blends courses

BY ANTHONY SALVIGGI
EDITOR

At a recent gathering of students and teachers on the USF-Tampa campus, one USF-St. Petersburg educator showed how a simple use of technology added spark to a couple of core courses.

Cheryl Koski, a professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, was one of many USF faculty members who gave about 30 poster presentations at the 2006 Symposium on 21st Century Teaching Technologies, held March 8 in the Marshall Center. The event, in its 11th year, gave teachers and graduate assistants the opportunity to show how their use of educational technology enhances the teaching and learning process. It was co-sponsored the Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence, which is a part of Educational Outreach and facilitates the integration of technology into educational settings.

Koski's presentation, "Turning the Classroom into a Newsroom: Using Blackboard to Teach Journalism," focused on her use of software to help teach and essentially merge two of her classes during fall semester 2005.

Students from Writing for the Mass Media took on the role of reporters, while students in each class communicated via Blackboard, a software package that allows for the online delivery of courses. The students shared feedback on each other's work publicly available helped them learn how to write for a general audience.

Koski, the only presenter from USF-St. Petersburg at this year's symposium, said another benefit of merging the two classes was that the students could get accustomed to working in teams and learn how to give and receive feedback.

"Even if they don't go into journalism, it's a skill they're going to need," said Koski, who kept track of the students' performance by reading every post on the message board - posts that numbered in the hundreds.

Koski, who hadn't used Blackboard prior to last fall and hadn't taught news editing, said bringing the two courses together took a lot of time. And the time spent didn't guarantee the experiment would work.

"I had no idea how it was going to turn out," she said. "Based on my student evaluations, it was definitely a success." Koski said she will use Blackboard again next fall.

Sharing her use of teaching technology wasn't the only benefit for Koski; she also received an offer from Grandon Gill, associate professor of information and decision sciences, to contribute an article on her use of Blackboard to a new journal of college teaching.

Additional information on the Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence and past symposia can be found at www.cte.usf.edu. Those interested in learning more about the Blackboard Learning System should visit www.susosp.usf.edu/group/bbpro.

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE - - Bridge Nichols (left), senior secretary for the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, was among those honored with a USFS Excellence in Service Award for 2006.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS - - Librarian Jerry Hare (left) and Physical Plant Director Ron Buoy (right) along with Regional Vice Chancellor Karen A. White after receiving their awards for 20 years of service to the University.

Record crowds for honorees
- Faculty/staff awards luncheon ends with wall signing at Residence Hall One

BY ANTHONY SALVIGGI
EDITOR

An estimated crowd of 200 people attended this year's Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon, which honored University employees for their service.

Holly Kickliter, regional associate vice chancellor for University Relations, said it was the largest crowd ever for the event, which was held March 9 in the Campus Activities Center.

In her opening remarks, Regional Chancellor Karen A. White touched on the familiar list of high points for the campus, including its quest for separate accreditation, the 40th Anniversary Celebration and the construction of Residence Hall One.

Interim Regional Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Max Kerlin presented the awards for Excellence in Service for 2006: (see accompanying fact box for highlights).

Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs V. Mark Durand then presented the awards for

Honors distributed to faculty and staff

University Length of Service Award: 20 years:
- Ron Buoy
- Joseph Donnelly
- Margaret Herlutt
- Jerry Hare
- Judy Williamson

25 years:
- Raymond Ayersault
- Anthony Green
- Mary Anne Harrell
- Joseph Jettis

USFS Excellence in Service Award: 20 years:
- Linda Green
- Anthony Ingram
- Tim Lane
- Doug Maczis
- Bridget Mclntire
- Joe Perez
- Rosemary Iten

USFS Certificate of Recognition:
- Shawn Buss
- David Cipris
- Sharron Clason
- Annette Hamon
- Barbara Hogg
- Terri Johnson
- Tammy Ridabaugh
- Nancy Sore
- Blyne Thibaut
- Todd Williams


After the event, faculty and staff walked over to the campus dormitory, where they signed their names on two walls in what will be the housing coordinator's office suite, located near the south end of the building.

TECH SAVVY - - Assistant Professor Cheryl Koski spoke at the 2006 Symposium on 21st Century Teaching Technologies on March 8 at USF Tampa.
A tree [no longer] grows on campus

BY BRIAN W. WHITE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A venerable campus landmark disappeared over the winter break.

A few months ago, squirrels cavorted on the trunk of a massive Laurel oak tree near the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue South. Its thick limbs generously shaded the entrance to campus. Its artistically woven root system crowded the sidewalk with its bulk.

Now, all that's left is a 15-by-30 foot patch of oak shavings. Ron Bugg, who oversees physical plant operations at USF St. Petersburg, said the University tries to preserve the older trees on campus, but he didn't see any alternative to removing the Laurel oak.

"It was rotten," he said. "We like to save our trees when we can."

While the canopy of leaves remained mostly full, he said the tree had lost portions of two limbs over the past year, and a close inspection revealed extensive internal rotting as well as a termite infestation. The potential liability of a limb falling on a parked car also forced the decision to remove the tree, he said. Bugg said the University paid $2,200 to Pinelass Tree Service to remove the oak and grind down the stump.

John Wilbur, certified arborist and co-owner of Pinellas Tree Service, said that grinding up the expansive root system accounted for much of the cost. He said that the tree was ground into mulch after removal.

"We recycle almost everything," Wilbur said.

Gantis Barrenis, arborist for the City of St. Petersburg, said the tree was about 60 years old, judging from its girth. Laurel oaks do not typically live past that age, he said, because the structure of their limbs leads to the formation of water pockets that in turn lead to destructive fungus growth.

Bugg said the University recently transplanted 42 trees from the new student living quarters rather than cutting them down and replacing them with new oaks. Transplanting trees is usually less expensive than replacing them, he said.

Campus hires new CFO

BY CHRISTINA CASTELLANA STAFF WRITER

A new chief financial officer will join the USF St. Petersburg administrative staff April 21, Regional Chancellor Karen White appointed Ashok Dhingra to Regional Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance in February after a nationwide search. Some of the areas Dhingra will oversee include accounting services, budgets, facilities planning and construction services, human resources, physical plant, public safety, and purchasing services.

Dhingra said he looks forward to providing USFSP students, faculty and staff with effective and efficient services that will aid in enhancing programs and the overall college experience.

"I plan to work with our divisional staff in raising them to perform at their highest potential," Dhingra said. "It is only through this approach we can make the student experience the most rewarding for those who attend the University of South Florida St. Petersburg."

Until Dhingra's official arrival on April 21, he will continue to work at Southwest Tennessee Community College as vice president of financial and administrative services. Prior to employment in Tennessee, he held the same position at the University of Nevada for two decades.

Dhingra has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Punjab University in India, a master's degree in business administration from the University of California, and a doctorate in public administration from the University of Southern California.
Opinions

Over my dead bodies

BY CHRIS GEORGE
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Chinese people smoke too much. How could someone like me know such an obscure tidbit like that, you ask? I'm hardly what you would call a world traveler, Heck, I've only been out of Florida a few times in my short life, and the idea of going overseas might as well be going to the moon.

Needless to say, I haven't been to China and the extent of my relationship with anyone of Chinese descent is limited to handing them money and receiving a quart of General Tso's chicken in exchange.

All of that being said, this brings us back to the original question. How could I know that Chinese people smoke too much?

Simple. I've seen their legs.

Don't worry, I don't make it a hobby of killing random Chinese people and dissecting them to find out how many MarlBones they've smoked.

Someone else did it for me. All I did was look.

If you haven't figured it out by now, I'm speaking about the Bidders exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. It created a big stir when it first opened months ago, and now there are only a few weeks left before the corpse leaves Tampa Bay and heads for the University of South Florida.

In case you live in a cave somewhere, the Bodies exhibit is a display of several preserved dead bodies. They have their skin taken off and are placed in peculiar positions so the whole family can learn what it looks like for a dead man's ligaments and muscles to hold hands with his skeleton.

And you thought Disney was the standard bearer when it comes to family fun.

Another tidbit of information adding to the excitement is that all of the specimens were unclaimed bodies from China. Why China? I don't know, but I have a feeling that being moved to this body was more of a job for someone on the other side.

If the body didn't have a big smile on its face, I would've said something.

By the time my girlfriend and I walked through the entire display, I felt exhausted. By the time my girlfriend and I walked through the entire display, I felt exhausted. By the time my girlfriend and I walked through the entire display, I felt exhausted.

Looking for the perfect roommate? ad

Advertise in the Crow's Nest!
By Emma Sylvester & John Terrana & Anthony Salveggi

Take a look at some of the statistics about USF St. Petersburg students and a few things become clear. None of the numbers may surprise you but they go a long way toward explaining some of the perceptions about the campus.

We are overwhelmingly (nearly 80 percent) white.
Most of us (almost 70 percent) are juniors and seniors.
And the reputation of the University as a commuter campus appears well-deserved, not only because students do not yet live on campus, but because of the distance many students travel to go to class.

Despite the lack of on-campus housing, USF St. Petersburg is home for students like Danie Cutler.
Cutler, an Environmental Science and Policy student, said, "As a non-traditional student, my plan was to get through school as fast as I could and I really had no time or interest in becoming part of the community, yet this place has become a second home to me."

For others, such as the working professionals who attend classes a couple of nights a week, it is a place to further their education and then return home or to work.
Ken O'Leary is a 35-year-old operations manager for local sports television station Catch 47 and graduate student in the journalism department. Working a full-time job during the day makes it impossible for students who are also professionals to attend events that are hosted by USF St. Petersburg during the day, O'Leary said.

He said that the image of the campus will change with the completion of the dormitory and students becoming dependent upon the campus.

Just how much of a change the dorm will effect depends on how successful USF St. Petersburg is in its recruiting efforts. Because of the need to fill the 354-beds in the residence hall, a number of campus events, including recent Battle of the Bands, have also been used as recruitment opportunities.

Since 2001, the University has admitted first-time-in-college freshmen and lower division transfers. Today, freshmen and sophomores make up nearly 15 percent of the student population. That number will likely continue to increase in the coming years.

And with the University's push for autonomy and the fall 2006 opening of Residence Hall One, perceptions about USF St. Petersburg will continue to evolve.
62% of students are female. Of the 4,625 students, 2,886 are women, while men account for only 1,739 (38%).

60% of students commute more than 11 miles to get to campus. The other 40% live within 10 miles of campus.

66% of students reported their marital status as single (including divorced and widowed). 36% are married or with a partner.

25 is the median age of students at USFSP. 29 is the average age.

Of 2003-2004 graduates — 462 females and 210 males received master's degrees; 4 males received associate of arts degrees; 462 females and 220 males received master's degrees; 1120 females and 550 males received doctoral degrees.

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SOURCES: Student Affairs: Research Report: Student Perceptions of Campus Services and Co-curricular Activities at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Fall 2003.
SOURCE: (2004-2005 Fact Book)
GRAPHICS: Monica Wierzchowski
Health 101

Health Educator Shannon Cho answers your health questions and offers advice for healthy living.

Q: Dear Shannon, is there help for my STRETCH MARKS?

A: Yes and no. Stretch marks occur when tissue under the skin is pulled. Although the skin is fairly elastic, stretch marks can happen with rapid growth or stretching. Stretch marks commonly occur during puberty for men and women, pregnancy for women, and quick weight gain or loss. Stretch marks are most commonly found on our bodies' "hot spots" such as the buttocks, thighs and breasts, but they can occur in many other areas.

At first, stretch marks tend to appear purple and/or red in color which can make them seem more extreme than they actually are. Over time, however, the marks usually lighten in color and sometimes become almost unnoticeable. Many people swear by creams and lotions as preventative or casual treatment for stretch marks. The truth is that there is no scientific evidence that indicates creams or lotions work to cure stretch marks. With that said, it is always a good idea to keep your skin moisturized for other benefits. Some people choose to consult a dermatologist or plastic surgeon to explore options for getting rid of stretch marks, which range from office procedures to actual surgery. Keep in mind that these can be very expensive. Realizing that we are all our own worst critics, try to remember that stretch marks are extremely common and although you might feel you are the only one with them, you are definitely not alone.

- Shannon Cho, health educator

Oscars -- from page 7

and Good Luck," two movies that deal with more important themes that include terrorism and the First Amendment.

If the Academy had given the award to "Brokeback Mountain," it would have at least been a step in the right direction.

"Brokeback Mountain" shows us a world that's prejudiced against love -- any love -- and we should want to live in.

Other than "Cruel" upsetting "Brokeback Mountain," it was an okay night for the Academy. It was nice to finally see Phillip Seymour Hoffman win an Oscar. After great performances in "Magnolia" and "Boogie Nights," it was looking like he would never get the recognition he undoubtedly deserves. But his performance as the late author Truman Capote in "Capote" was too good to pass up.

And it was also a smart decision to give best supporting actor to George Clooney for the political thriller "Syriana." Clooney had such a good year between "Syriana" and "Good Night, and Good Luck," it would have been a crime for him to leave empty-handed.

Finally, a lot of critics haven't exactly praised Jon Stewart's performance as the host. It wasn't great, but it was step up from last year when Chris Rock and his annoying voice took center stage. Stewart was hilarious from time-to-time and it helped make the four-hour show go by fast.

NEWS FROM STUDENT LIFE

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

Harborside Live
Wednesday, March 22
4:00-5:30 pm
Harborside Lawn

Comedy Night:
featuring James Smith
Friday, March 24
6 pm DAVIS Lobby

Movie Night:
Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire
Tuesday, March 28
6 pm CAC Core

Sponsored by Harborside Activities Board

READ THIS...

Chocolate Photo Lollipops
Wednesday, March 22
2 pm to 6 pm

New Swimming Classes
Beginning this week
Call the Waterfront Office at 873-4597
or go online for more information

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

COMING SOON...

Student Government Elections
Watch for more information

Available positions include:
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
College Representatives
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Driving Miss Daisy

ACADEMY AWARDS IN REVIEW

Oscar's surprise

BY CHRISTINA CASTELLANA
STAFF WRITER

This year's Oscars had a few surprises up its sleeve. Many spectators believed "Brokeback Mountain" was going to be the big winner of the evening, but that all changed when Jack Nicholson called "Crash" to the stage to claim the Oscar for Best Picture.

Despite the twist of fate, "Brokeback Mountain" left with three statues under its arm for Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Original Score.

The winners for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor were Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote" and Leonardo DiCaprio in "The Aviator." All these films, believe it or not, have taken home best picture at the so-called prestigious Academy Awards. One must think, if the Oscars are supposed to be the measurement for great films, then why have they given out the top prize to these clunkers?

"Crash" is a movie about racism. It shows us racism is still very prevalent in society and that it's not just a black-and-white thing. Okay, it goes nowhere with that theme. "Crash" is not just a movie that isn't worth a golden statue, it's also quite bad. I wanted to leave while watching it.

Instead, the Academy would have been better off giving the award to "Brokeback Mountain." If it were up to me, I would have given the award to "Munich" or "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Oscars Trivia

According to www.oscars.org:
The Academy Awards Ceremony has been held since 1929.

Initially, the winners were known prior to the awards ceremony. The results were sent in advance to newspapers for publication the day of the Oscars, and guests arriving at the event were able to read the 8:45 p.m., edition of the Los Angeles Times which listed all the winners. In 1941 the sealed-envelope system was adopted and remains in use today.

All voting for Academy Awards is conducted by secret ballot and tabulated by the international auditing firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The results of the ballots remain concealed until the famous red envelopes are opened on stage during the event.

For a full list of the 76th Academy Awards nominees and winners, visit http://www.oscars.org/oscars/academyawards/nominees.html.

RESTAURANT REVIEW SPECIAL -- BAR HOPPERS -- WEEK 1

A Sundries affair

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series dedicated to exploring the "bar scene" in downtown St. Petersburg. Casey Cora and Grace Glaser, both USF journalism students, visited numerous bars within walking distance of campus to see what's out there for USF Pete students after the evening classes let out.

Initially, our mission was to explore all the bars that would lend themselves to making St. Petersburg into a college town. While the Tavernet sits on campus and definitely has that college vibe to it, we wanted to find variety and something more to add to the mix.

First stop: Midtown Sundries -- 20 First Ave. S., downtown St. Petersburg.

Midtown Sundries is about a five-minute walk from campus. We met at Midtown after 9 p.m. on Wednesday night following our media law class.

From the outside, Midtown Sundries looks like a bar shop. Maybe an ice cream parlor. A red-and-white striped awning around the building gives you the omen of the week and Midtown is now offering post-construction food specials at night.

Midtown has the space, the feel and the ability to become a cool hangout but it seems to be in a quasistatic place when it comes to making a commitment. If Midtown wanted, it could have a college night with a disc jockey and/or a live band. Just close out the tables and make it the place to be that night.

But when we asked if they had any plans to do a college night, one of the bartenders simply spat: "We don't do any type of that entertainment in here."

Or better yet, shut up kid and don't come back.

We got the message, downed our beverages and slunk away.

In the end, we gave the Midtown two out of five Bulls. They earned points for the pool tables, the television, the expansive bar, the decor and the USF specials. They were docked points for slow service, non-commitment to "college night," type of crowd, and the potential for outweighing the results.
USFSP SAILING

Weekend of local, intersectional regattas

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI

For the second weekend in a row, the USF coed and women's teams found themselves in the middle of the pack at local and intersectional races.

The USF coed sailing team finished in fourth place out of seven teams at South Points 3, held in the waters just south of Eckerd College on March 11. District rival Eckerd took the top two spots in the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association regatta. Sailing for the Bulls, junior Philip Tanner and sophomore Suzanne Marmis took fourth in the "X" division, while the "B" squad of Bill Jones, Ashley Landes, Van Pittman and Angela Henderson came in sixth. Meanwhile, the women's team took 10th place at the Navy Women's Spring Intersectional. The regatta, sailed at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., featured 15 teams from all over the nation, including Yale and Stanford.

Seniors Kristen Herman and Jee Lee took eighth place in "A" division and had one first-place finish out of the 11 races that were sailed. In "B" division, seniors Abby Ethington (who had the flu) and Ashley Wierzbicki came in 11th place.

RESULTS FROM South Points 3

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Harborside LIVE, Weds., March 22:
- 4:30 p.m., on Harborside Lawn

Comedy Night, Fri., March 24:
- 6 p.m. in Davis 130

Movie Night, Tues., March 28:
- 5 p.m. in the Campus Activities Center

Singer/songwriter entertains at Harborside LIVE

Sarah Brosch, a native of Michigan, performed Wednesday afternoon, March 8, in Davis Lobby. As part of the Harborside LIVE series, Brosch played various instruments during her performance. Alternating between guitar, keyboard, piano and harmonica, she performed both original songs and covers of popular tunes.

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For more information email housing@stpt.usf.edu, or contact Residence Life at (727) 873-5000.