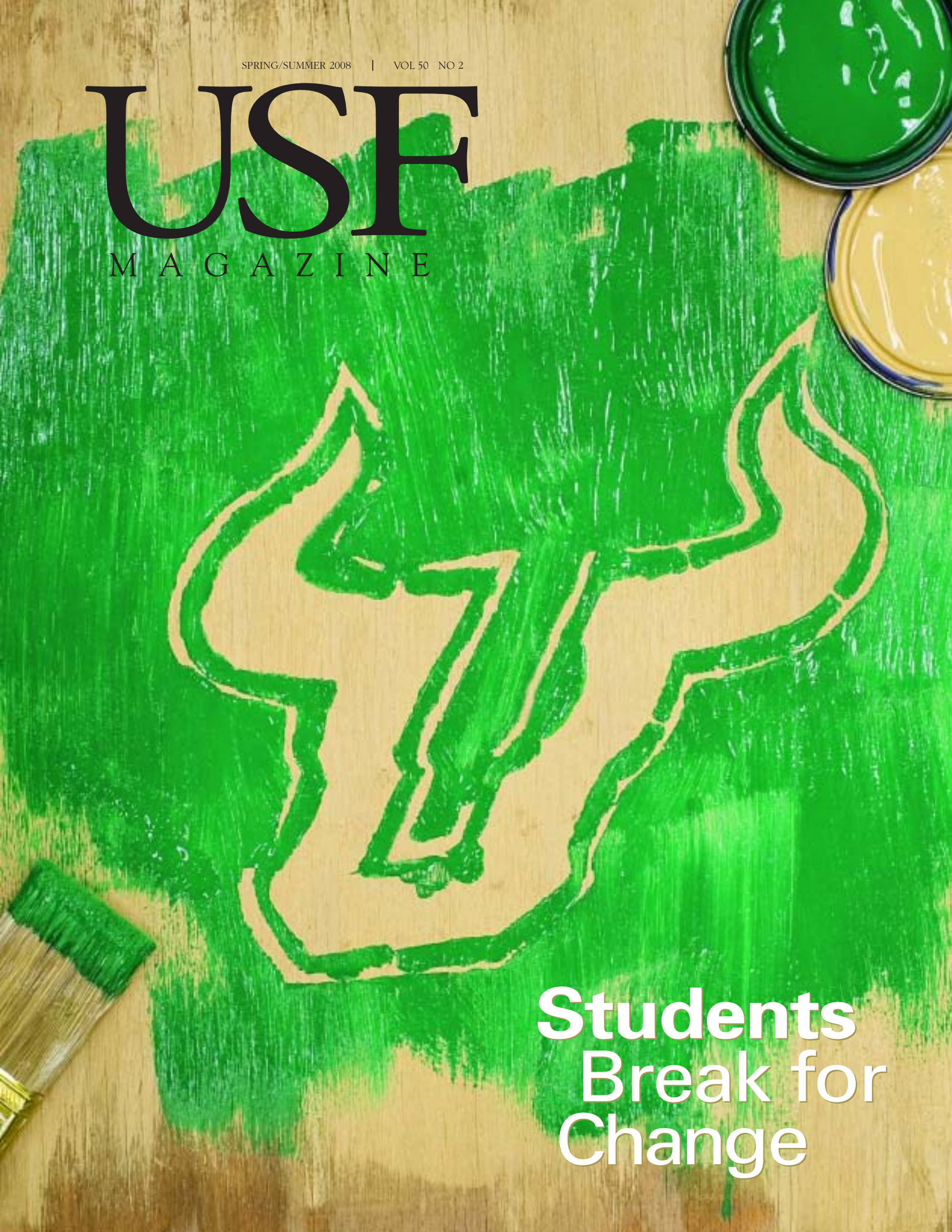


SPRING/SUMMER 2008 | VOL 50 NO 2

USE

M A G A Z I N E



**Students
Break for
Change**

A photograph of a conservatory garden. In the foreground, there's a dark, mulched area with two circular mosaic art pieces. One mosaic depicts a yellow butterfly on a blue background, and the other shows a red flower with yellow centers surrounded by blue triangles. To the right, a large, leafy plant with long, lanceolate leaves sits in a dark, ornate metal planter. In the background, a wooden lattice fence runs along the garden, with various other plants and foliage visible behind it. The overall scene is vibrant and lush.

SCENE ON CAMPUS

The Conservatory at USF's Botanical Gardens houses hundreds of plants from the gardens' orchid, aroid palm and fern collections. Managed by the College of Arts and Sciences, the 7-acre garden is located on the southwest corner of the Tampa campus and offers educational workshops, plant sales and volunteer opportunities open to the community. The garden may also be reserved for weddings and special events. For more information, visit www.cas.usf.edu/garden.

USF

M A G A Z I N E



SABINE SCHECKEL/GETTY IMAGES

Features

22

Fertile Research

Doctors in the In Vitro Fertilization & Reproductive Endocrinology program at USF Health are working to answer important questions about female infertility, while helping couples achieve their dream of having a family.

26

Lifelong Learners

With more than 1,000 members ranging in age from 50 to 90, USF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is helping advance learning opportunities for older adults in the Tampa Bay region.

30

What a Break

Opting for an "Alternative Spring Break," more than 200 USF students traveled to 19 locations throughout the United States and Costa Rica to engage in community service, while learning about some of the most challenging social problems facing communities today.

Departments

- 2 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 4 UPDATE
- 10 COMMUNITY
- 16 DISCOVERY
- 36 COMMITMENT
- 38 ATHLETICS
- 40 LAST WORD



Distinguished University Professor Susan A. MacManus is faculty adviser for the National Political Honor Society. Story page 40.

JOSEPH GAMBLE

AS WE MOVE INTO SUMMER, USF, like all universities in the State University System, is facing a tremendous challenge—how to ensure our university success in the face of drastic reductions in state funding. It is a challenge that demands the very best of us. It is a challenge we are facing head-on at USF.

While our funding has been reduced, our commitment to implementing the vision set for the university in the Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board of Trustees in September 2007 remains steadfast. In fact, it is that plan that will make us a stronger, more efficient and focused university.

In this issue of *USF Magazine*, you will read about some of the programs, initiatives and scholarly activities that are moving us toward our goal of becoming a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Take, for example, the 200 students who chose an alternative spring break—a week-long opportunity to learn about some of the complex social and cultural issues facing our nation and helping to effect change.

You also will read about research that has the potential to change lives, including efforts in the College of Medicine to understand the causes of age-related infertility in women and research in the Department of Chemistry that could change the way drug-resistant bacterial infections are treated.

Be sure to read about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USF, a



JOSEPH GAMBLE

program to advance learning opportunities for older adults in the Tampa Bay region. The program's demonstrated impact and community participation are among the reasons USF was one of only nine universities in the country to be awarded a \$1-million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

In the pages that follow, you will meet Kay and Fred Meyer, friends of USF whose generosity continues to support academic and athletic programs across the university. And you will meet Distinguished University Professor Susan MacManus, who is teaching students to be engaged citizens, while providing a unique and up-close perspective on the presidential election.

As we face the challenges ahead, I am confident that with all we have to offer and all that we are doing, we will emerge a stronger university—a university bright with promise.

Judy Genshaft
JUDY GENSHAFT, PRESIDENT

USF Magazine is published by University Communications & Marketing at the University of South Florida.

Editor Ann Carney

Associate Editor Anne Scott

Contributing Writers Anne DeLotto Baier, Lorie Briggs, Lisette Campos, Mary Beth Erskine, Chris Freet, Tom Haggerty, Sheryl Kay, Sean Ledig, Melanie Marquez, Barbara Perkins

Contributing Photographers

Joseph Gamble, John Lofreddo, Eric Youngmans

University Administration

Judy Genshaft, President
Ralph Wilcox, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Karen Holbrook, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation
Stephen Klasko, Senior Vice President for USF Health
Trudie Frecker, Acting Senior Executive Vice President
Jennifer Capeheart-Meningall, Vice President for Student Affairs
Michael Hoad, Vice President for University Communications
Michael Pearce, Vice President for Information Technologies
J. Jeffrey Robison, Vice President for University Advancement
Karen White, Regional Chancellor for USF St. Petersburg
Arthur Guilford, Vice President and CEO for USF Sarasota-Manatee
Marshall Goodman, Vice President and CEO for USF Lakeland

USF Board of Trustees

Lee E. Arnold, Jr.
Michael J. Barber, PhD
Margarita R. Cancio, MD
Gene Engle
Sonja W. Garcia
Gregory Morgan
Rhea F. Law, Esq., Chair
Kiran C. Patel, MD
John B. Ramil, Vice Chair
Debbie N. Sembler
Jan E. Smith
Robert L. Soran
Sherrill M. Tomasino

Contact USF Magazine

University Communications & Marketing
4202 E. Fowler Ave., ADM271
Tampa, Florida 33620-6300
(813) 974-4014
scotta@admin.usf.edu

Contact the USF Alumni Association

Gibbons Alumni Center
4202 E. Fowler Ave., ALC100
Tampa, Florida 33620-5455
(813) 974-2100 • (800) 299-BULL (2855)
alumni@admin.usf.edu

Update your contact information

www.giving.usf.edu

Reprint Policy: USF encourages reprinting articles in their entirety. Permission may be obtained by contacting scotta@admin.usf.edu.

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The University of South Florida is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctoral levels, including the Doctor of Medicine. USF is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action Institution.

Challenging Times

A deteriorating state economy is having a significant impact on the entire State University System, and USF is no exception. Below, USF President Judy Genshaft addresses the crisis and USF's response.

What is USF's position on the state's budget shortfall and its impact on USF?

USF wants to be part of the solution for the Florida's economy. Right now, only 20 percent of adults in our state have bachelor's degrees—one of the lowest percentages in the nation. There's no question that giving Floridians the opportunity to earn a degree is good for those individuals—and good for the state.

One way USF will turn the tide is by creating the USF System. While we develop a research campus in Tampa, we're creating new programs and new opportunities at our regional campuses in St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee, and Lakeland, where our new campus will be known as USF Polytechnic.

This doesn't mean state budget cuts don't hurt USF. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, we saw repeated cuts as state revenues fell below projections. We anticipate there will be more cuts during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2008.

How is USF addressing the budget cuts?

USF decided in fall 2007 that our cuts shouldn't be "across the board." All our budgets must be strategic, including cuts and re-investment. In 2007, the Board of Trustees approved our strategic plan, which identifies a series of comprehensive measures for a great university. That strategic planning process had broad participation from faculty, students, staff and faculty leadership, and the planning process for budget cutting has had wide input as well.

But we've also followed a number of important principles that preserve our academic excellence:

- no cuts of tenured or tenure-earning faculty members
- no cuts of degree offerings

In short: USF is re-engineering its budgets to focus on its 2007-2012 strategic plan.

What impact will budget cuts have on students?

Student success is one of our top priorities. The budget cutbacks we've seen from the State of Florida for several years have put a tremendous strain on our ability to help students succeed.

For one thing, Florida has the highest student/faculty ratio in the nation. That means larger classes, less personal feedback and instruction, less ability to interact directly with the instructor.

A budget shortfall like this means it's difficult to retain talented faculty and attract talented deans. In addition, it means the inability to hire more academic advisors to help students and keep them on track to graduate.

Our goal is to make all of our cuts strategic and protect the education that our students receive. We especially want to ensure that the courses students need for graduation will be available.

Is the administration reducing its own budget as it looks to reduce other budgets?

Yes, the same cutbacks are being experienced throughout the administration. This is a university-wide situation.

Can we stop some construction and other special projects around campus and save money?

The budget for new construction and special projects, like sidewalk repairs, comes from different sources than the E&G funding and can't be used to cover other costs.

Why is USF so concerned about making "strategic" cuts?

Last fall, the Board of Trustees approved a five-year strategic plan that serves as a roadmap to the future. We want to boost the quality of our undergraduate and research programs to position USF for membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU), an elite group of the top research universities in the nation.

If we are to achieve our goal, any cuts we make must be true to our strategic plan. If we succeed, USF will come through the budget crisis more focused and on target to reach our goals.

For the full text of President Genshaft's comments and further information about the budget, visit www.usf.edu/president and click on "Florida's Financial Crisis."

Global Bridge

Confucius Institute will prepare students to collaborate with the world's fastest growing economy.

MORE THAN 7,000 MILES AND 5,000 YEARS of history, culture and customs separate Tampa from Beijing. Yet, a new bridge between USF and the world's fastest-growing economy brings the two worlds closer than ever.

Following a competitive process involving several Florida universities, Chinese officials selected USF last December to be the site of the newest Confucius Institute, the only one in the state and one of only 40 in the country. The arrangement makes USF part of the growing international network of centers dedicated to promoting Chinese language and culture.

Integral to USF's strategy to strengthen engagement on a global scale, the Confucius Institute will help prepare students for a worldwide economy in which China is an increasingly important player.



JOSEPH GAMBLE

"USF, the state of Florida and Tampa Bay will all benefit from a greater understanding of China and an increased ability to do business in the Chinese language," says Ralph Wilcox, USF provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

Danjin Peng, associate professor in the Department of Government and International Affairs, is director of USF's Confucius Institute, which has begun offering its first courses. Three language classes are currently being taught by three scholars from Nankai University in Tianjin, on the border of the sea of Bohai. During the summer, a Nankai faculty member will also teach



JOSEPH GAMBLE

Traditional dancers welcome guests to opening ceremonies for the Confucius Institute at USF.

Representatives from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China and Nankai University visited USF in March to celebrate the opening of the Confucius Institute. Pictured: Qiao Hong, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Houston; Ralph Wilcox, USF Provost; Rachel Obenreder, Public Affairs Assistant, USF International Affairs; Judy Genshaft, USF President; and Hong Chen, First Vice President of Nankai University.

Chinese business and politics classes.

"The Confucius Institute is perfectly aligned with USF's mission to prepare students to succeed in a global society," says Peng. Working with World Languages and other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, he anticipates numerous learning opportunities including a Chinese Studies certificate later this year followed by a Chinese minor and then a major. In addition to Chinese language instruction, the institute will focus on Chinese language teacher training and certification for kindergarten through 12th grade. Strengthening current exchange programs with Nankai will allow students to explore short-term and long-term study, teaching and employment in China.

"The Confucius Institute positions USF most favorably in Chinese studies and exchange," says Peng. "It will enable the university to become a bridge between Florida and China and a leader in Chinese studies in the state."

The Confucius Institute also will be a resource and a catalyst for greater understanding of China for state and local businesses as they position themselves to take advantage of new opportunities resulting from the country's exploding economic growth. "We foresee a tremendous partnership with the business community," says Maria Crummett, dean of International Affairs.

The Confucius Institute has received strong backing from the local Chinese community which, according to Peng, is key to success. "All major local Chinese community organizations have rallied behind USF in the development of the institute," says Peng. A USF Confucius Institute Community Supporting Committee chaired by community leader Howard Yu will continue that support.

— Mary Beth Erskine

National Voices

THE 2008 SPRING UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES at USF delivered a stellar assortment of speakers.

In January, Maya Angelou nearly filled the Sun Dome, charming her audience with stories of growing up and establishing her career as a writer. Jerry Springer surprised his audience with a serious yet entertaining talk on politics, contrary to the image he portrays as ringmaster of a controversial talk show. Valerie Plame Wilson, the former CIA operative at the center of a political storm, told her side of a fascinating journey to a standing-room-only audience. Spike Lee regaled his audience with stories about what it took to turn him into an award-winning filmmaker.

In a more scientific vein, internationally-recognized physician and scientist in the College of Medicine, Dr. Santo Nicosia delivered a presentation on advances in ovarian epithelial cancer.

The spring lecture series ended in April with Ronde and Tiki Barber giving an inspirational talk about their lives and careers and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio talking about her hometown in a lecture sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity. A final presentation in the series was made by Dr. Robert H. Weisberg, a physical oceanographer in the College of Marine Science.

The University Lecture Series (ULS) is a student-supported program in the division of Student Affairs whose steering committee includes students, faculty and staff. For a schedule and lists of previous speakers visit <http://ctr.usf.edu/uls>.

— Barbara Perkins



Maya Angelou spoke at USF in January.

Best and Brightest

TWO RECENT OUTSTANDING GIFTS have provided a resounding endorsement of USF's diversity initiatives: a \$5 million gift from an anonymous donor and \$2 million from the Helios Education Foundation, of which \$1.25 million will support the USF Latino Scholarship program. Both gifts were eligible for dollar-for-dollar state matches, representing a total of \$14 million in new funding.

Of the \$10 million total, \$8 million has been earmarked for university-wide, need-based scholarship initiatives with preference to supporting women and minorities. The remaining \$2 million will establish the USF Academic Endowment Fund to be used as unrestricted academic support where it is most needed, as determined by the university's president.

The Helios Foundation donation and matching award totaling \$4 million will establish the Helios Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund which is to be used for need-based scholarship awards. The scholarships will go to qualified students, with strong consideration given to undergraduate students from low-income families, under-represented populations and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

"Our goal is to attract the best and brightest students and assure that no qualified student is forced to delay a college education for financial reasons," says USF President Judy Genshaft. "The generosity and philanthropy of donors like these has never been more important than now, in the current state budget climate. The positive impact of these scholarships on the lives of our students will be felt for generations."

— Barbara Perkins



Presidential Project

Students preserve U.S. history with a project suggested by President Jimmy Carter.

LIKE MOST MULTIMEDIA CLASSES, students in Rick Will's Multimedia Applications class demonstrate mastery of the subject by completing a hands-on project. But at USF some students do so in partnership with former United States President Jimmy Carter, learning about his childhood and career in a project that is helping teach others about Carter's legacy.

Part of an on-going project with the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and Plains Historical Preservation Trust in Plains, Georgia, students from Will's course have created an interactive kiosk stationed in Plains. The project, titled "President and Mrs. Carter: Meet the Kids," blends video and touch-screen technology. Will, a professor in the Information Systems and Decision Sciences department of the College of Business, and his students regularly update the kiosk, which is viewed annually by thousands of visitors worldwide.

"The project was President Carter's idea," says Annette Wise, Director of Education—Georgia Department of Education, Academic Studies in the Plains, Georgia field office, who initiated the effort. "When the Plains High School Museum opened in 1996, he suggested that we do such a project based on questions the children ask when they meet him. I collected the questions school-aged children most often ask the president or Ms. Rosalynn when they are here at the museum; we recorded students as they asked the questions."

The kiosk has the former president and first lady responding to each recorded question as the youngster poses it. On screen, visitors watch President or Mrs. Carter listen and react to the children's queries, which range from lighthearted and childlike ("Were you ever spanked as a child?") to serious ("What is it like knowing you can start a war?"). As the Carters respond, still photographs and images related to the story appear on screen, allowing the visitor to see, for example, photographs of Carter as a child when he talks about his childhood.

Wise credits Will and his students for creating an inter-



active educational tool that exceeds early expectations.

"President Carter is very proud of this project," says Wise, referring to the dual benefits that came from USF's involvement. "The president is pleased to have the younger students involved in the questions, and he is especially pleased the older USF students are creating this teaching tool and learning from it, too.

"I received a grant for the initial planning and equipment needed, but as far as being able to afford someone to come in and design it, we didn't have the funds to do that," says Wise. "After talking with Rick Will, who had expertise in the area, he was intrigued with it and saw it as an opportunity to touch and document history in so many ways."

"I envisioned a more elaborate alternative version of the 'talking head' and volunteered to create a more interactive presentation of the president responding to questions," says Will, noting that the original request from Wise was for a much simpler tool. In early 1998, we were able to film students asking the questions and within a couple of months, we had recorded responses from both President and Mrs. Carter.

"Dr. Will's students made it more interesting and interactive," says Wise. "Not only do visitors hear the words of the president as he talks about his life, but they also see images to help bring it to life. For instance, as the president

Business Professor Rick Will and his students created an interactive kiosk that is viewed annually by thousands of visitors.

talks about Earl Carter, his father, a photo of Earl Carter comes in on the monitor on the side so that the visitor using the monitor hears the voice and sees related images."

Several students have applied their newfound multimedia skills to their workplaces. One such student, Uttara Bhalerao, who completed the elective course last summer, says the kiosk project helped her master the subject and learn history at the same time. Bhalerao, a senior developer with Scivantage who serves as a consultant with Citi, says that she has been able to apply the lessons learned in the course in her workplace, too.

"This was a great way for me to learn how to use the multimedia tools, tools that have already benefited me at work" she says. "I was not very familiar with President Carter's work, other than hearing bits and pieces on the news. This project not only helped make the multimedia class much more interesting, but it also helped me get to know about Carter, his family, his career."

Bhalerao says she appreciates the way Will's teaching style and hands-on learning project complement each other. "In Dr. Will's class, there is not a lecture with pressure to learn something on your own," she says. "There is self-study, of course, but he explains the subject in a practical way, with humor, and uses such a project to increase our interest."

An online extension of the project is coming soon. "We hope to use this at the Carter Center in Atlanta," says Will, noting that there is also an opportunity for the students to turn this into a Web-based project that can be accessed around the world. Bhalerao, who has not yet been to Plains to see the site, is eager to see the project move forward. "It feels good to know the concept we worked on in class is actually being used."

— Lorie Briggs



Going Green

New Science and Technology building is environmentally conscious.

SPACIOUS, GREEN AND WIRELESS—the new Science and Technology building at USF St. Petersburg will serve as an environmentally conscious answer to classroom and lab space needs for growing programs.

From the 6,500 square feet of teaching lab space to the eight classrooms designed for 50 to 60 students, the state-of-the-art \$9 million facility will broaden academic and research opportunities for students while helping build health-oriented degree programs that respond to community needs. Architectural firm Reynolds, Smith & Hills is designing this latest addition to USF St. Petersburg's distinctive waterfront campus.

Plans are to use construction materials and design principles that will earn certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System, an independent verification for environmentally responsible buildings. After a May groundbreaking, construction starts in the summer of 2008, with a projected completion date of July 2009, in time for the fall semester.

The second-floor research labs will be shared with the USF College of Marine Science and the four teaching labs will allow USF St. Petersburg to provide more sections of chemistry, biology and environmental science—courses that support a new pre-health track for undergraduates. The research facilities will also support the new graduate degree in Environmental Science, Policy and Geography, a master's program that started

in Fall 2007.

"More classrooms just mean more opportunities for courses we've wanted to offer all along and just didn't have the space," says Mark Pezzo, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

This first phase of the building will add nearly 35,000 square feet of academic space and a future phase for the building will bring it to more than 80,000 square feet.

"We've been growing each year and our space hasn't," Pezzo says. "This building will allow us to do what we've been doing, but it makes everything easier. We need more state-of-the-art facilities and that's what this will be."

More space for science courses will strengthen pre-health tracking, one of the newest opportunities at USF St. Petersburg for incoming freshmen starting in Fall 2008. Each of the 26 undergraduate majors will have a specific track for students to simultaneously complete their major and the recommended courses for entrance into medical school. The core track will be used to generate opportunities for students interested in other health-related professions.

"About a third of the freshmen coming into USF St. Petersburg over the last two years have expressed interest in a pre-health program," says Cyndie Collins, director of the Academic Advising Center.

On the graduate level, students in the Environmental Science, Policy and Geography program can take advantage of expanded facilities to learn from faculty whose specialties focus primarily on two areas: coastal ecosystems and inland water resources.

"Like any graduate program in the sciences, the uniqueness comes not from the content of the program, but in the research opportunities afforded," says James Gore, a professor and first chair of the program.

The intent of the degree is to prepare students to enter careers in federal, state and local regulatory agencies, environmental consulting firms and a variety of non-government organizations. Students can also use the program to go into doctoral work or teaching.

Starting in Fall 2008, students will have an additional science-related opportunity available at USF St. Petersburg—a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that provides scholarships for students with financial need. Called STREAMS, Supporting Talented and Remarkable Environmental and Marine Science Students, the program provides mentoring and up to \$10,000 a year to qualified students. Support can continue into graduate work, too.

— Melanie Marquez

Making Progress

USF St. Petersburg partners with Progress Energy for green lecture series.

GRADUATE STUDENT BRITNI TOKOTCH couldn't agree more with Carol Browner, former administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"It is time for action," Browner said during the first presentation of the Energy and the Environment Lecture Series, a 2007-2008 public program hosted at USF St. Petersburg and sponsored by Progress Energy.

Browner discussed climate change and the physical effects it has on the environment.

"It will permanently change our planet and the lives of future generations unless we act now, not later," Browner said.

And acting now is exactly what Tokotch, an Environmental Science, Policy and Geography graduate student, feels inspired to do. She was one of 13 students who received a Progress Energy Scholars Award, an honor made available in conjunction with the lecture series. With the award, Tokotch was able to continue her graduate work while learning from experts, like Browner, about environmental needs and challenges.

"It is great to hear so many different perspectives on things we learn about in our classes," says Tokotch, who also works with the National Marine Fisheries Service. "I want to help other people understand the issues facing our environment. We need more emphasis on our place and the impacts that our everyday lives make on the environment."



Carol Browner



Nils Diaz



Robert Bazell



Paul Ehrlich

Progress Energy Scholar Award recipients came from diverse disciplines including journalism, business and science. The students helped in the execution of the lecture series featuring four speakers:

- Carol Browner: During her career, she developed initiatives to clean up the nation's hazardous waste sites, improve children's health and enhance food safety and drinking water quality. Browner's discussion examined the environmental challenges of the 21st century.

- Hon. Nils Diaz: The former chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Diaz advocates for the responsible use of nuclear-powered energy. He presented twice, once in Pasco County and once at USF St. Petersburg, to discuss his vision for the increased use of nuclear energy.

- Robert Bazell: As the chief science and health reporter for NBC News, Robert Bazell has been at the forefront of science discoveries and environmental challenges. His lecture delved into the techniques used to communicate complicated research findings to the general public.

- Paul Ehrlich: Well-known for his book, *The Population Bomb*, Ehrlich is also the co-author of *Betrayal of Science and Reason: How Anti-Environment Rhetoric Threatens Our Future*. He discussed human population growth, natural resource use and environmental degradation.

— Melanie Marquez

Testing Future Waters

USF marine scientists inspire ocean researchers and explorers of the future.

THE INKY BLACKNESS OF DEEP OCEAN waters. The infinite darkness of outer space. Marine scientists and astronauts probe widely divergent environments, yet they share a similar passion for research and exploration as well as concern for the future. That's why scientists from these two diverse realms, with fundamental leadership and support from members of USF's College of Marine Science (CMS) community, are nurturing the next generation of potential researchers and explorers.

It's an effort involving volunteers from several state, national and international organizations including NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Sanctuaries, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program. Working together, oceanographers, geologists, volcanologists, marine archeologists, astronomers, historians, military personnel—and a space shuttle commander—most recently



provided a unique opportunity for young people who are members of the Tampa Bay chapter of SCUBAnauts International: a mission dubbed Operation: Deep Climb.

SCUBAnauts promotes interest in science and technology learning and careers by involving middle and high school-age students as explorers in marine science research activities. Members conduct meaningful research and experience the thrill that comes from scientific discovery.

Operation: Deep Climb was an extraordinary journey that began last fall when the SCUBAnauts and their mentors traveled to Hawaii to collect atmosphere, hydrology and archaeology data and to study the geology of the island. To do so, they dove in a deep-sea submersible to 1,800 feet below the ocean's surface, and they hiked to the 13,796-foot summit of Mauna Kea. In both locations, the SCUBAnauts unfurled their expedition banner representing all mission sponsors including USF. The adventure was a collaborative



Photos (l to r): The 'nauts visit an underwater habitat off Key Largo; Diving in Hawaii; At the Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea; The group's expedition banner traveled to space in March.



venture with Wild Life Productions, which filmed the journey as a documentary.

To culminate the effort, NASA astronaut Dom Gorie brought the banner aboard the space shuttle Endeavor when he was STS-123 mission commander this past March. Gorie had spoken with the SCUBAnauts about space exploration at NOAA's Pacific Service Center on Oahu when the group was in Hawaii.

USF's CMS has been affiliated with SCUBAnauts for several years. Faculty members such as Paula Coble and Pam Hallock; graduate and doctoral students Jennifer Dupont, Julie Galkiewicz and Sennai Habtes; alumni Christopher Moses (U.S. Geological Survey), David Palandro (Fish and Wildlife Research Institute); and courtesy faculty, including Walter Jaap, have provided leadership and direction to the organization and instruction and mentoring to students.

"The close ties SCUBAnauts and USF share are incredi-

ble," says Galkiewicz. "The 'nauts' hear lectures from USF professors, work on dive skills with marine science students and learn about oceanography from everyone involved. They benefit from the cutting-edge ideas and technology that we, as USF students, are exposed to."

The SCUBAnauts are involved in research with USF in areas of global importance including efforts to better understand the growth of Tampa Bay's sea grass beds—research that contributes to NASA's ability to map coral reefs and sea grass beds and estimate coastal productivity.

"The opportunities these students have to work with scientists collecting real data in the field are exceptional," says Coble, associate professor of chemical oceanography. "SCUBAnauts is an example of the wonderful spirit in our college of engaging young people in the excitement of research."

— Mary Beth Erskine

More than Skin Deep

A WUSF television documentary explores skin cancer as a growing health concern.

IT IS PERHAPS THE FIRST HEALTH LESSON that children should learn—how to stay safe from the sun. More than one million Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year. And, of these, more than 8,000 will die.

What many don't know is that 80 percent of sun exposure and skin damage occurs before the age of 18.

WUSF Public Broadcasting, in a major, one-hour public television special, explores skin cancer as a growing health concern. Narrated by news legend Sam Donaldson, and produced in partnership with Moffitt Cancer Center, the television documentary looks at the social, historical, medical and environmental aspects of skin cancer. And, it uncovers common myths about tanning and sunscreens.

"Skin cancer is a disease that should be top of mind for all of us. We live in a beautiful, sunny place that offers so many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. We'll be able to bring information to the community and distribute it across WUSF's multiple media platforms, including television, radio and the Web," says WUSF general manager JoAnn Urofsky. The one-hour special will be complemented by radio and online content.

"One of the roles of public broadcasting is to take time to inform and educate the public in-depth about topics and ideas," says Tom Dollenmayer, WUSF station manager. That effort will be ongoing, he says, with an interactive Web site that will include clips from the documentary and answers to frequently asked questions.

The documentary was produced by director and cinematographer Stan Kozma and producer Joe Costa, both of

Tampa. For Kozma, who lost his fiancé, Kristi Michael, to melanoma in 2001, the project was particularly meaningful. Kozma and Costa conducted and videotaped interviews with more than 50 patients, social historians, environmental scientists and nationally renowned physicians and researchers from around the country, including experts at the National Cancer Institute, Sloan Kettering and M.D. Anderson.

The entire project is guided by a community advisory board representing a variety of expertise, community knowledge and perspectives.

"We wanted to engage people on the advisory board who could help us with the project's content, community outreach and financial support," says Diane Egner, director of production funding.

The seven-member board includes former U.S. Sen. Connie Mack, attorney Sam Bell, dermatologist Teresa Brandt and Irene Maher, managing editor of medical news for WFLA News Channel 8.



Andy Nichols, WUSF; Stan Kozma; and Joe Costa produced the documentary.

The lifetime risk of getting melanoma—the deadliest form of skin cancer—has soared from 1 in 1,500 in 1935 to 1 in 67 in 2002. In the last 20 years, Americans have witnessed a 100 percent increase in cases of pediatric melanoma.

"Skin cancer is an insidious disease," says Urofsky. "But as this documentary shows, it is often very preventable."

— Ann Carney

Steve Budd, director of USF Lakeland's Entrepreneurship Program, calls the Small Business Development Center's relocation a "win-win situation."



JOSEPH GAMBLE

Building Business

USF Lakeland welcomes Small Business Development Center.

AS THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA LAKELAND continues to grow, it also continues to establish itself as a vital resource for the central Florida communities it serves.

Earlier this year, USF Lakeland welcomed the Central Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) as it relocated from the Central Florida Development Council offices in nearby Bartow.

At USF Lakeland, the SBDC will continue offering professional counseling, entrepreneurial training and resources to small startup and mature businesses throughout Polk County.

"It's an incredible opportunity to have the SBDC at USF Lakeland," says Steve Budd, director of USF Lakeland's Entrepreneurship Program and adjunct professor in the College of Business. "I see a bright future with tremendous synergy. When you combine the talent, expertise and resources of both organizations, it's definitely a win-win situation."

The collaboration also supports USF Lakeland's

strategic plan to establish a polytechnic campus, focusing on applied learning and research.

"I can imagine our students gaining valuable hands-on experience by working closely with SBDC clients on a feasibility study or business plan," says Budd. "Down the road, as our innovation center evolves, we could become central Florida's one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and small business owners."

SBDC Director Doretha Brooks, who is under contract with the SBDC at USF Tampa to serve Polk County, says the move is a logical alignment. She also shares Budd's enthusiasm for the partnership.

"We're happy to be here and excited about our new home at USF Lakeland," she says. "I'm excited about using the additional campus resources to better serve our clients and the community. And by drawing more visitors to the USF Lakeland campus, we can help raise the university's profile in the community and attract future students."

Since it opened, USF Lakeland has helped area students "stay home and go far." The thriving campus now offers local businesses the same chance to pursue their dreams.

— Tom Hagerty

Healthy Appetite

Clinic offers specialized therapy and treatments, including a rewards program designed to keep kids with cystic fibrosis from losing weight.

ABIGAIL PEREZ CAN'T LOSE EVEN ONE ounce. When the 11-year-old goes for her doctor's appointment, she's always told to eat more—more pizza, more cake, more red meat, more whole milk. For eating more, she gets little rewards ... and the one big

reward of staying alive.

For some it may sound like a dietary dream, but Abigail knows she needs to gain weight to help combat the effects of cystic fibrosis, a hereditary disease that injures the lungs, digestive tract and other glands and organs. Abigail was diagnosed with the illness at birth, and has been a patient at the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic in the Pediatric Pulmonary Division at USF since she was two weeks old.

Cystic fibrosis (CF) affects the body's ability to move water and salts in and out of cells, causing the lungs and pancreas to secrete a viscous mucus. This mucus obstructs different passageways in the body, preventing them from performing normally. When this happens in the pancreas, enzymes needed for digestion cannot get out of the organ and food passes through the stomach while nutrients are not absorbed. For CF patients, this means a lifetime battle against malnutrition, anemia, and

loss of appetite.

"With them, losing an ounce can be horrific," says Sara McCready, an administrative specialist, and Abigail's mom. "The weight thing is really huge, because they stop growing and then it affects everything."

At 9 years-old, Abigail lost several pounds due to complications with her gall bladder, and McCready feared a major downward spiral. But then Abigail began the "CF Rewards System," a specialized nutrition program developed at the clinic

Abigail Perez



CF FACTS:

- CF affects about 30,000 children and young adults in the United States.
 - About 3,000 babies are born with the condition each year in this country.
 - CF primarily affects people of white, northern European ancestry. Nonwhite populations have a much lower rate of CF.
 - One in 25 people is a CF carrier.
 - While there is no cure at this time, advances in research and treatment have improved and extended life for children and adults with CF.
- The average life expectancy for those with the disease is between 30 and 40 years old.

and administered by clinic coordinator Allyson Casey, and nutritionist Nancy Newkirk. The results have been impressive, with Abigail gaining back her weight, and more.

Clinic coordinator Allyson Casey and nutritionist Nancy Newkirk developed the CF Rewards System.

The clinic is a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF)-accredited affiliate center for the care and treatment of children with CF from birth to age 21. As such, USF is recognized as offering the highest quality of specialized therapy and support for those with CF. Care is provided using a team approach to tackle the complex nature of the disease, and the group includes a pulmonologist, a pediatrician, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a registered dietician, a social worker, a respiratory therapist and a medical assistant.

The rewards program begins with a team member explaining the process to the parents and child. A mutually agreed upon weight-gain goal is established, with the potential for a reward (candy, gift certificate, movie tickets, etc.) if the goal is achieved in the interval leading up to the next visit. To facilitate the system, a "Nutrition Action Plan" (NAP) tracks a comparison of the

child's initial height, weight, body mass index and weight-gain goal to measurements taken at the most recent visit.

In a pilot study of the plan conducted by Casey, more than 70 percent (15) of the 21 patients included demonstrated an improvement in their BMI with use of the NAP.

"An atmosphere of fun and competition has developed in many families after starting the program, whereas in the past they may have been much more apathetic about seeing us," says Casey. "The children now pay close attention to their weight when they come for follow-ups and are thrilled when they achieve their goal and win their reward."

McCready says such has been the experience for Abigail as well, keeping her motivated by recognizing the positive strides she's made.

It's an added benefit, says McCready, that the staff at the clinic is sincerely interested in Abigail not only as a patient but as a whole person as evidenced by their continued encouragement on a daily basis.

Newkirk, the nutritionist, says that support includes helping families set realistic, attainable goals so they are not discouraged by occasional setbacks. Parents, who prepare meals and manage their children's routines, are key to helping maintain the child's motivation and reinforcing positive behavior at home.

The USF CF team travels to locations in Tampa, Lakeland, Sarasota, Fort Myers and Naples to see patients.

— Sheryl Kay



Weighing In

Publication brings together faculty in a true scholarly collaboration.

DURING A RETREAT OF USF SARASOTA-MANATEE College of Education faculty some three years ago, a common interest emerged—classroom assessments. Brainstorming about how best to come together to talk about a subject that mattered to each one of them, the group decided to write a book.

The result, *A Pig Don't Get Fatter the more you weigh it: Classroom Assessments that Work*, is a scholarly collaboration that takes a multi-dimensional look at classroom assessments and

how assessments can inform instruction. It is a marriage of theory and practice, according to the editors.

Faculty from each of the col-

lege's four departments (Childhood Education; Measurement and Research; Education Leadership and Policy Studies; and Special Education) contributed to the study that was published by Teacher's College Press in 2007. In February, the group received its first royalty check, a check that has been deposited into an account to support further collaborative studies in college.

The book is intended primarily for “practicing teachers and administrators who promote and use assessments as a vehicle for instructional improvement,” and is what co-editor and assistant professor Phyllis Jones calls “evidence of true multi-departmental scholarly collaboration—something pretty unusual in higher education.”

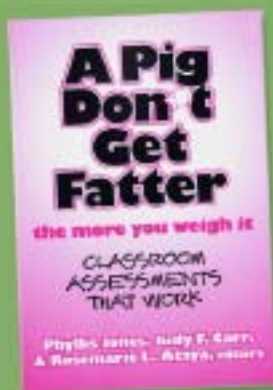
Unlike the FCAT and other standardized tests that provide an assessment “of” learning, classroom assessments provide an assessment “for” learning, explains co-editor and assistant professor Judy F Carr. “This book acknowledges the vast array of practices in schools that aren’t getting press.”

She goes on to say, “In our current high-stakes environment, it's important to keep a balance between standardized testing and high-quality classroom assessments in order to adequately measure student performance.”

So what’s with the title? According to Jones, who hails from England, the title is an old English proverb that basically says, no matter how many times you weigh a pig, all you learn is how much it weighs. If you want to learn something different, you have to use a different measure. The same holds true for assessments of student learning.

Carr says the effort was an interesting experience. “We worked hard. In dealing with different authors, we had to establish a similar voice and structure. The result is very straight-forward and conscious,” she says. “Teachers don't have a lot of time and typically not a lot of experience with assessments. We wanted to communicate clearly and simply with them. That was one of our goals.”

— Ann Carney



Stent Safety

Nursing study revisits safety of drug-coated stents.

DRUG-COATED STENTS USED TO OPEN up complicated blockages in coronary arteries for which they were not originally approved by the FDA are no more risky than older bare-metal stents. In fact, they appear to work better in reducing the need for repeat procedures to restore blood flow. That's the conclusion of a study conducted by Kevin Kip, executive director of the USF College of Nursing Research Center.

"Our study provides strong evidence that drug-coated stents used in routine clinical practice are safe and associated with a significantly lower risk of the need for a second revascularization procedure," says Kip, who was principal investigator for the study published in the January 24, 2008 *New England Journal of Medicine*. "It is not necessarily the type of stent, per se, but rather the clinical characteristics of the patient that best predict adverse outcomes."

Stents are mesh metal tubes used to permanently prop open arteries that have narrowed due to a build-up of plaque. They are inserted during cardiac catheterization procedures to improve blood flow and relieve symptoms like chest pain. Occasionally, scar tissue formed in response to the stent cause the stented artery to become dangerously narrow again. The newer drug-coated stents secrete an anti-inflammatory drug to help slow the growth of scar tissue and significantly reduce this re-narrowing.

About half of all drug-coated stents are currently used "off-label," or for patients with characteristics beyond those of patients enrolled in clinical trials leading to FDA approval of the device. Off-label includes patients who underwent previous coronary bypass surgery, and those with exceptionally small or large vessels or other anatomical circumstances making the stent more difficult to insert. Earlier studies raised questions about the safety of drug-coated stents for off-label use, and an FDA panel cautioned against their use in this setting.

The latest study was directed by Kip at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he worked before joining USF last year. Kip, lead author Dr. Oscar Marroquin and colleagues analyzed data on 6,551 patients from the

ERIC YOUNG/USF HEALTH MEDIA CENTER



Kevin Kip's study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, finds drug-coated stents are no more risky than bare-metal stents.

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's Dynamic Registry. They compared patients who received drug-coated stents with those who received bare-metal stents and assessed whether stent use was standard or off-label.

The study found that, after one year, drug-coated stents were no more likely than bare metal stents to increase the risk of heart attack or death in patients receiving stents for off-label indications. Furthermore, off-label use of drug-coated stents resulted in a 37-percent lower risk of a repeat procedure. The researchers noted that patients receiving stents off label, whether bare-metal or drug-coated, had more co-existing conditions and poorer one-year outcomes than did patients treated with stents for approved indications.

Earlier studies did not directly compare bare-metal to drug-coated stents for the same types of patients and procedural indications, Kip says. "Overall, previous concerns about higher risks of death or heart attack appear to have been premature."

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Joseph Carroza Jr. of the Harvard Medical School said that, while more study is needed, the study by Drs. Kip and Marroquin goes "a long way toward making (clinical) decisions more evidence-based."

— Anne DeLotto Baier

Smart Drugs

New nanosphere drugs hold promise for fighting bacterial infections.

IT'S TIME TO TEACH OLD DRUGS TO DO new tricks.

For Chemistry Professor Ed Turos, that entails giving old antibiotics new ways to get at their bacterial target. Those new tricks may save thousands of people from deadly diseases caused by drug-resistant bacteria.

"These so-called 'superbugs' have made themselves resistant to penicillin in a most clever way," he says, "by producing enzymes that act like little Pac Men, chomping apart the drugs before they get to the bacteria."

Turos' laboratory at USF's Department of Chemistry is exploring innovative new ways to make these obsolete antibiotics work again. Turos is director of the Center for Molecular Diversity in Drug Design, Discovery and Delivery (CMD5), and a founding member of the Florida Center of Excellence in Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics (FCoE-BITT).

At one time, staphylococcus (staph) infections could be easily cured by taking penicillin. But, during the last 50 years, staph bacteria have evolved ways to survive against these powerful man-made antibiotics, leading to high levels of drug resistance and hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide, Turos says.

To get the drugs to the bacteria, Turos and his investigative team are constructing tiny vehicles that can drive the drug through the sea of Pac Men directly to its target, "like a car crashing through a wall."

Called nanoparticles, these vehicles are so small that about a million of them can fit on the head of a pin. Turos believes that these nanoparticle antibiotics, or nanobiotics, may prove effective at fighting deadly bacteria.

"They look like a little BB next to a basketball when they attack staph bacteria," Turos says.

Nanosphere drugs could be the key to fighting Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, also called



MRSA or "Mersa" for short. Once associated only with hospitals and nursing homes, MRSA is spreading rapidly to the general population. According to an Oct. 17, 2007, report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, MRSA caused more than 94,000 life-threatening infections and nearly 19,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2005. These numbers continue to grow as MRSA spreads and common antibiotics work less and less effectively. And the problem is not just within the U.S., but is now all around the world.

"Microbial infections and drug resistance are serious global health issues," Turos says. "Bacteria divide rapidly and are incredibly adaptive, quickly learning to survive in environments that would seem essentially impossible to overcome."

"They share information with other bacteria and travel the globe as easily as we do," he continues. "They can



Chemistry Professor Ed Turos is exploring new ways to fight bacterial infections.

JOSEPH GAMBLE

even hibernate within human cells for extended periods of time and out of the reach of most antibiotics, until suddenly, something causes them to ‘come alive’ causing recurring, essentially untreatable infections.”

While complete eradication of the staph bacteria may not be an achievable goal, “we have to find ways to fend off deadly forms when they threaten our population,” Turos says.

Besides making the older drugs work better, Turos and his team are also developing new antibiotics that cannot be chewed up by the proteins. They are also at work designing “stealth” drugs that lay undetectable by bacteria, but can quickly transform into a powerful antibiotic.

To do this, these agents have to sense their environment and quickly distinguish friend from foe, so that it knows whether to release the antibiotic or not.

The goal, Turos says, is “to engineer a drug with the ability to fight off harmful bacteria while leaving the good bacteria alone, so they can assist our immune systems in fighting infections.”

While there is much promise in these new types of antibiotics and drug delivery vehicles, Turos warns that it could be years before they are ever available to the public.

“It’s a very long and arduous path. For the Food and Drug Administration to grant approval of a new drug, it’s not enough to know that it works in the laboratory,” he says. “We have to prove conclusively that the drugs also work in real-life situations and are totally non-toxic to people.

“That is a very difficult thing to do, but one certainly worthy of the challenge.”

– Sean Ledig

Technology Testbed

Robots break ground for search and rescue test facility.

IT WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH SMOKE AND FLAMES, over concrete rubble. It avoids stray pieces of rebar, razor-sharp shards of glass and metal fragments poking out of the wreckage. Visibility is nearly zero through the toxic clouds. Still, the little robot leads the way, seeking out survivors.

It's a grim scene Robin Murphy and her colleagues have faced before, many times. The USF computer science and engineering professor has seen it in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks of 9/11 and in the 2007 Crandall Canyon mine collapse in Utah. For her, it's not a question of if these things will happen again, but when.

The secret is being prepared, by testing the robots, sensors and networks and providing adequate training to their handlers. As Murphy points out, it's one thing to take a new piece of high tech and try it out in the office. It's something completely different for police, firemen or FEMA to use a robot or sensor in the hazards he or she will face following a terrorist attack or natural catastrophe.

But a new testbed under construction at USF could help change that as researchers and developers will soon have a place to test their products

under conditions as close to real life as possible, she says.

"This \$2.1 million investment is a unique facility,"

Murphy says. "In the early days of aerospace, universities built wind tunnels for testing aircraft. Except

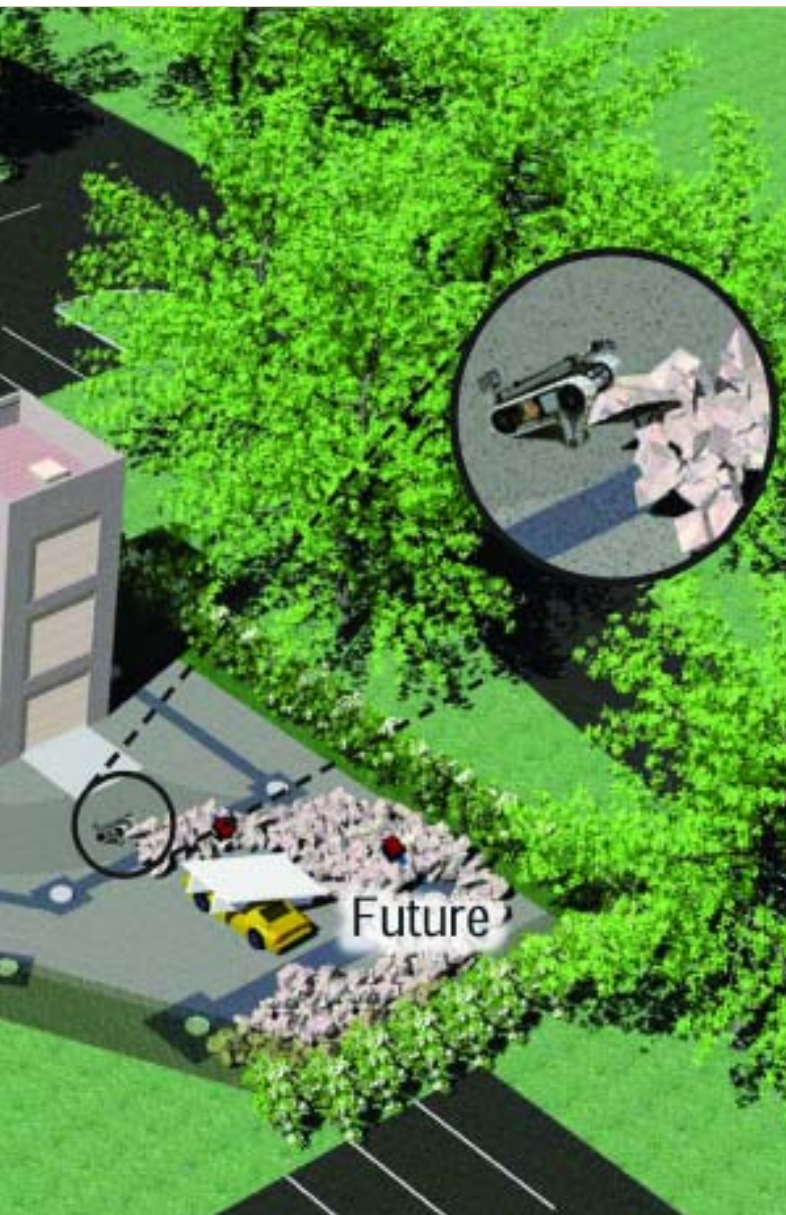


unlike a wind tunnel which just tested the wings, you can test the robot, the sensors, or even the network together or independently. This facility will be a national testbed for Safety, Security Rescue Technology. We expect it will be a magnet for industrial and government investment in the region."

Several of the USF robots broke ground for the future National Testbed for Safety, Security and Rescue Technologies, in the northwest part of the USF Tampa campus. Construction began in March and is scheduled for completion in December.

The facility is the result of a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and USF. Funding for the project came through





USF broke ground in March for the National Testbed for Safety, Security and Rescue Technologies.

as those being developed by physics professor Dennis Killinger at the USF Laboratory for Laser Atmospheric Studies.

"I can never be able to duplicate Grandall Canyon, but here we can simulate the key parts of what we went through," Murphy says. "We could try out different things there, not only for research, but for duplicating field conditions. We can control one factor of a test, and then repeat it controlling another factor of a test."

The facility has another unique feature as well in that robots can be tested long distance by their builders via the Web.

"When we can run experiments over the net, we can save people the cost of going to the facility," says Jenny Burke, a research scientist who is already developing a training program around the facility. "We can also use it for training. It's like a high-fidelity video game."

Such training is crucial for responding to armed attacks and emergencies, according to Murphy.

"After 9/11, the Federation of American Scientists said the biggest problem with responding to such disasters was training. So when we introduce new technologies, it becomes even more important to validate these technologies and train people in their use."

— Sean Ledig

Edgewood from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a division of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Murphy is no stranger to search and rescue operations. With USF's industry partners, robots have seen action at the aftermath of the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, the Crandall Canyon mine collapse in Utah in 2007, and most recently, in a parking garage collapse in Jacksonville in December 2007.

Though it's impossible to prepare for every eventuality in an emergency, the new facility can be configured and adapted to duplicate many of the hazards that await search and rescue robots. Smoke, fog, dust and toxic chemicals can be thrown into the mix to create a more life-like test for new sensors, such



Fertile Research



USF researchers seek clues to age-related infertility.

WHEN IT COMES TO FERTILITY, time is definitely not on a woman's side. A woman's chances of getting pregnant typically decline noticeably at age 35, and really plunge as she approaches 40. Not such good news for the increasing number of women who postpone motherhood as they establish their careers.

BY ANNE DELOTTO BAIER

There are many reasons for female infertility, but researchers in USF's In Vitro Fertilization & Reproductive Endocrinology Program are studying one of the most common and challenging problems—why women's eggs “go bad” over time. Besides leading to diminished fertility, poorer egg quality underlies the sharp increase in miscarriages among women in their late 30s and 40s.



ERIC YOUNG/USF HEALTH MEDIA CENTER

The work of these fertility specialists is complicated by the fact that eggs age at different rates.

“Reproductively speaking, some women are age 40 going on 30, while others at 40 have eggs going on 50,” says Dr. David Keefe, chair of USF Obstetrics and Gynecology and one of the nation’s top-ranked reproductive endocrinologists. “We’re trying to understand age-related infertility and what makes it happen sooner in some women than others.” The goal is to develop techniques—both to predict which eggs are healthiest enough to result in successful IVF pregnancies and to fix abnormal eggs when no healthy ones can be found.

IVF is a time-consuming, expensive process, often taking more than one try even in younger women with normal eggs. “We hope to help women decide whether their eggs are healthy enough to conceive through IVF using their own genetic material or whether it might be better to pursue

USF embryologist Dr. Ying Ying uses a polarizing light microscope to see what cannot be viewed with other microscopes.

other options like egg donation or adoption,” Keefe says.

USF researchers focus on three main areas. They study the structures in eggs critical to reproduction, investigate the link between the length of chromosome tips and reproductive aging, and collect information that may eventually help preserve the fertility of young women undergoing chemotherapy.

USF is among leading IVF groups worldwide characterizing what good-quality eggs look like. The researchers use a polarizing light microscope, which Keefe worked with engineers and biologists to help apply to IVF in the early 1990s. It allows them to see what cannot be viewed with other microscopes. “The egg is made up mostly of water, which tends to polarize light so you can’t see beneath the surface,”



ERIC YOUNGHANS/USF HEALTH MEDIA CENTER

USF is among leading IVF groups worldwide characterizing what good-quality eggs look like.

he says. “This technology essentially puts a pair of polarized sunglasses on the microscope lens to highlight the contrast between the structures in the egg and its background.”

Peering into the special microscope, USF embryologist Ying Ying can clearly see a thread-like apparatus in the egg, known as the spindle, which is critical in making sure correct and complete genetic information is passed from one generation to the next. If the spindle is defective, chromosomes may not separate properly before fertilization—leading to missing or extra chromosomes that can result in infertility, miscarriages or birth defects.

Ying, director of the USF IVF Laboratory, compares the spindles from older and younger eggs, looking for flaws in the size and shape of the older spindles that might lead to faulty genetic transfer in the fertilized egg. He also examines the outer shell of the egg. USF researchers have found that damage in the spindle and zona pellucida tends to be associated with abnormal, or fragmented, embryos. The polarized light microscope has become a powerful tool for helping them predict which eggs are the leading candidates for a successful IVF pregnancy.

One of the most promising areas of reproductive research targets the protective ends of chromosomes, known as telomeres. Like the tips of shoelaces, telomeres unravel slightly, or shorten, each time an egg cell divides.

Keefe’s team was the first to suggest that telomere length might explain age-related problems in the health of eggs. Their study, published while Keefe was at Brown Medical School in Rhode Island, was awarded the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology prize paper. The researchers showed that telomeres from eggs of women who got pregnant after IVF were significantly longer than the telomeres of eggs from women who did not get pregnant following IVF.

Keefe says that odds of IVF success in older women might be bolstered by a test that could help clinicians sift through multiple eggs and select the few with longer telomeres. He is working with USF’s Lin Lui, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, to determine whether shorter telomeres in eggs from older women are more likely to malfunction in early embryo development, leading to Down syndrome, miscarriage or failure of the embryo to implant in the uterus.

With colleagues at Moffitt Cancer Center, Keefe last year launched a clinical program that freezes embryos and eggs to help preserve the fertility of young women faced with cancer and the early menopause often accompanying chemotherapy. Working with Moffitt researchers, he is analyzing what factors motivate cancer specialists to counsel their patients about fertility preservation before cancer treatment.

Keefe’s team is also looking for new ways to reliably freeze eggs. Success at freezing and thawing women’s eggs has been challenging, mainly because human eggs contain much more water than sperm or embryos. As a result, there’s more risk of the chromosome-filled fibers within the eggs being shattered by ice crystals. What the researchers find could help young women diagnosed with cancer gain new options for having children later in life instead of accepting infertility from chemotherapy treatments.

Unlike men who produce sperm throughout life, a woman is born with all the eggs she will ever produce. Some of Keefe’s fellow scientists argue that age-related infertility may be an inevitable fact of life for women. Keefe challenges that assumption, acknowledging some bias.

“My mother was a working woman who oversaw the staff at the Boston office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,” he says. “She didn’t meet and marry my dad, a widower with four kids, until she was 39. She had me when she was 41, and my baby sister at age 46.”

He argues that people widely accepted that heart attacks struck men in their 50s, until research showed it was the result of specific, often preventable diseases.

Scientific advances in female infertility will ultimately benefit women of all ages who want to bear healthy children, he adds. “Understanding the basic mechanisms of infertility will not just help the 43-year-old woman who did other things in life before deciding to start a family, but also younger women who want to get pregnant and can’t.” ■

Oh Baby!

ON JANUARY 11TH, THE STAGE was set for a reunion—the sweetest kind. The centerpiece of the photo shoot would be a 4-month-old baby boy, surrounded by his mom, dad and the team of doctors who made their dream of becoming a family come true.

“Here’s our hero!” exclaimed Donald Archambault the second he saw embryologist Dr. Ying Ying. Moments later, more laughter and smiles from Donald and his wife Dawn, together with the doctors who worked on their case from USF IVF – the In Vitro Fertilization & Reproductive Endocrinology program at USF Health.

“Oh my goodness, look how big he is,” said Dr. Shayne Plosker. “The last time you saw him, Ying, he was only 5 to 8 cells!” jokes Plosker, division director.

After undergoing two costly in vitro fertilization procedures elsewhere and a devastating miscarriage, the Archambaults found hope in late 2006 in a newspaper article about Dr. David Keefe. Keefe had just moved to Florida to lead the College of Medicine’s Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

What followed was a battery of tests to identify what was medically wrong with the reproductive systems of both husband and wife. For several months, Keefe focused on treating the causes of the couple’s infertility before another run at IVF.

For Dawn, motherhood came within her reach in December 2006. “I remember the exact dates!” she says, “On December 13th the embryos were taken out. December 18th, they put ‘em



Baby David brings joy to Dawn and Donald Archambault.

back in.” Plosker retrieved the eggs from Dawn’s ovaries. Ying, director of the IVF Laboratory, spent hours under the microscope searching for the healthiest sperm to inject directly into each of Dawn’s eggs. He used a specialized procedure called ICSI—short for Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection. The final step was left to Keefe—transferring the embryos into Dawn’s uterus.

Several weeks later, success.

“I kept testing at home to see if I was pregnant yet,” says Dawn, adding that she went through six home pregnancy tests. “I still feel like I’m living in a dream.”

Baby David was born in September.

“Infertility treatment is different than many other kinds of treatment in the sense that it’s very prolonged and involves many different steps,” explains Keefe.

USF IVF began in September 2006. By December 2007, the team treated 89 patients with IVF cycles that included egg retrieval and sperm collection. To date, the USF IVF clinical pregnancy rate at 50 percent, stands above the national average of 40 percent for women under the age of 35.

“We’re now seeing our first patients, who’ve completed IVF cycles, come back to visit us with their babies”, says Christine Kilfoyl, RN, the program’s nurse coordinator, “Baby David is one of our early ones.”

Truth be told, not every story comes with a happy ending. At USF IVF, the journey to potential pregnancy is made with reverence. The team of doctors is squarely focused on patients as human beings in need, not paying customers.

In April, the Archambaults had another reason to celebrate. With the help of specialists at USF IVF, Dawn is pregnant again. Their message for other couples is simple—“Believe,” says Donald. “If you want any chance of a baby, this is where you should go.”

For more information about USF IVF visit www.usfivf.com

– Lisette Campos



Drs. Ying Ying, David Keefe and Shane Plosker reunited with baby David and his parents in January.

Lifelong Lear

Vibrant community engagement endeavor satisfies seniors' passion for learning.

BY MARY BETH ERSKINE

IN *THE SYMPOSIUM* WHY DOES PLATO have Socrates speak through the fictional female goddess, Diotima, about love instead of directly, himself?"

A challenging question, it's just one Patrick DeMarco raises during a Great Books Roundtable. Following his questions, students eagerly offer high-level, thoughtful interpretations with unaffected candor and keen insight. It leads to lively debate filled with good-natured dissension, natural camaraderie and frequent spurts of laughter.

A graduate literature class? Only if you consider the students are graduates of the school of life and experience.

On a corner of the USF campus resides what Ara Rogers, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USF (OLLI) refers to as a scholar's "Shangri-la"—a university free from the tensions of traditional academia caused by tests, credits and grades—a haven where students learn for the pure joy and love of learning and instructors share extraordinary knowledge and expertise for free. It's a community that offers warmth and friendship and, on occasion, even romance.

OLLI-USF includes more than 1,000 members ranging in age from 50 to 90. This impressive community participation is a reason why USF was one of only nine universities across the country to receive a \$1 million endowment from The Bernard Osher Foundation last December to advance lifelong learning opportunities for older adults in the Tampa area. Demonstrated success and university support were other key reasons for the award.

In fact, USF's overall engagement with the community, a major strategic direction, was recognized at the

national level in 2006 by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching when the university was among the first higher-education institutions in the country, and the only one in Florida, to receive the "Engaged" designation.

"As an engaged university, USF continues to develop both credit and noncredit programming that serves the needs of the growing Tampa Bay region," says Kathleen Moore, associate vice president of Academic Affairs and Educational Outreach. "The Tampa Bay region is currently a major destination of choice for 50-plus baby boomers and will remain so over the next decade. OLLI-USF will continue to play an important role in USF's outreach to the community in general and this new and growing segment of our population in particular."

While senior-targeted programs at USF date back to 1993, OLLI-USF was established in 2005 following an initial Osher Foundation grant. Today, the institute comprises Learning in Retirement, which offers study groups in the arts, science and humanities, SeniorNet technology education courses, a computer users' support group, Lunch and Learn lecture programs, day trips, special events and socials.

The heart of the institute, however, is its volunteers who give their time, creativity and energy to make as many as 200 academic courses available to members—volunteers such as David Henry who has been involved since 1993 and is one of the original computer instructors and Donna Gilbert, a 10-year member who came to OLLI-USF to learn about computers and quickly became a technology instructor herself.

ners

JOSEPH GAMBLE



Volunteer Cy Gampen and instructor Bob Capellini assist an OLLI-USF student in an introductory computer class.



“OLLI is not a program for seniors,” says Rogers. “We create the opportunities and provide the training and venue for seniors to have a program. USF is a resource, giving them information and empowering them to make their own decisions.”

It’s a philosophy that has attracted extraordinary people, most with degrees or multiple degrees, all with incredible life experience, and all breaking any stereotypes about retirement and rocking chairs.

According to Joseph McAuliffe, OLLI-USF coordinator, “New studies are showing that the brain continues to make new cells as we age, but they need to be nourished. So the time in life when many people become more sedentary is really the time when we need to be exploring intellectually.”

Exploring is something that comes naturally to OLLI-USF member Adele McCollum. “I want to know everything,” she says with a slight smile and a twinkle in her eye. “For me, learning is exciting. It’s fun. It’s like being a detective finding things out.”

Inquiry has been a lifelong pursuit for the former professor of philosophy and religious studies at Montclair State

University. Like many retirees, she relocated to Florida for its weather and discovered more than sunshine to warm her days. At OLLI-USF, she found a place to feed her passion for knowledge.

OLLI’s extensive range of intellectually stimulating courses are led by volunteer instructors with distinguished careers—professors emeritus, retired business executives, doctors and military leaders. Fluent in French and Italian, Kathryn Wylie, for example, taught French and humanities at Hillsborough Community College. Her classes at OLLI-USF, including a Brief History of Italian Renaissance Art, always draw a devoted crowd. So does Geopolitics Today led by John Gary, retired U.S. Marine Corps brigadier general, and Mike Pheneger, retired U.S. Army colonel and intelligence officer. Technology classes are taught by those who, during their careers, were on the leading edge of information technology including retired IBM and GTE systems experts.

Like rock stars, some instructors such as Susan Bottom have become legendary and have a fiercely loyal following. “Whenever we get the course catalog and see her name on a class, we know that’s the one we’re taking,”



JOSEPH GAMBLE

says OLLI-USF member Terrill Hameroff.

The reason for Bottom's tremendous popularity is that not only is she an expert historian but a masterful storyteller and an entertaining instructor. Her face bright with energy, she interjects snippets of humor and personal asides as she skillfully strings together anecdotes, little-known historical facts and insightful perspectives to create original courses such as Countdown to Revolution. Her "groupies" are a testament to the innate teaching ability of an insatiable lover of American and British history who was never formally trained as an educator—nor has a degree in history—but rather spent a 30-year career as a civilian logistician for the military.

"It's so much fun for me to be able to design classes that pique my own interest, and then to be so energized by the heart and imagination of these people," she says. "They're hungry to learn, and I think that's because we value education and learning more as we get older. We see that learning does more than just teach us new things about a particular subject matter. We see that in the long run, learning matters because it teaches us about life."

A subject about which you're never too old to learn more. ■

An opportunity to see "the beauty in people"

Three years ago, Belinda DuMont retired from a challenging position as a Wall Street business analyst and moved to Tampa. While she had never even visited the area before, she knew USF could help feed her love of learning. So, one of the first things she did after getting settled was to begin taking classes through OLLI-USF. The busyness of life intervened, but after a short time, Belinda felt pulled back to the group. "I noticed then that everyone seemed so alert and considering things so carefully. They had been moving and changing and growing, and I hadn't. I wanted that—to grow and use my mind and to hear what others have to say."

Now others want to hear what DuMont has to say, particularly in the Great Book Roundtable classes where she finds tremendous "decency in discussion," she says.

"Learning is truly a love affair of the mind. These classes are a wonderful opportunity to see the beauty in other people."

Feeding a hunger for history

"I've loved history since the day I was born," says Jerry Aaron, an OLLI-USF member for six years. "So once I discovered Susan Bottom's classes, I was hooked. She's so knowledgeable and entertaining. She doesn't teach the standard information. She goes off the beaten path."

Aaron's own life has been a bit off the beaten path. A U.S. Postal Service employee for 28 years whose life circumstances never enabled him to complete a college degree, he spent most of his career as a superintendent at the Beverly Hills post office in California. There he rubbed shoulders regularly with celebrities like Fred Astaire, Jack Palance and Neil Simon. Retiring to Florida, a brief attempt at part-time retail work left him unsatisfied, so he turned to OLLI-USF.

"When you get older, you have to keep your mind going. It's so important to get out and meet people and learn new things. I get up in the morning and I'm so happy I have something worthwhile to do. I love coming to class."

What a Bre



JOSEPH GAMBLE



ak

For a growing number of USF students, spring break is an opportunity to engage in community service and experiential learning while building lifelong friendships.

BY ANN CARNEY

SPRING BREAK. It's the last hurrah before final exams, time off for hard work.

But for more than 200 USF students, this year's spring break wasn't about sun and sand. This year's break was all about service—about becoming engaged in communities struggling with issues ranging from AIDS and homelessness to child abuse and environmental preservation.

Opting for an "Alternative Spring Break," the students traveled in teams of 10 to 15 students to 19 locations through-

out the United States and to Costa Rica to perform community-based service projects while learning first-hand about some of the social problems facing communities today.

"Alternative breaks have always been powerful experiences for me and I have become 'addicted' to both the service and leadership aspects," says Sriram Madhusoodanan, a senior who traveled to the nation's largest homeless shelter, the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) in Washington, D.C., for his third alternative break. The trip, he says, changed his perspective.

USF ranks first in Florida and fifth in the nation for Alternative Spring Break participation.

“While at the CCNV, we heard many of the stories of the people staying there. The question we were asked to consider after all this was what our story was going to be. And that’s the tragic thing about it. If this problem of homelessness isn’t addressed by our generation, then in all likelihood, one or more out of our group will end up being homeless.”

Now in its seventh year at USF, Alternative Spring Break is organized by the Center for Civic Engagement & Volunteerism, part of the Division of Student Affairs, through its membership with Break Away, a national non-profit organization. The organization supports the development of quality alternative break programs by providing training and information to colleges, universities and non-profit organizations interested in creating lifelong active citizens through intensive service-learning programs.

The center’s director, Amy Simon, led the first alternative break in 2001. “To see where it’s gone from then to now is just amazing,” she says. “This year we turned away more people than we could accept.”

In fact, according to Break Away, USF ranks first in Florida and fifth in the nation for Alternative Spring Break participation. “USF is amazing in so many ways, says Executive Director Jill Piacitelli. “They’re a relatively new member and have just exploded into a large, high-quality program driven by student leaders.”

Simon says the growing interest in service breaks has led to the creation of alternative summer breaks, weekend breaks and international breaks. This year alone, the USF center will sponsor 29 breaks in all. Students pay fees ranging from \$150 to \$400 to cover travel, lodging and food. For international trips, students pay \$1,200.

Junior Stacey Bruton liked the idea of an adventurous spring break that would involve hard labor. Moved by a past experience watching a loggerhead sea turtle lay her eggs, she quickly jumped on an alternative break in the Florida Everglades.

“Our group volunteered at Biscayne National Park and the Everglades Outpost. Our mission, while working



Robin Medicus and Rachael Tackett tutor elementary schoolers at Centro Campesino Farmworker Center in Florida City.

with the Biscayne National Park, was to clean Elliot Key so that the sea turtles will have a safe, clean place to nest come April.”

Bruton says she loved the feeling of making a difference beach by beach.

“I never realized the amount of trash that is disposed of by humans into the ocean. When our boats first pulled up onto the beach, every participant’s jaw dropped. There was so much trash and debris on the beach one could not even see the sand. I think my perspective was changed just on life. As we were working, I felt like we were only scratching the surface of a larger issue of humanity,” she says, adding that in three days alone, the group collected



JOSEPH GAMBLE

more than 150 bags of trash. “It felt gratifying when we pulled away from the beaches and all one could see was clean, white sandy beach.”

Kara-Kaye Robinson, a sophomore majoring in medical technology, echoed Bruton’s surprise about the condition of the beach environment. “I knew before going on this trip that the human race was doing some serious damage to the environment, but to actually see the filth on the coast of the islands first-hand and then trudge through the plastics and tires and broken bottles and used needles and miles of buried ropes and other unimaginable things that I could not even see, I became enraged.”

Across the country, junior Vanessa LaFrance was

learning important lessons during her first alternative break working in a local food bank and participating in various activities for the AIDS Project Los Angeles. “The most important things I learned during the week are that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate; it affects all races, all genders and all classes,” she says. “And no matter how much you think you know about HIV/AIDS, never think you’re immune to it. It only takes that one time and that one time can ruin your life.”

LaFrance says the experience opened her eyes. She’s learned to dismiss the common stereotypes associated with the virus.

Junior Patrick Bertrand chose AIDS Project Los



Above: USF students clean the beach at Elliot Key to improve habitat for nesting sea turtles. Right: Camile Bailey, Lauren Davis, Lilleth Bailey and Omid Zanjani serve at the nation's largest homeless shelter in Washington, D.C.

Angeles for his third alternative break. “I chose the trip because I felt this would be a great opportunity to impact someone's life directly.” He returned with a greater awareness of the disease. “The most important thing I learned is that AIDS is a bigger problem than most people perceive and that we all should take the issue more seriously.”

Senior Ashley Showalter, who considers herself semi-knowledgeable about the ins and outs of the country's social system, says her alternative break in Washington, D.C., brought to light some issues she was unaware of.

“At our specific site, CCNV, they no longer have an advocate for homeless policy changes. Policy changes are very important, especially in this area. I feel that we really need to find people who are not afraid to advocate for homeless people, and use their voice, knowledge and passion to see that changes happen on the larger scale.”

In Miami, biology major Robin Medicus put her past experience working with Spanish-speaking children in Mexico to use at Centro Campesino, a South Florida organization dedicated to improving the lives of migrant farm workers.

“I learned about the difference that a few motivated

people can make in the community. We were only with the organization for a week, but in that time we served the people around us to the utmost of our abilities and I really feel like we made an impact,” she says. “We didn’t do anything spectacular—we just painted some walls and spent time with the kids after they got out of school—but the very fact that we took the time to do these things at all shows that we care.”

Senior Rachael Tackett, a site leader for the Centro Campesino break, says the final day of her break made it all worthwhile. “The best part of the trip was the day that we left. Centro Campesino had a thank you luncheon for us and thanked us for our hard work. Finally, we had to say goodbye to the kids we had been helping all week long. There were tears of sorrow, but also of pride and joy because we saw the difference we had made in each of their lives. All we had done was tell them what a good job they had done and encouraged them to work harder; it made a world of



JOSEPH GAMBLE



difference," she recounts. "On the ride back to Tampa, we reminisced about the life-changing experience all of us had and vowed to continue to volunteer."

In May, Tackett will fly to Costa Rica for another alternative break. She'll bring with her an important lesson she learned from her spring break experience:

"I learned that it is just not young exuberance or delusional naiveté to believe that we can make the world a better place—it really can happen. I saw with my own eyes that anything is within reach." ■

2008 USF Alternative Spring Breaks at a Glance

Health & HIV/AIDS

- LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, Memphis, TN
- AIDS Project Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
- God's Love We Deliver, New York City, NY
- Project Angel Food, Los Angeles, CA

Seniors

- Project Extend (Wesley Community Centers), Atlanta, GA
- CASA, Birmingham, AL

Poverty & Hunger

- The Community for Creative Non-Violence, Washington, D.C.
- Boston Living Center & the Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston, MA
- Catholic Charities, New Orleans, LA
- Part of the Solution, Bronx, NY
- Deborah's Place, Chicago, IL

Environment

- Biscayne National Park, Florida City, FL
- Cumberland Trail, Crossville, TN
- Volunteer Visions, Samara, Costa Rica

Immigrants & Farm Workers

- Highbridge Community Life Center, Bronx, NY
- Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Miami, FL

Youth & Education

- My House, Atlanta, GA
- Tara Hall Home for Boys, Georgetown, SC
- The Empowerment Group, Kensington, PA

Like Family

For Kay and Fred Meyer, USF is like family, and they love to take care of family.

WHEN KAY AND FRED MEYER'S son, Corey, graduated from high school in 1997, the philanthropic couple realized they probably wouldn't be using the family motor coach as often anymore—a tour bus they'd used over the years to transport Corey and other members of the Gaither High School band to area events and competitions. But then they had an idea—why not use the bus to help raise funds for USF?

It was hardly the start of their nearly 20-year relationship with USF, but just the sort of thing you would expect once you meet Kay and Fred—once you enter their home and instantly become a friend.

“We care about USF. And when people care, great things start to happen.”

– Fred Meyer

Kay and Fred Meyer are owners of Southern Precision (formerly Southern Laser), an advanced positioning technology company that serves the construction, survey and agricultural markets. The 25-year-old, family-run business sells products that automate construction machinery using GPS technology.

The Meyers' relationship with USF began in the early 90's when Fred, a founding board member and then president of Lake State Bank, hired Robert Anderson, associate

dean of the College of Business, to conduct a market study for the financial institution. “Our relationship with Bob and his wife, Donna, grew,” recalls Fred. And so too, did their relationship with the university.

When it came time for college, Corey selected USF. “He could go anywhere,” says Fred. “He chose USF on his own. He felt he would get the best education there.” In 2001, Corey graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Today, he is an integral part of the family business.

“He challenged us to a new level of professionalism,” says Fred. “He took on the marketing and we saw a major change in business from the professionalism he brought. He learned all that from USF.”

“The professors encouraged him to be himself, to be an individual,” adds Kay. “He wanted to learn and USF enabled him to embrace that desire.”

Over the years, Kay and Fred have given generously to the university. They are Life Members of the John and Grace Allen Giving Society and Iron Bull-level donors to USF Athletics. They have donated to the College of Business, and a classroom bears their name. So, too, does an endowed music scholarship in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

On several occasions, music students from the college





have performed in their home. “We love to showcase their amazing talents,” says Kay, who calls herself a “band person.”

“We care about USF,” adds Fred. And when people care, great things start to happen.”

Ask what they get in return, and Kay’s eyes sparkle. She taps a hand over her heart. “To be able to give is just so rewarding. It just fills your heart up.”

“We have had so much fun with USF. The people—they are family to us.”

Fred chimes in: “Kay and I come from meager backgrounds. We had all we needed, not all we wanted,” he says. “As we grew, we saw what can happen from other people’s generosity. We said we have to do more.”

But they never talk numbers. “It’s not about the dollars,” Kay insists. “You give what you can—whether it’s \$10 or \$10,000.”

Kay and Fred’s passion for USF extends to its athletic programs as well. They have floor seats for USF basketball and are fixtures at Bulls football games.

“Doug Woolard has done the right thing,” says Fred.

“Football is in great shape. As we continue to win, the program will continue to grow. Now we need to focus on basketball. Stan Heath is a great coach and it’s time for the facilities to possess the same excellence. Fortunately, USF is already taking the steps to make this a reality.”

At some point the conversation turns to family. In this home, it’s inevitable. Smiles beam at you from pictures on the walls, pictures on counter tops. The more recent ones are of Corey and his wife Alisha’s new baby daughter, Katie. “She’s the apple of our eye,” exclaims Kay. “We love her so much.” Fred shows you the not-yet-framed picture of Katie and the Easter bunny one more time. Rumor has it, he keeps about 50 pictures of her on his iPhone.

No one would have to convince you it’s a happy life.

Then Fred sums it all up as the interview winds down: “You just have to remember three things,” he says, ticking off with his fingers. “Love, love and more love.”

— Ann Carney



National Hosts

IF YOU THOUGHT THE BIG-TIME ATHLETIC EVENTS around USF ended with the football season at the Sun Bowl, you have been missing out.

The Bulls have hosted national audiences in baseball, softball and basketball this spring.

The baseball team was hand-selected by George Steinbrenner and company to square off with the Yankees in their Spring Training opener. The Bulls came out on the short end of an 11-4 decision, but senior Eric Bowman permanently wrote his name in USF lore by hitting a grand slam off Yankee reliever Kei Igawa.

The softball team had the privilege of hosting the real America's Team on March 8 as part of the USF Under

Armour Invitational in Clearwater. The Bulls toed the rubber against the USA Softball National Team in an exhibition game. The hometown team suffered an 18-0 defeat, but the memory of sharing the field with superstars Cat Osterman and Jennie Finch will not soon be forgotten.

The spotlight shifted to the hardwood in late March and early April when USF served as the host institution for the First and Second Rounds of the Men's NCAA Tournament and the Women's Final Four.

The undertaking of hosting March Madness was several years in the making—from the initial bid to the First Round game on March 21.

It was worth the wait.

March 21 will not soon be forgotten by any college basketball fan. It was literally a record day as two No. 12

seeds and two No. 13 seeds pulled off upsets over their heavily favored opponents.

The day began with an overtime contest between Western Kentucky and Drake (picture on left). Drake came into the contest as one of the best stories of the college basketball season. WKU left as the biggest story of the tournament thanks to a last-second, buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Ty Rogers that gave the Hilltoppers the dramatic win.

Underdogs San Diego, Sienna and Villanova followed course throughout the day and had the national media buzzing about what they dubbed as "Tampa Turmoil."

Never before in the history of the NCAA Tournament have four underdogs won at one site on the same day.

Two weekends later, USF was back at the St. Pete Times Forum hosting what many declared the best Final Four field in tournament history.

With over 600 credentialed media members in attendance, the opening night began with Stanford pulling a convincing upset over powerhouse Connecticut and ended with eventual-national champion Tennessee winning at the buzzer over LSU.

The Lady Vols went on to defeat Stanford for their second consecutive national title, but the headlines weren't done. The next morning the WNBA held its draft in Tampa and the first three picks were Tennessee's Candace Parker, LSU's Sylvia Fowles and Stanford's Candice Wiggins.

— Chris Freet



Lead Gift

TAKING THE LEAD on a basketball center for the men's and women's programs, USF alumni, civic leaders and local philanthropists Pamela and Leslie Muma have given the USF Athletics department a \$3 million gift.

"This lead gift for a basketball center for our men's and women's programs will change the face of USF basketball for perpetuity," says USF Athletics Director Doug Woolard. "A new home, including practice gyms, locker rooms, meeting room space and offices will provide the partnership our basketball student athletes deserve." In recognition of the Muma's generous gift, USF will seek to name the basketball center in their honor.

Long-time supporters of the university, the Mumas have gifted more than \$9.8 million to USF. Combined with state matching funds, their USF philanthropy to date totals \$15.3 million.

NFL Pro Day

On March 7, approximately 30 NFL scouts, coaches and player personnel directors converged on the USF football practice fields to get a first-hand view of the 2007 class of Bulls football players during NFL Pro Day. Leading that class was Bradenton native Mike Jenkins (pictured), who had spent the majority of his time since January 1 in what was basically an extended interview with all 32 NFL teams. The longest interview of his life paid off on April 26, when Jenkins was the first USF player ever taken in the First Round of the NFL Draft. Jenkins was chosen by the Dallas Cowboys with the 25th pick.

Trae Williams was the second USF cornerback taken in the 2008 Draft. He will start his professional career with the Jacksonville Jaguars, who drafted Williams with the 24th pick in the fifth round of the 2008 NFL Draft.



Susan MacManus: The Student's Professor

SUSAN A. MACMANUS, DISTINGUISHED University Professor of Public Administration and Political Science in the Department of Government & International Affairs, is the most quoted political commentator in the state, and among the top five most widely quoted in the nation. She has appeared on every major broadcast and cable network in the country as well as major networks in London, Tokyo, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Finland.

In 2004, *Florida Trend* Magazine named MacManus one of the 174 Most Influential Floridians for her "...top flight research..." on political matters. She is author or co-author of more than 20 books (including two Florida history books with her mother), 100 journal articles, 65 book chapters, 46 invited articles, 87 reports and monographs and 15 book reviews, to name a few. In 2005, she was part of the WFLA NewsChannel 8 team that received the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence on Television Political Journalism, and in 2007, she was honored with the Woman of Distinction Award from the American Association of University Women.

Yet, for all her national renown, MacManus, the daughter of a citrus-growing family in Pasco County, seems to relish most her time with students. She never shies away from a freshman class and calls her nearly 15-year term as faculty advisor for Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, the "one thing most rewarding to me personally."

MacManus received her master's degree from the University of Michigan, and both her undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Florida State University. She joined the faculty of USF in 1990, and in 1999, was named Distinguished University Professor.

USF: You've been called a Florida Cracker. Tell me about your Florida roots.

MacManus: I was born in Tampa. My grandfather was the first permanent settler of Lutz and today I live on the prop-

erty he owned in Land O'Lakes. Dad traveled across Florida and each summer, my Mom would take us to a different part of the state. Between the two, I learned Florida from top to bottom.

USF: How did you first become involved in politics and government?

MacManus: I have a large extended family—everyone from a railroad union political leader to a Baptist minister, and my parents belonged to different political parties. It made me be able to listen to different viewpoints without getting angry. I grew up around heated political discussions and public events. My grandfather was a Pasco County school trustee. Politics is in my blood.

USF: How has the media's role in government changed over the years?

MacManus: The media are now the most important means for government to relay its priorities to the public. The interactive media has made government more transparent and accessible to people. The downside is that media itself has become more ideologically segmented.

USF: How has the Internet changed the electoral process?

MacManus: In several ways. The Internet makes no distinction between fact and fiction. If people don't have the educational acumen to check things out, they may fall prey to inaccuracies and be swayed by lies about candidates. On the positive side, there is 24-hour message streaming. The Internet meshes together electronic and print media in a way that is accessible to most people. It allows candidates to get out their platform in more visual, engaging forms and in their own words.

JOSEPH GAMBLE





Quick Takes

State politics or national: Both

Newspaper, TV or Internet: All of the above

One book everyone should read: One on a subject they love

Greatest Florida landmark: An orange grove in bloom

Most memorable election: 2000 — I got no sleep for 30-some hours

MacManus: A lot of interaction. I insist that students are respectful of other people's viewpoints and emphasize that success in politics requires coalition-building. And, I require my Florida Politics students to work in campaigns of their choice. I tell them "You are lucky to have a 50-yard line seat in the swing part of the nation's premier swing state. Go study it up close...and have fun!"

USF: What is the most important thing you teach your students?

MacManus: To be good citizens. They have a responsibility to contribute back to their community. Sometimes that just means being informed and voting. And I teach them that choice is integral to democracy. If you don't have choice, you don't have democracy.

USF: Tell me about the recent presidential straw poll at USF.

MacManus: We've been conducting campus straw polls since 1998. This year's was sponsored by the National Political Science Honor Society, the Honors College and student government. We received a lot of media coverage. More than 1,800 students participated—you could gauge the excitement in this path-breaking election.

USF: Anything else?

MacManus: Some people want to be remembered as a "professor's professor." When I do retire someday, my wish is to be described as a "student's professor."

— Ann Carney

USF: You are among the most quoted political commentators in the nation. How did that happen?

MacManus: Being in a key state is critical; everything comes back to Florida. Very few political scientists study Florida politics and the state's ever-changing demographics, yet everyone wants to know about our battleground state—a major player in national politics.

USF: How would you describe your teaching style?



JOSEPH GAMBLE

The USF Bulls had the experience of a lifetime in February, taking the field against the New York Yankees in the pro team's first game of the spring season. USF right fielder Mike Consolmagno gets high marks from Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter during the game which had a final score of 11-4, in favor of the Yankees.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
& MARKETING
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave., ADM271
Tampa, FL 33620-6300

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Tampa, Florida
Permit No. 257