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Did You Know?

January, 2002

- A distinctive regional and national identity is being developed by USF St. Petersburg with the recent announcement of our "Programs of Distinction" by interim Vice President and Campus Executive Officer Dr. Ralph Wilcox. They include Journalism and Media Studies, Environmental Science and Policy, Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting, and Florida Studies. The chosen programs represent a substantial multimillion-dollar strategic investment of resources for the campus.

- Dr. Kristen Alley Swain, visiting assistant professor of mass communications, recently was named co-principal investigator on a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. She aims to develop strategies and create adaptable messages that public health agencies can use to disseminate information to the media and public in situations involving biological weapons.

- Students will assist in the evaluation research in a class Swain will teach this spring on "Bioterrorism and the Media." Her study is part of research being done in collaboration with schools of public health at USF, University of Alabama-Birmingham, and Tulane University. The $326,000 grant received the highest ranking among all proposals submitted.

- Advanced degree holders from the University of South Florida are tops in the nation on the certified public accountant exam, according to a new report from the national organization of state accounting regulators. USF advanced degree graduates posted the country's best scores on a nationwide exam given in November 2001 by the American Institute of CPAs.

- Overall, USF was the top university for the past decade, placing among the top 10 universities 14 of the past 20 times the exam was given. Last year more than 106,000 students in 54 jurisdictions took the exam.

- The USF women's sailing team is included among the top 10 college teams nationwide. Influential "Sailing World" magazine ranked the team eighth out of about 200 college teams in its November 2002 issue. Coach Stephanie Doyle said the team's steady rise in the rankings has increased interest in the team, with inquiries from prospective team members from as far away as New Zealand and Turkey.

- USF St. Petersburg is home to the team.

- A member of the varsity sailing team, Genoa Griffin, is ranked third among women collegiate sailors in the United States by the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association. Only sailors from Yale and Old Dominion surpassed Griffin, a member of both the women's and co-ed sailing teams. Another team member, Kristen Herman, was ranked 24th.

- Recipients of "New Investigator Research Grants" were announced in December at USF St. Petersburg. Areas of research encompassed biology, geography, environmental science and policy, psychology, international affairs, management and mathematics. Funding for these programs came in part from indirect costs generated by externally sponsored contract and grant activity.

- "Senior Investigator Research Grants" were awarded at the same time to provide full-time, tenure-eligible faculty at USF St. Petersburg with additional support to conduct high quality research and scholarly activity. Topics of research are "An Empirical Analysis: Do Good Companies Make Good Investments?" and "Globalization and the Transformation of an Indigenous Region in Central Mexico."

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