Campus behind in diversity, improving gradually

USF St. Petersburg is among the lowest of state universities in minority enrollment, but a new independent admissions department plans to increase enrollment through outreach and recruitment.

By Tom Harlan
Staff Writer

Students of varying ethnic backgrounds choose to enroll at USF St. Petersburg for a reason. Many times it's for the climate or the small class sizes, but it usually does not have anything to do with the racial diversity of the campus. Campus officials hope to change that.

Donte Swan, an African-American junior majoring in advertising at USF who attends both campuses, said the Tampa campus has a much better mix of minority students, but he doesn't consider USF St. Petersburg to have a diversity problem because students choose where they attend classes.

USF-SP shouldn't be held accountable because more minority students attend classes in Tampa," he said. "If Tampa didn't have as many people of color over there or other ethnic groups, it would be a problem."

Swain said he is a big fan of diversity, but because students were admitted to the larger University of Florida system and then chose to attend class on the Tampa campus, the student body of USF St. Petersburg, which was approximately 80 percent white last fall, should not be considered a problem.

However, a few weeks ago, President Judy Genshaft granted USF St. Petersburg the autonomy to accept undergraduate and graduate students from the Tampa campus in coming semesters. With this independence comes the responsibility of being judged separately on issues, such as minority enrollment - an area where USF-SP ranks below other state universities.

The USF student body is considered diverse as a whole, but by comparing USF St. Petersburg to three other state universities for the fall 2003 semester, it has 9-12 percent more white students, and was the only university studied with a minority population of under 20 percent. Seven percent of students identified themselves as African-American, six percent as Hispanic and five percent as Asian.

Now that the campus is in charge of recruiting its students, will minority enrollment increase?

Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for academic affairs, said USF St. Petersburg's student affairs is deeply considered a problem. St. Petersburg's student affairs is deeply concerned with Karen White, head of student affairs who is intent on acquiring separate academic accreditation. "This is a truly historic day at USF St. Petersburg," said Gary Olson, chief academic officer. "We have assembled and submitted a very solid application." School officials hope to hear positive news by June and will plan for a site visit from SACS. Donna Kowles, administration coordinator, was responsible for gathering and organizing much of the material for the accreditation request. "It seems like a lot of work, but it was easy to spotlight the worth of this campus," she said.

USF St. Petersburg's last attempt was denied. SACS said the campus wasn't autonomous from USF Tampa. President Judy Genshaft's newly declared authority for USF-SP hopes to change that.

Accreditation request finished

USF St. Petersburg shipped out paper work and applications stacking 12-1/2 feet high to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) on Feb. 13. It cumulates three years of work from campus employees who are intent on acquiring separate academic accreditation. "This is a truly historic day at USF St. Petersburg," said Gary Olson, chief academic officer. "We have assembled and submitted a very solid application." School officials hope to hear positive news by June and will plan for a site visit from SACS. Donna Kowles, administration coordinator, was responsible for gathering and organizing much of the material for the accreditation request. "It seems like a lot of work, but it was easy to spotlight the worth of this campus," she said.

USF St. Petersburg's last attempt was denied. SACS said the campus wasn't autonomous from USF Tampa. President Judy Genshaft's newly declared authority for USF-SP hopes to change that.

Caucasian enrollment: Percentage of student body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Caucasian Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USF (all campuses)</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USF St. Petersburg</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Information from each university's total enrollment count.

Campus gains new authority, responsibility

As early as next fall, USF St. Petersburg will award its own degrees.

By Vanessa Espiner
Staff Writer

On Feb. 10, USF President Judy Genshaft gave USF St. Petersburg new authority. The move comes two years after Genshaft promised more autonomy and control in the hands of USF St. Petersburg officials, not Tampa's.

"It allows us to make decisions applicable to the campus and community that we serve. The closer you get a decision to where the action is, the better the process of decision-making. We can now make a lot of decisions without calling home for permission," said Bill Heller, chairman of the faculty council and former vice president.

"Changes include the ability to administer international affairs programs, recommend faculty for tenure and promotions, admit undergraduate and graduate students and make changes to the curriculum."

"The important change is that our faculty and staff will have a greater ability to shape the profile of our class and design the type of course offerings that our students are offered," said Karen White, head of student affairs.

Special to the Crow's Nest

Judy Genshaft (left, pictured with Karen White) visited USF St. Petersburg to declare the campus' new authority.

That's a golden idea!

Gold parking may end at 5:30 p.m.

Story page 4

Read this story tomorrow

Procrastination is a fact of college life

Story page 4

Thanks for the feedback

Crow's Nest readers share their side

Opinion page 2
Letters to the editor

Re: "Does USF St. Pete really want to be like the Univ. of Florida?" (Editorial published Feb. 11)

Dear Editor,

Apparently, Dr. Brown believes student life at the University of Florida to be better than it is here. I have been a student at UF, and student life there is not as good as what makes USF St. Petersburg so beautiful. 

The city seems not to care that ironic twist on the crude and simplistic, ultra right propaganda is not real. It really sticks out like a sore thumb in an otherwise intelligent newspaper.

Editor's response: The aforementioned cartoon questioned Sen. John Kerry and a comment he made about the threat of terrorism. It was not an attempt to diminish the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. We believe the word "imagination" was a typo. Our cartoonist, Bob Lang, creates cartoons that illustrate the weaknesses of both the Left and the Right. He is not an ultra-right artist.

Do you have an opinion on a topic affecting USF St. Petersburg or the surrounding area? Do you agree or disagree with our opinions? 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: usfcrowsnest@aol.com.

Sen. St. Petersburg

the waiting list after they had already ended up living alone and off campus my freshman year. Classes of 300+ truly turn students into mere numbers in the eyes of their professors. Students there are easily lost in the crowd.

In Gainesville, there is an inconsistency that creates a sense of inaccuracy, as if the town knows you are not staying for long. The city seems not to care that ironic twist on the crude and simplistic, ultra right propaganda is not real. It really sticks out like a sore thumb in an otherwise intelligent newspaper.

Editor's response: The aforementioned cartoon questioned Sen. John Kerry and a comment he made about the threat of terrorism. It was not an attempt to diminish the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. We believe the word "imagination" was a typo. Our cartoonist, Bob Lang, creates cartoons that illustrate the weaknesses of both the Left and the Right. He is not an ultra-right artist.

Do you have an opinion on a topic affecting USF St. Petersburg or the surrounding area? Do you agree or disagree with our opinions? 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: usfcrowsnest@aol.com.

CROW'S NEST

The student-sponsored newspaper of USF St. Petersburg. Published every other Wednesday during the semester.

Matt Nelson

Editor in Chief

CONTRETS

Senior Staff Writer
Krisstie A. Martinez

Chief Photographer
Jim Grinaker

AD Manager
Kenn Klapacki

Staff Writers
Vanessa Espinier
Tom Harlan
Lisa J. Matzer
Jason Merritt
Brandi Palmer
Terra Pergo
Don Wolf

ADVISER
George M. Killenberg

OFFICE Campus Activities Center
Contact us at (727) 564-4113 or USFCROWSNEST@AOL.COM

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

February 25, 2004
Race relations in our area have been prominent in the news: a student suspended for circulating a petition, a confederate flag raised above a high school, a noose found in a tree, another noose slipped around a youth's neck and protests at the city's beloved BayWalk. However, are these shameful incidents opening the door to constructive dialogues about race relations?

At a recent Pinellas County School Board discussion about whether to ban the Confederate flag, there was nearly more press than public attendees. After less than an hour of open forum the board is appalling; 69 percent of minorities live in poverty in Florida compared to only 10 percent of whites. On the average, blacks and Hispanics earn 60 percent less than whites.

The lack of opportunity in employment, substandard education and lack of access to services all contribute to the disparity between races. The unequal distribution of resources causes hardships on minorities, which in turn perpetuates stereotypes and racism. One cannot deny a person the access to gainful employment and then hate them for being poor.

However, that is exactly what is happening across the country. We as a nation, under the current administration are reverting to segregated schools, even though the Supreme Court ruled, in Brown v. Board of Education, that "a great many students" are reverting to segregated schools, and openly listen to those who experience racism and welcome their ideas on how to close these gaps.

Open Lunch to Late Night, Serving Full Menu Until 1 A.M.
Just Blocks Away from Campus
First Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727.502.5002
www.cafealma.biz

A great afternoon study place
We offer a variety of coffees and desserts as well as free wireless connection

A great late night place to meet your friends
We have deejays spinning Tuesday through Saturday from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m.

10% Discount for USF Students
Monday through Friday
11 A.M. until 5 P.M.
Gold parking open to all for night classes

Starting next fall, drivers with regular green parking permits may park in the highly coveted gold spaces for night classes.

By Tara Pisano
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg officials proposed Wednesday to eliminate gold parking at 5:30 p.m. It comes as a relief to many students who often walk through a mass of unused gold parking spaces on their way to night class. However, starting next fall no student may purchase a gold permit.

Gold parking decals were available to students starting last fall for $260.00. Gold passes allow them to park in any lot labeled for USF use. In a proposed change, students will no longer be able to buy these passes, only the decals labeled for green lots.

These proposed changes were addressed as a result of student concerns. Some worried that the issue divided the student body because it made a subtle economic distinction based on the color of the pass. Many students who purchased green passes could not afford the gold.

Students faced with long hikes to the green lots after classes said they were frequently frustrated by the abundance of empty gold spaces.

"I don't think people should pay more for safety," said Susan Blake, a journalism student.

Students such as Jennifer Manfrey purchased a gold decal for safety reasons. She attends night classes and would like to park as close to the building as possible. Under the proposed new rule, gold passes would change to green after 5:30 p.m. This change would benefit those in night classes and allow them to park closer to their destination.

Of the 238 gold parking passes sold this year, students bought only 23.

Under an old agreement, all USF campuses expected to increase parking rates for three consecutive years. But that policy was scrapped and now the rate will remain the same. However, purchasers will now have to pay sales tax (7 percent) on top of the cost of the decal.

In previous years, a flat rate was charged for each different kind of decal. The university paid the sales tax on the parking spots.

"If they are trying to raise the price that way, they are taking me for a fool," said student Jacqueline Fawcett.

This change may be taken as a hidden increase in cost and is causing many students to think more critically about parking and how it is going to affect them next fall.

On the other hand, some think this change is beneficial to staff and students.

"Although the increase is a raise in parking permit fees," said Jason Merritt, vice president of student government, "in the long run, it will be cheaper for students."

Despite the proposed changes, many aspects of the parking permits will remain the same. Green decals purchased at the St. Petersburg campus can still be used in select lots in Tampa.

If the campus board approves, these proposed changes will start in August.

Procrastination: A college student's best, worst friend

A personal look at putting things off until the last minute and how to fix such disparities.

By Kristie A. Martinez
Senior Staff Writer

I have an ugly, destructive habit that's been plaguing me since I wrote my first research paper four years ago. It starts with a "P."

That's right, Procrastination.

In my three years of college, I've perfected the art of procrastination, which Dictionary.com defines as "putting off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness."

I have slacked on both the two-page essays and the 10-page giants. I've stayed up until 3 a.m. for three days straight, downing cups of coffee, devising every possible way I can spew out the work, until I absolutely have to," he said. "I'm misallocating time. I could be doing stuff I'd enjoy more."

Turns out there are both simple and complex reasons behind the bad habit we've all tried to break but have put off until "later." More importantly, there are simple things we can all do to kick the habit.

Bill Croson, a USF St. Petersburg sophomore, said he procrastinates not only on school work, but also on everything that he can.

"Anything that's due, I don't do until I absolutely have to," he said. "I'm just lazy, I guess, and I get really easily distracted. When I sit to study I think of something more entertaining to do."

Sometimes the distraction is going out to the movies. Other times it's spending the weekend in Orlando with his friends. Whatever the case, Croson, 19, would rather have fun now and put the work off until later.

Although he regrets the time he wasted until five days before a midterm to study for a 500-question test, Croson said procrastinating is worth it overall.

"I love it, I really do," he said. "I kind of feel like if I don't procrastinate, I'm misallocating time. I could be doing stuff I'd enjoy more."

Senior Ratna Suhanjaya, 21, knows the benefits of starting assignments early. But that doesn't stop her from pushing homework aside until the last minute.

"Even if I do just a little bit (of work), I feel a lot better," she said. "If I know I'm going to feel that good ... why do I keep putting it off?"

Suhanjaya, a graphic design major, said many of her projects - which include redesigning a book and creating a website - aren't due until the end of the semester.

"The first two months, I feel like I have a lot of time," she said. "Come March, I'm like, "Oh crap, I have a lot of things to do."

The urge to clean her apartment is one of her biggest distractions. When she should be sitting down to study,
Black community looks to USF for support

By Don Wolf
Staff Writer

Darryl Rouson, one of the most influential residents of St. Petersburg, is a supporter of the city’s only public university. As president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a lawyer, he has seen many changes since the arrival of USF.

“I am excited to be here at this time,” Rouson said. “This is no coincidence. In March of 1965, USF became the first school in Florida to volunteer and allow a black student without pressure from the state.”

Rouson was the first guest speaker of the inaugural black history month forum presented at USF St. Petersburg on Feb. 19.

In reference to the continuing need for education, he related the opening of the university with Brown v. the Board of Education.

“In March of 1965, two hundred students marched and protested, demanding change,” he said. “The school broke rank for all other state institutions. From the custodian to the administration, they had no predators. They were setting standards, just as they are setting standards today.”

Vivian Fuyo, dean of the college of education agrees. “This ruling revolutionized the entire philosophy of education across our country,” she said. “These community conversations are a forum for our university and community to talk about what school desegregation meant for St. Petersburg families and students, both in terms of social justice and the educational opportunities it created.”

Rouson also emphasized the role of the university as expansion continues.

“USF can only expand south and west, pulling it into the black community,” he said. “It is important to see how USF will approach the black community.”

Rouson compares the role of the university, the NAACP and the responsibilities of everyone in the community.

“We are of many cultures and social classes and we are creating a level playing field,” he said.

Rouson constantly quotes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and compared King’s thoughts and dreams to modern society. He said discussing and questioning the tribulations that once challenged African-American community helps plan for the future.

“It is my joy to face such challenging questions,” he said. But he said he cannot appease everyone.

He recounts the recent accomplishments for blacks in the community, including black promotions at the St. Petersburg Times, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office and more diversity on the school board.

He complimented and endorsed revitalization by St. Pete Mayor Rick Baker.

“We need to reach out to all churches, synagogues and communities,” Rouson said. “Everyone is important on the keyboard of life. You are us and we are you.”

Rouson expressed that he wanted to set the standard for all future speakers at the annual event, once again mentioning the importance of challenge.

“How long will prejudice blind the visions of man,” he asked. “We have to dare to dream rightfully.”

Rouson concluded. “And then we have to believe it to be possible and be fearless in our pursuit.”

Campus growing, but no need for gigantic university enrollment, officials say

By Brandi Palmer
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg is growing rapidly and new students can expect to experience some growing pains. The campus is experiencing an all-time high in student enrollment leading school officials to be more selective of who is accepted.

“We are encouraging students to apply early,” said Cyndie Collins, director of academic advising at USF St. Petersburg.

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applicants?

A quick glance around campus confirms some of the hallmark signs of an enrollment growth spurt. Construction crews kicking up dust along Sixth Avenue South and vanishing parking spaces foreshadow expansion efforts.

What does this mean for the next batch of hopeful USF applications received by public state schools demands some minimum standards, there are other criteria in determining candidacy for admission.

"Where you spend your time is with the students who are close (to the minimum standard)," Hohengarten said.

The marginal candidates, those who do not necessarily exceed or fall standards, are those who require the most time, he said. Admissions officers scrutinize the gray areas of average applications. When test scores and grades alone cannot be the determining factors in admissions, other criteria are explored. Extra-curricular achievement, awards, personal essays and letters of recommendation all come into play.

Out of the 17,000 expected applications this year at USF, only 68 percent will be accepted. USF St. Petersburg expects about 1,800 applications. Meeting minimum standards in an increasingly competitive applicant pool will not guarantee admission.

"People think there should be a hurly burly," Hohengarten said. It is a misconception that meeting a minimum requirement makes an applicant a shoe-in, he said. "That does not guarantee admission."

Admissions officers evaluate additional criteria for the group in the middle. The marginal candidate could benefit from a side note that details extracurricular pursuits or volunteerism. University officials remind candidates to keep in mind that there are factors other than test scores and grades that determine candidacy.

USF St. Petersburg’s department of admissions will be taking a closer look at the distinguishing characteristics of marginal candidates. "I call this using your head," Hohengarten said.
Diversity from page 1

university's student body has become more diverse each year. In fact, they said the number of white students at the campus dipped below 80 percent for the first time this spring.

"While not a straight line increase, diversity has increased over the past five years," said Kevin Coughlin, director of admissions and records. "We are less than 79 percent white right now, while five years ago we were north of 80 percent."

Admission officials look for the trend towards diversity to continue when they improve existing programs, like Oasis, which exposes middle school students and underclass high school students to USF St. Petersburg.

"A large number of those students are minority students, and they are not typically pre-college bound students," said Cyndie Collins, director of academic advising.

Oasis helps younger students to identify with higher education and see for themselves the potential in going to college, she said.

John Vassel, director of prospective student outreach, said the campus also has a strong track record of helping out minority students from several schools, such as Blanton Elementary.

"The university is part of the community, and students need to identify with the university community very early on," he said. "They are here on campus, they are getting exposure to it, and that plants a seed in their mind that they can identify with this place, and feel comfortable here."

In addition to outreach programs, USF St. Petersburg has also expanded recruiting efforts through a new, full-time minority recruiter—one of two recruiters on staff.

"Roy Callihan is responsible for contacting minority students whether they are at the high school or middle school level," Vassel said.

"He does everything from going to the high schools to the community colleges, to talking to students in general, but he tries to focus on minority students."

Callihan, the coordinator of admissions and registration, is also in charge of the minority retention area, so students that attend USF-SP stay and graduate from the university. However, Callihan's position isn't defined solely as a recruiter, but as a resource for young minorities in the community and area schools.

"What the students like is that he's a resource for them. It's not necessarily that he's out there trying to give them a great sales pitch, saying 'Come to USF St. Petersburg, it's great,'" Vassel said. "He says, 'I'm here to help you whether you have questions about going to USF-SP or UF. I can help you.'"

Campus needs black organizations

By Shelby Graham

"I want to make a cultural difference."—Shelby Graham

As a new student to USF St. Petersburg, one of the first things I wanted to do was find a group of students with whom I could identify. Being new in town it was only natural that I would look for a group of students whom I could align myself with through not only common interests but also ethnicity.

Yet, as an African-American woman I found a lack of diversity not only in St. Petersburg but on campus as well. I was surprised to find out that there was not even an Association of Black Students. With it being Black History Month I am intent on changing this so that students of color can be equally represented on campus. We as students are offered plenty of organizations to join in order to make an academic difference.

I want to make a cultural difference and that is why I am now trying to start a college branch of the NAACP on campus here at USF St. Petersburg. I want to create an environment where all people of color in our campus community can make a cultural difference. We need to spark campus diversity now.

Ask the

CCC Swami

By the Counseling and Career Center Staff

Dear CCC Swami,

I am really concerned about my weight and my body. I try so hard to stay thin. I focus a lot on exercising and always watch what I eat. In fact, I make sure that I do not eat much and control my diet so that I won't gain any weight. It takes up a lot of my time and causes me almost constant anxiety. I see all of these other girls that look so perfect, especially in magazines and on television, and I feel like I have to look like that to get dates or have what I want in life. I don't feel comfortable when I'm naked, and I get so nervous about my body, even when I'm having sex. I think about my body all the time and I'm feeling totally out of control. Please help me!

Signed,

Concerned Co-ed

Dear Concerned,

First off, you are not alone. It has been said that the prejudice toward weight and shape in our culture is the last "socially acceptable discrimination" in our society. There is a tremendous amount of pressure in our culture to attain a completely unrealistic and perfectionistic ideal, and many women and men struggle with concerns about not living up to this unattainable image of perfection. This creates havoc in many people's lives. The good news is that there are ways that you can learn to love and cherish your body and feel beautiful the way that you are. However, this means addressing your behavior and feelings directly, and often this means getting help from a trained professional in order to deal with the distress associated with these patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving.

There are several types of disordered eating behaviors that lead to feeling out of control in your life. Below are the criteria for the three most common eating disorders and the associated behaviors and thoughts. Anorexia Nervosa:

- Refusal to maintain body weight at or above a minimally normal weight for age and height (less than 85% of your charted "normal" body weight).
- Intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat, even though you are under-weight.
- Body image disturbance.
- In females, the absence of at least 3 consecutive menstrual cycles.
- Restricting or binge eating and purging in order to lose weight.

Bulimia Nervosa:

- Recurrent episodes of binge eating.
- Recurrent inappropriate compensatory behaviors in order to prevent weight gain, such as self-induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, diuretics, enemas or other medications, fasting, or excessive exercise.

- Binge eating and compensatory behaviors occur at least 2 times per week for at least 3 months.
- Self-evaluation is unduly influenced by body shape and weight.

Binge Eating Disorder:

- Recurrent episodes of binge eating.
- Binges occur at least 2 times per week for at least 6 months.
- The binge eating is not associated with regular use of inappropriate compensatory behaviors.

If you recognize any of these patterns, please contact a professional for help. Most people who are struggling to overcome these disorders cannot do so without professional help. Contact the CCC for FREE, CONFIDENTIAL counseling with a trained psychologist.

For help or for more information, please call (727) 553-4422 or stop by the Center - BAY 119.
Procrastination, from page 4

Suhanjaya suddenly remembers that her laundry needs to be done, or that her stove needs cleaning.

Dr. Katherine McKay, a licensed clinical psychologist in USF St. Petersburg's Counseling and Career Center, said people procrastinate for many reasons, and that there isn’t a defining characteristic that all procrastinators share. But what she does know is that people perform certain behaviors because they get some kind of reward from it.

"Even though it might make you feel horrible, there's something that's positive for you," McKay said. "It's true it costs you a lot, but there's a reason you're holding on to it. Even though procrastination brings us some pain, there's something that's positive.

Overcoming a procrastination habit involves figuring out the reasons behind it and committing to a plan of action that will get students where they need to be, McKay said.

Breaking an assignment down into smaller, manageable parts also helps, McKay said. Students can commit themselves to working on a paper or a project for 15 minutes a day, instead of five days straight.

Although McKay said some people who procrastinate can become very successful in their lives, others may not be as fortunate. Procrastination can lead to low self-esteem, anxiety and depression. McKay said that the Counseling and Career Center, located on the first floor of Bayboro Hall, offers students individual and group counseling on any issue, including beating procrastination and improving study skills.

Perhaps I'll make an appointment for myself today. Then again, I can always wait until tomorrow.
White, USF St. Petersburg’s regional chancellor, “It gives us greater decision making ability to support our campus goals, as well as greater accountability for those actions.”

White said one of the changes most apparent to students is that USF St. Petersburg now has the authority to confer academic degrees. Graduates will receive diplomas from University of South Florida – St. Petersburg.

There is no certainty as to when the change will occur. “I do not foresee that graduates’ degrees will say USF St. Petersburg on them before our May graduation. It takes time to change that,” said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president of academic affairs.

The impact of this change also remains to be seen. “There are diplomas all over the country that have campus designation. It doesn’t diminish the quality of the education. It is still one university. Students are the ones who give the diplomas distinction; otherwise it is just a piece of paper. I don’t see it as a problem,” Heller said.

White said, “At a community event last week, two alumni came up to me who had heard about USF St. Petersburg’s new responsibilities. They were thrilled to hear that we will now be issuing diplomas to students who graduate from USF St. Petersburg, and actually asked me if their diplomas could be re-issued to them from our campus.

While we can’t make changes to diplomas that have already been earned and conferred, I’m excited about their pride in the campus and their continued interest as alums.”

Degrees will still come from an accredited school. USF St. Petersburg is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as a part of USF’s system of campuses. Two weeks ago, an application was submitted to SACS seeking separate accreditation.

If SACS accepts the request for review, the process of accreditation will begin, including a site visit.

Students offer their opinions on whether it is good to see USF St. Petersburg on the degree certificate.

“It is (okay) because we’re still accredited through USF that some students say it is not a big issue,” said Ryan Smith, an economics major. “I don’t think it matters. It doesn’t bother me. It is still USF. It is under the umbrella of USF.”

“It won’t affect students,” said accounting senior Jarid Gardner. “A degree is a degree. I don’t care who puts the stamp on it. However, other students do view it as a problem.

“USF is well recognized. The general public is not necessarily going to recognize USF St. Pete. It is great for the university, but I’m not so sure it will be for the students,” said James Dykes a junior majoring in finance and general business.

“I’m looking at my own best interest. It could potentially hurt the students. People may think it is not as distinguished and wonder if the student couldn’t get into USF Tampa. I don’t see the benefit for the students.”

Adrien Brand, an accounting junior who will graduate in the fall said he doesn’t like the idea. “I would be pretty ticked off if my diploma says USF St. Pete. It should just say USF. It’s one school. I go to USF, not USF St. Petersburg,” he said. “I’m going to do my last semester in Tampa if I have to. If they are going to put St. Pete on the degrees, I might as well have gone to SPC.”

But Chief Academic Officer Olson answers those students that feel it will tarnish their degree. “I’ve been doing this for a long time and must it won’t make a bit of difference,” he said.