Crow's Nest : 2004 : 04 : 24

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.
Cheating is not so easy anymore

Marketing professor Karin Bremberg says it’s easier than ever before to get away with cheating. Students, who take someone else’s work home, then turn in their papers and try to pass them off as their own. It is sick and trivial of students to plagiarize. It’s plagiarism, by definition, and plagiarism can be risky and dangerous to college campuses across the country, including the University of South Florida.

"It’s a huge problem on every university campus," said Bremberg, who teaches the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg.

Many students are in the position of being caught in their cheating, but they are still out of luck. They are often caught and made to feel embarrassed and guilty for their actions. They are also made to feel that they have made a mistake and that they need to fix it.

The university is also gaining an identity by using St. Petersburg as its living laboratory. By Tom Harlan

Many traditional research universities are isolated from metropolitan areas and are interested in doing pure research on certain issues, like finding a cure for AIDS. However, other research universities located in large cities can undertake a different form of research that uses a community approach to analyze a social problem, such as the spread of AIDS.

A metropolitan university could use St. Petersburg as a living laboratory for their projects. However, this vision is not intended to restrict research to the community, but is a means for the university to be a part of the community’s future. The university is working with the community to create partnerships in the city to benefit both parties, and other universities and communities around the world.

Karen White, USF St. Petersburg’s regional chancellor, said the school is a metropolitan university that encourages university researchers to use St. Petersburg as a living laboratory for their projects.

However, this vision is not intended to restrict research to the community, but is a means for the university to use the partnerships in the city to benefit both parties, and other universities and cities around the world.

By Irena Milasinovic

"Survivors Speak: From the Heart" was an art exhibit that was organized by the Family Service Center of Pinellas County in collaboration with Florida Craftsmen Inc. to recognize April as Sexual Violence Awareness Month. It attracted over 250 visitors on its opening night of April 2.

Mary Jo Monahan, president of Family Service Center of Pinellas County, said that the exhibit’s purpose is to raise the awareness of sexual abuse and educate the public. The third annual exhibit is a way for survivors to tell their stories as a part of their counseling therapy.

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Kerry needs McCain to win in November

By Jason Lawrence
The Pitt News (Pittsburgh)

Now that the 2004 election battles are in full swing, we've been inundated with television ads. Here are a two that won't air but should, and last one that I hope will.

"I'm Kim Jong II, and I endorse this ad." The camera focuses on Kim Jong II. "President Bush has refused to negotiate with North Korea that would enhance our standing in the world. He also believes that terrorism should primarily be fought by law enforcement rather than the United States military, which would leave the weapons of mass destruction market open for us. For these reasons, John Kerry has North Korea's endorsement." This ad paid for by foreign leaders for Kerry.

"I am Prince Bandar bin Sultan and I approved this ad." Cue images of the Bush family and Saudi leaders on the Bush family ranch. "President Bush has pushed war on terror with remarkable force, but is unwilling to do the one additional thing to win: weaken the oil economy. It is in the interest of Saudi oil wealth funds terrorism."

"The United States, with its economy and research capabilities, could invent marketable alternatives to oil that would markedly decrease the world demand for oil and cripple our ability to fund terrorism — er, our economy. Because President Bush is beholden to oil interests in the United States, I endorse his bid for the presidency." This ad paid for by oil autocrats for Bush.

"I am John McCain," (in unison) "and we believe that an America at war requires a united, not divided government. We endorse this message of unity."

Cue Kerry. "Since Sept. 11, 2001, we have been a nation at war, and we will continue to be a nation at war until citizens from Los Angeles to New York, from London to Madrid, from Istanbul to Manila, and everywhere in between are safe from terrorism."

"However, there is more to fighting a war than the use of force. Part of war is the sacrifice every citizen makes. Both parties must do what President Bush has not, and ask every American, wealthy or not, to sacrifice for this war effort. Companies and CEOs must be willing to give up their riches gained from tax-cuts so that America may fund what Middle East expert Thomas Friedman terms 'a second Manhattan Project' of developing a cheaper energy alternative to oil. This is the only way to truly choke off the oil money that funds al Qaeda and other terrorists."

Cue McCain. "Working class citizens must also understand that the export of blue-collar and service jobs to nations around the world, no matter how unpleasant in the short-term, improves the quality of life in the developing world. Economic growth and the stability it brings will give us more allies in the war on terrorism. In the long run, it also means cheaper goods and services here. Unions and those who are committed to protecting the jobs we have now must sacrifice their vision of an American economy built on manufacturing and simple service jobs, and embrace a fluid economy where education, creativity and adaptability are the most prized characteristics."

Cue Kerry and McCain in unison. "We are here to tell the powerful interests on both sides of the aisle, those representing big business, and those representing the 'little guy,' that they must sacrifice for the security of America and the future of the free-world. Paid for by citizens for a unity government to fight and win the war on terrorism."

Letter to the Editor

Re: "Students find cheaper textbooks elsewhere" (published April 7).

Dear Editor:
Bayboro Books has been serving USF students and providing textbooks at very competitive prices for over twenty years. Because we are the only independent bookstore servicing the USF St. Petersburg campus I felt we should have been contacted for inclusion in this article. Regarding the price comparison in the article we were $7 to $15 cheaper than the USF bookstore for all the books listed, our prices are not based on a corporate pricing structure. We price our books to sell them at a fair value and we work overtime to obtain as many used books as possible.

I would like to also point out that the half.com price for one of the three books listed was for a paperback international edition which students cannot sell back at the end of the term.

We agree that textbook prices have become exorbitant. On a positive note Congress has asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct a study of college textbook costs. The bill calls for the GAO to examine how much money students typically spend on textbooks, how much it costs publishers to produce new and revised editions of textbooks, and why wide price discrepancies exist for the same textbooks sold in the U.S. and overseas. The study is expected to take three months to a year to complete. Let's hope it yields some positive changes for students.

Susan Comas
Owner, Bayboro Books
Neighborhood tennis center succeeds without USF St. Petersburg’s help

The St. Petersburg Tennis Center at Bartlett Park is a hit with the community. But a program designed for USF students to play and volunteer is faltering and shows no sign of improving.

By Elizabeth McCann
Staff Writer

After two years of campus membership at the St. Petersburg Tennis Center, only a handful of students have used the courts, bantering back and forth as they bantered about the score or groaned about a bad serve. Many wore visors, even though there wasn’t much sun.

The courts were almost full on a recent Thursday morning. The players, mostly middle-aged or older, whacked balls back and forth as they bantered about the score or groaned about a bad serve. Many wore visors, even though there wasn’t much sun.

The next day, the clay courts were crowded with children in blue gym uniforms. They waited in line for their tennis instructor’s serve and looked eager to volley back.

About six months ago, the Tennis Foundation of St. Petersburg, which runs the tennis center, appointed Lauren Phillips, a USF student, to its board, hoping to bolster campus participation.

Phillips, a 48-year-old psychology student, sounding frustrated said, “It’s really a shame more students haven’t taken advantage of the center. A lot of students don’t even know about it.”

She immediately enrolled her 12-year-old daughter Tiffany in tennis lessons. Phillips and her husband also began volunteering at the center.

Phillips was planning “Sunday Socials” for USF St. Petersburg students at the tennis center this semester when she was told the center’s membership is under review.

Jim Stull, manager of the campus fitness center and the Xtra Ed programs, said that the tennis lessons and membership at the center received the same amount of advertising as other campus-sponsored athletic activities. Stull said on-campus activities are better attended.

Excluding USF membership, over the last three years the tennis center has attracted nearly 500 members, both adults and children from the local community.

Almost closed a few years ago, the tennis center has been so successful with other membership programs that it is planning a $2.5-million expansion project that includes upgrading lighting, adding more shaded areas around the courts and doubling the size of the club house.

Keller speculated that the low interest level on campus might be because tennis takes two people and students might only have time for sports that do not require another person to play.

“The tennis center provides a list of people looking for tennis partners with the times that they can play and their skill level, which is available to students. Near the end of the fall 2003 semester, USF St. Petersburg’s Student Activities Center, which runs the tennis center, appointed Elizabeth Phillips as its new director.

University revisits promotion tactics for faculty

By Brandi Palmer
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg faculty and administration are revisiting the way faculty tenure and promotion is decided. Recently, the Office of Academic Affairs created the Vice President’s Task Force on Faculty Roles and Rewards. The primary duty of the new unit is to develop and implement USF-SP’s own tenure and promotion processes. The task force Web site states, “the USF-SP Faculty Council is now developing campus guidelines for tenure and promotion.”

Gary Olson, as chief academic officer, oversees the tenure process at USF St. Petersburg. While criteria for USF Tampa and St. Petersburg are the same, the process at USF St. Petersburg is unique.

“The process is every bit as rigorous a process as the one in place at USF Tampa,” Olson said. The USF St. Petersburg process involves the same number of reviews, but it does not go through the channel of fully-formed departments as it does in Tampa.

The annual review uses an external review by peers to a college-wide committee, the dean of the college, tenure committee and ultimately academic affairs before being routed through the chancellor’s office to the president.

Campus administration, Dean Mark Durand, said, is now clarifying the existing criteria used in evaluation, but will not create any new tenure policy.

“Criteria differ depending on the discipline,” said Durand. The clarification process, according to Durand, attempts to address some of the differences between discipline criteria and to educate the faculty about those distinctions.

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies is also revisiting its tenure guidelines. The goal is to develop a balanced and fair annual faculty review. Faculty is examining how scholarship and service factors are considered for review.

Faculty is reviewed annually using an arduous process that begins with self-evaluation. Journalism professor Jay Black said faculty can spend an average of two days logging activities and publications for the annual review. Each faculty member is required to prepare an extensive annual review report that examines performance in the areas of teaching, research and service.

One issue among faculty is whether this evaluation is a fair judge of the scholarly activity that determines tenure and promotions. Certain work, produced in the areas of research, scholarship and publication weighs heavily in the review process, said Black.

Other work in these areas is largely disregarded. Black notes that there is a hierarchy in place for publications being considered for review. Scholarly books and journals, and articles that are reviewed by scholarly editorial boards are highest in the pecking order. Textbooks, anthologies and monographs follow closely. Non-refereed articles, non-scholarly books, book chapters and journals find their way lower down in the tier of reviewed works.

Scholarly pursuits, such as taking part in an academic panel, making a speech or presentation, or editing an academic journal, often appear lowest in the hierarchy, Black said.

There is also a faculty discussion about what criteria are used in determining the value of creative research, which can encompass popular books, graphic design, newspaper articles, editorials and columns. The lack of weight placed on teaching, service and advising is also being scrutinized. The Web now offers a number of sites that allows students to publicly rate professors.

Popular sites like RateMyProfessors.com give students an opportunity to publicly review professors. While student assessments are evaluated closely in evaluating teaching performance, they are not considered highly important in awarding pay raises or tenure, Black said. The time that dedicated faculty spend advising students, attending university and public events, and working with outreach programs are not heavily factored in to decisions that influence tenure and salary.

“Committees, deans, and administrators ought to notice someone who is moving the field ahead,” Black said.
Area homeless utilize campus library, cause ruckus

Local homeless flock to USF
St. Petersburg's Nelson Poynter Memorial Library for refuge, but some employees and students are having trouble dealing with them.

By Genessa Poth
Staff Writer

One middle-aged man disappears behind a daily paper, leaning through a sea of comics and city pages. Once in a while, he takes a break from his reading to peer outside the giant windows at students breezing by on their way to somewhere important—a class, a study group; he does not know. Another, an older man, peers over a novel. Slightly reeled, left leg crossed over right, he reads. Beside the area homeless utilizes a jacket and an old gym bag. His only belongings stay by his side at all times.

The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, on the southwest corner of USF St. Petersburg, is a public research library open to all, including the homeless.

Recently, the library decided to impose a 30-minute time limit on the three computers open to the general public. The decision was made after a patron, who was not a student; became verbally abusive with other patrons and Debbie Henry, a library employee. A student needed to use the computer, so he hesitated a little, then opened the door and walked past her, and said, "Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is considered a research center, not a recreational library.

We've had problems with people watching pornography and intimidating some of our female staff and patrons," she said.

Beginning this year, the audio visual department on the second floor of the library is closed to the public except under special circumstances. This rule was put into place to minimize wear and tear on electronic equipment like VCRs, as well as to prevent non-students from smuggling food and drink into the TV rooms to watch library movies while they are having their lunch as they have in the past.

On March 2, library employee Karlyln Jaep called campus police after she discovered a 53-year-old homeless man drinking a beer in the library. Campus police issued a trespass warning and the man left campus incident.

"It's not something that's an every day thing. We deal with homeless people coming onto campus about once or twice a month," said campus police Officer Jon Wierzbowski.

Other public libraries, like Mirror Lake Library located downtown, have long wrestled with problems of homelessness. On the front doors of the library, a sign reads, "For safety reasons, all visitors' belongings must fit comfortably under his or her chair. Bedrolls, big boxes, or bulky bags are not allowed in the library. Thank you!"

"We had to remove the benches out front because there would always be homeless people sleeping on them," said library assistant Sandra Marja.

Mirror Lake Library has taken other measures as well, such as hiring a part-time security guard who ensures that homeless patrons are not falling asleep in their chairs, said a branch librarian.

The library has also remedied its restroom facility to have a hand dryer instead of paper towels to keep homeless patrons from bathing in the sink and then daggling up the toilet with paper towels.

At the university library, the public may borrow books, but they have to purchase a community library card, which carries an annual $50 price tag. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the homeless to borrow library books. Many public libraries, like Mirror Lake Library, offer free library cards as well as an honor shelf of books that people may check out on an honor code. Some books are brought back, others are not.

Like the university library, Mirror Lake Library has a computer area open to the general public. Computer use is limited to 30 minutes a day and three hours a week.

Despite the recent problems, Arsenault is confident that the new time limit will curb computer disputes among library patrons.

"We've tried," she said, "to make us a lot less popular in the neighborhood."

Ask the CCC Swami

By the Career Counseling Center

Dear CCC Swami,
I have a friend I'm very concerned about. She told me that she thinks she may have been sexually assaulted on a date last night, and she's very upset. I've never dealt with this before, and I want to help her, but I'm not sure what to do. Please help!
Signed,
Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend,

When a person discloses that she/he is a victim of sexual assault, your role is to listen, be supportive and provide information as needed. The victim is not helped when you act as an ally, someone to turn to for physical and emotional support and for validation of her/his experience. Since the person has confided in you, an element of trust already exists. If they feel supported by you, they may be more likely to get further help.

Power

Victims of sexual assault often feel out of control and powerless. They often do not trust their ability to make good decisions. An important part of the healing process is regaining a sense of personal power and a belief in one's own decision-making ability. Pushing victims into taking actions for which they are not ready may re-victimize them and strip them of their sense of personal power and control. You can best help victims by supporting their decisions and conveying your trust in them.

Ensure safety

Victims often feel unsafe after the assault, both in the immediate aftermath and months after the fact. Encourage them to take appropriate safety measures. This may include locking doors and windows, staying with a friend, having a friend stay with them, or moving to a new residence. Support their need to feel safe.

Comfort

The victim may feel fear, shock, or any number of emotions and need immediate comfort from a trusted person. Ask the victim what she/he needs; provide coffee or warm tea, a blanket to snuggle up in, or a shoulder to cry on.

Treatment

Inform the victim of appropriate sources to turn to for medical care, psychological treatment and legal aid. Encourage them to seek help without insisting on anything specific. If they wish to press charges, encourage them to preserve evidence without showering, not changing clothing and going to the hospital for evidence collection. Share that most rape survivors benefit from counseling, but let the victim make decisions regarding medical, counseling, and legal options on her/his own time.

Luxury condo for rent

Luxury 1 br/1 bath downtown Madison condo! Walk to USF, 870 sq. ft., new appliances, 3rd floor, courtyard pool/spa, club room, fitness center, covered parking. $950 a month, low deposit, year lease, Call 813 962-2995 or 813 240-7975.

Editor wanted!

The Cron's Next is looking for a superb editor for the 2004/5 school year. Do you like working in a cool, line oriented environment? If so, read on. Editor candidates must have journalism experience, take criticism well and be able to lead the paper to publish an excellent newspaper every week during the semester. The Cron's Next is more than just a campus paper; it also reaches out to the community. Position is a good 30-hour a week job. Send letter of interest, five work samples and resume to Publications Board C/O Nancy Coscia, CAC Building, 140 7th Ave. S.

Email: accospierc@usp.edu if you have any questions.

Staff writers, layout designer and photographer paid position available.
It's no secret to students that we are in the process of planning a new student multi-use facility on campus, or is it?

This semester, I've tried everything I could to get feedback from students on issues deemed to be of relative importance. However, after looking back at this semester, I feel that there is a long road ahead in the drive for students to openly voice opinion to student government on a regular basis.

Don't get me wrong, I heard several strong opinions throughout the semester; but it was a far cry from the 4,500 students that I'm supposed to represent.

So with this semester coming to an end I've asked myself, is it ever going to happen? Are the students of USF St. Petersburg ever going to get more involved outside the classroom? Or are they forever going to sprint from Davis Hall to their cars and leave this campus in the dust?

My hope is yes, students will someday identify with our campus and get involved beyond their credit hours.

Each year as more freshmen enter our university, there appears to be a changing of the guards. Our average age of students is decreasing every year. With these new students come new programs and activities.

It may not be a fact, but I would guess that younger students on campus have a higher participation rate in student activities than older students. This is a sign that our campus is becoming what it should be: A four-year university that offers not only degrees, but a full college experience.

This doesn't mean, however, that the campus is changing completely. We cannot forget what has made this campus so successful in the past. We cannot abandon the small college atmosphere with amazing faculty and staff that truly make this university inviting.

USF St. Petersburg will forever be a commuter campus. There is no way to avoid that. However, the incoming residence halls will undoubtedly add a different dynamic and a better college experience.

Student Government has received several harsh criticisms lately over the new student multi-use facility. Most of the arguments we've heard are about the proposed fee increase that would pay for the facility.

I think students who are against the new facility need to look at the broader picture for a moment. This isn't just one building. But it is a package deal coinciding with residence halls, the new parking garage and the growing population of our campus.

I understand the concern over the fee increases. I'm going to have to pay them too.

I'm more concerned about the 15-year-old high school students who are going to be deciding on a college in the next few years. I want him or her to visit our campus and see that we not only offer four-year degrees, but we also offer a true college experience in a great atmosphere.

I would like to thank those students who did have the courage this semester to stand up and express their opinions. I hope that the summer and fall semesters are full of more students like you.

It's our University! Take action to make sure it stays that way.

The Crow's Nest staff thanks everyone who read and contributed to our paper this year. It was a pleasure to serve such a charming campus and community audience. We truly believe we helped change some things for the better on campus. Look for our next issue in August. Have a wonderful summer!

Crow's Nest Editorial Board
Vegetarian dining on and around campus

By Lara Stewart
Food Review

People choose vegetarian diets for a number of reasons, but convenience is rarely one of them. Since I stopped eating meat two months ago, I've found that the biggest lifestyle change came from losing the ability to choose my meals on the fly. It got a lot harder to simply pick a restaurant on a whim and know that there is food there that I can eat. It's impossible to run into a fast food place when I hadn't planned for anything more elaborate.

However, a little exploration revealed that the area around USF St. Petersburg does offer a wide choice of vegetarian options — some of them right on campus. The following are a few of my favorites.

The Sahara, located at 624 1st Ave. S., is the best and cheapest vegetarian option in the area. The restaurant offers a wide variety of fresh vegetarian fare, including hummus, tabouleh and several vegetarian sandwiches. The only downside for strict vegetarians is that the size of the business does not allow for vegetarian and meat dishes to be prepared in separate areas.

Italian restaurants are usually a good option for vegetarians, and Fortunato's is no exception. Located at 259 Central Ave., it offers nine vegetarian pizza toppings. There is also a cold cheese sub, pasta with marinara and two meat-free salad options.

On campus, both the Bayboro Café and the Tavern at Bayboro offer vegetarian options. Both restaurants have veggie burgers. Bayboro Café makes black beans and rice that are inexpensive and satisfying.

The Sahara, at 26314th St. N., has just a few vegetarian meals on its menu, but spicy food fans are encouraged to visit just to try out their array of hot sauces. The restaurant offers more than a dozen, ranging from the piquant to ones that carry warning labels. Enjoy them on bean burritos or the very tasty quesadillas.

Though pricey, Integrity Foods, at 243 Central Ave., has by far the widest selection of vegetarian options. Over half of the foods they sell are vegetarian or vegan. Most of the food sold in the restaurant is also organic and strict vegetarians will be pleased to know that meals are prepared in a separate space from those that contain meat.

There are easily another two-dozen restaurants that didn't make this list. As people choose to eat less meat or cut it out altogether, more places are willing to cater to those demands. I'd encourage people to explore the area and enjoy the variety of foods out there.

Tennis, from page 3

life at USF St. Petersburg, said that there was never a high level of usage.

Jenny Jenkins, pro-shop manager at the center, estimated there were maybe 10 students per week who used the courts.

Student Government has not scheduled a vote on the tennis center, even though USF's membership expired at the end of December. Coscia said the contract hasn't come up for full review.

The tennis center membership allowed USF students to play courts for free for most of the time and for half price during high court use times. Discounted tennis lessons also were offered through the campus' Xtra Ed program as part of the membership.

The tennis center and the Campus Activities Center staff had hoped that because USF St. Petersburg does not have tennis courts, students would play at the center, which is about a mile from campus in Bartlett Park. Located at 650 18th Ave. S., the tennis center is walkable from campus and has ample parking.

The initial vision for the tennis center related only that it could eventually house a tennis team when the St. Petersburg campus is separately accredited, said Jay Sokolovsky, a USF anthropologist and a board member of the tennis foundation.

Currently, USF St. Petersburg may only have competitive teams besides intramural games that the Tampa campus does not already have. USF Tampa has a tennis team and courts on campus.

Tennis center officials had hoped that students would not only utilize the courts, but also would volunteer at the center's after-school program that serves children mostly from Midtown St. Petersburg neighborhoods. The clubhouse contains a small classroom where children receive computer lessons and help with their homework before hitting the courts for tennis instruction.

The after-school program, called First Serve, has about 40 volunteers. About 85 percent of the kids who participate are in the federal free-lunch program. The volunteers at the center do everything from help kids with their homework to chauffeur the children.

The St. Petersburg Tennis Center has the only public clay courts in the city, which are much easier and cooler.

The clay is more forgiving on players' joints and "doesn't wear you out as much as playing on hard courts," said Shikha Singh, 24, head tennis pro at the center.

Just about every big name in tennis has played at the St. Petersburg Tennis Center since it moved to Bartlett Park in 1993. Chris Evert beat Billie Jean King at the center when she was 14 years old, winning her first major title. Even if Student Government decides to cancel the membership program at the tennis center, Stull said, "As long as we get some encouragement from students, we will offer tennis lessons again," through the Xtra Ed program.

Survivors, from page 1

Survivors, some of whom are yet to make a decision about going public with their stories, have been asked to say what it is. It's a broken heart, she said.

A few survivors of sexual abuse, three girls, danced around in their dresses and smiled as they took pictures next to their works of art. From afar, they looked like they were headed to church or their best friends' birthday party. No one would imagine that they were celebrating their survival of sexual violence.

"It's very moving. It's sad. It makes me angry," said Crissy Cladakis, a marketing junior at USF St. Petersburg and a former court reporter.

The survivors and visitors were given pamphlets detailing names and ages of the victims, along with each of their statements to help the public fully grasp messages that they tried to say through art.

"It helps them get out their feelings creatively and more productively," said Cladakis.

A teal bracelet, made from a string with four beads that represents one-in-four women who have experienced rape in their lifetime, hugs attendees' wrists with a loosely attached card reading: "Do you know four women?"

Some of the 100 hearts will be kept by the survivors who made them. Others will be hung on the walls of the agency, or will be used for public awareness speeches and events that emphasize the seriousness and frequency of sexual violence crimes.

"They speak so much," said Sanchez-Masi. "It can make a difference.

Front page heart photo taken by Matt Nelson.
"It’s a natural fit for this kind of institution," she said.

While many universities focus on traditional research methods, White said USF-SP fits the model of a metropolitan university, because it is a research institution located in a statistical area with more than 650,000 residents. Universities in these areas typically use their surroundings in their research studies, and publish their findings to see if they are helpful on a national or international level.

White said by labeling USF-SP a metropolitan university, it will be ranked against other city-based research institutions. Meaningful comparisons can be made between USF-SP and other similar universities instead of being compared to 1,600 U.S. institutions that serve different roles, she said.

Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for academic affairs, said White’s metropolitan university model also gives the university an identity, which it needs if it’s going to be distinguished.

"There are plenty of institutions that don’t distinguish themselves and are mediocre," he said. "But when you work on an identity that is distinct, scholars want to come to you specifically because they know your niche."

Olson said White isn’t trying to push the metropolitan university model on others, because the university will continue to evolve in various ways regardless of the university’s vision.

"It’s not that Dr. White is bringing in a plan and saying the rest of the university has to follow it," he said. "She’s articulating a vision that in a way is already here, and that is that the university naturally grows out of its surroundings."

White said she didn’t bring the concept of the metropolitan university to USF-SP, because it was already present at USF-SP and the larger USF university system. In addition, White said she will not force the model or her vision on other professors. Certain programs have structured their institutions to use traditional research models, and others use the metropolitan university model.

"It’s a faculty’s prerogative to establish their research agenda along with their colleagues and deans," she said. "That’s part of their vision for their institution."

However, White said some deans have adopted programs based upon the philosophy of the metropolitan university. For example, business students will intern this summer with Midtown St. Petersburg businesses and college of business faculty will address a number of problems in the area.

Members from the community will collaborate with researchers, and the research from the project will be reported to a business journal where other universities can view the project, how it was approached, the successes and failures, and read recommendations for approaching a similar study, she said.

Ron Hill, dean of the College of Business, said Karen White is an impressive leader because her vision for USF-SP is to be a metropolitan university that extends beyond campus into the entire St. Petersburg community. Therefore, Hill said the College of Business is working with small and large businesses in different areas of St. Petersburg from downtown to Midtown.

Olson said Barnali Dixon, a geography professor and specialist in geographic information systems, is also engaging in metropolitan-based research. She’s working on finding a way to use her GIS system to help the community create an emergency preparedness system, he said.

"That’s an example of the professors and university as a whole using their expertise to solve problems or make things better in the community," Olson said. "But it also works the other way. The city helps Dixon get better at what she does, and gives her information she needs to do other things."

White said if the emergency preparedness system is successful, it could possibly be implemented in other areas along the Gulf Coast and around the world that have hurricanes or severe weather problems.

"Think of the lives that could be saved," White said.

By focusing on a community and drawing conclusions that might be applicable in other environments, the emergency preparedness system is an example of how metropolitan universities, like USF St. Petersburg, can use cities as a living laboratory in their research.

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Domestic & Foreign
I would tell my students it was easier for me to catch them (plagiarizing) than it is for them to do the plagiarizing in the first place," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for academic affairs at USF-SP. Olson has taught English and cultural studies on college campuses since the early 1980s and says the Internet has made literary theft an obvious temptation for students.

"It's like having $100 on the table and no one is looking. Do you take it? Most (students) would. The temptation is just too great," Olson said.

When he last taught classes at USF Tampa, Olson estimates that in one class of 50 students, he would usually find five to eight students had plagiarized. Sun sentinel.com posts some sobering statistics on its Web site:

A 2003 study by Donald McCabe found 38 percent of students admitted to "cut-and-paste" Internet plagiarism (Gallup Organization, October 6-9, 2000).

A recent Gallup poll found the top two problems facing the country today: education and a decline in ethics (Gallup Organization, October 6-9, 2000).

Seventy-five percent of college students admitted to cheating and 90 percent of students believe cheating is either never caught or have not been appropriately disciplined. The same poll revealed nearly 85 percent of college students said cheating was necessary to get ahead (1999 U.S. News and World Report poll).

More than 200 chief student affairs officers across the country believe that colleges and universities have not addressed the cheating problem adequately ("Administrator Perceptions of Student Academic Dishonesty in Collegiate Institutions," a study by Ronald M. Aaron and Robert T. George).

Braunsberger's students study difficult material and they put a tremendous amount of effort into their work.

"I'm trying to prepare them for the business industry and I know what the industry wants to see from them. Students in my class work very hard for their grades and it's unfair to them when other students cheat," she said.

If she takes the issue of plagiarism seriously, it's understandable. The majority of her students are seniors, so if she catches someone cheating in her class, "chances are they have been cheating at some point all along."

But is plagiarism always intentional?

Lisa Starks teaches British literature and Shakespeare on campus and said that most of the plagiarism she finds is accidental. To nip it in the bud, she requires students to turn in drafts of their work at various stages.

"In the earlier stages, I feel like I can help them understand how to use sources and how to cite correctly," Starks said.

She also recommends her students take notes on what they read and bracket off their own thoughts to keep them separate and avoid confusion when they are writing.

"That's most important is that the students understand what the paper is really about," said Starks. "It's about thinking critically about the material and making connections with their own feelings and thoughts about the information they read."

As a psychologist, Durand offers some insight. "Many students have a poor history of writing and feel they can't do a good job on their own," he said.

According to Durand, a great deal of academic misconduct is a function of a student's situation. "It's not necessarily a personality defect," he said. "A lot of it has to do with stress and being over-worked, but clearly some are just lazy."

However, some students are becoming obsessed with citations like sophomores Abby Ingram. "It's taken all the fun out of writing papers," she said.

Ingram thinks most plagiarism is unintentional, in part because it's difficult to discern stealing from knowledge.

"Sometimes I can't remember; it's something I read in a textbook, or while doing research or if I saw it on the Web. It's gotten to the point that I just cite everything I look at because I'm scared that something that I write from my head is going to end up being something a teacher says I plagiarized," she said.

Culpability doesn't lay entirely with either the instructor or the Internet, says ethics professor Deni Elliott. "We live in a culture that rewards cheating," said Elliott, who holds the Foyner-Jamison Chair in Media Ethics. "Any time society encourages product over process, it invites cheating."

The responsibility for doling out penalties for plagiarism is predominantly left up to the instructor's discretion. At the very least, the student receives an "F" or grade of zero for the assignment. The instructor may choose to exclude the student for the remainder of the semester and fail the student in the entire course.

Buying or selling course material like exams, term papers, essays or speeches falls under "Academic Dishonesty," a step further from plagiarism. Those penalties are more severe. Failing both the assignment and course, students can be suspended or expelled from school. An "F" due to academic dishonesty will become "FF," which means failure because of academic dishonesty. It goes on the student's transcript and is exempt from any drop or forgiveness policies, according to 64.40.0015 of the USF St. Petersburg Rules Manual on Academic Dishonesty.

Braunsberger predicts this college is headed for a zero tolerance policy on cheating. "We've become more tired of it," he said. "We're not willing to just fail the student to have them repeat the class next semester anymore. The era of just kicking them out of class is coming to an end."

It's more than just an academic offense, too. Florida statute 877.37 deems plagiarism a second-degree misdemeanor. Though the penalty for conviction doesn't carry any jail time, it could tally up fines in excess of $500 and a civil penalty sentence.

The gavel of justice swings heavier than most would guess. But is plagiarism really an epidemic at USF St. Petersburg?

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Durand said three cases of plagiarism were reported to his office and only one of those was more than improper citation.

"I've never had one or two professors who didn't really go into it, but referred to the catalog about what can happen to you if you're caught," she said.

Anchundia, a junior in business management, does not think plagiarism is as widespread as people think it is. "I've had one or two professors who didn't really go into it, but referred to the catalog about what can happen to you if you're caught," she said.

Anchundia thinks the punishment properly serves as a good deterrent, but sees the mentality of cheating peculiar.

"It's a waste of money if anything else," she said.

Senior Patromata Bakayoko also doesn't see the problem being worth all the hype either. As a management of information systems major, Bakayoko has noticed some instructors who go overboard about the subject.

"If you know how to cite properly, you're fine," she said. "The people who get caught copying entire papers aren't able to do what they're doing."

If most cases of plagiarism are real, is it due to faulty or absent citation, how can students be sure they are doing it right?

"It is definitely complicated," said Librarian Kathy Arnes. "If I was working as a reference librarian, students were constantly asking us how to cite things properly."

As the library has help sheets that outline the rules for different citation styles, the librarians are readily available to assist students and the Research Assistance Program (RAP) offers students one-on-one research assistance with a librarian.

"It might be easier to cheat," said Braunsberger, "but it's also much easier for us to detect. Some of those Internet sites are reproducing material right from the source. If it's manual, I can spot that stuff pretty easily." While the Internet has opened the marketplace for recycled ideas that are easily re-packaged, Braunsberger is holding her ground. "I refuse to let the availability of information on the Internet dictate what I teach in class," she said.

-On April 7, USF-SP's first Bulls pep rally was showcased at downtown St. Petersburg's BayWalk courtyard. Head Coach Jim Leavitt, the Herd of Thunder Marching Band and USF cheerleaders cheered on fans before the annual Green & Gold game at Raymond James Stadium.

Photo by Jim Griner

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