Remembering Van . . .
In Our Midst

Photo from an article by Steve Gronemeyer in the SPBC’s Wheel News, Oct/Nov/Dec 2009.
Tomorrow’s Leaders Symposium

April 2004
Davis Hall
PSY 4205 Experimental Design

Comments from Dr. Van Hilliard’s students:

- It is refreshing to have a teacher that genuinely cares about both the subject as well as the comprehension of the students. Thanks!

- Dr. Hilliard’s knowledge and enthusiasm combine for a very enjoyable class.

- The best Prof. I’ve had so far. When I leave class, I leave with new knowledge. This is the first class I have ever had that I have acquired and attained useful knowledge.
Campus fun - midday Tug of War competition on the waterfront (c. 1989).
Students’ Comments

• Dr. Hilliard was so interesting and thought-provoking.

• Dr. Van is so smart. I felt like I learned something new every day.

• A great learning experience. Dr. Hilliard’s presentation of material is both interesting and inspiring.
Intrepid USF St. Petersburg WHARF RATS

Our softball team treks to the annual tournament at USF Tampa in 1989.
Congratulations to the victorious Wharf Rats who played with spirit, heart, and true grit. For the honor and glory of USF St. Petersburg!

Game in March 2004

Among the many spectacular plays by WR II, Van Hillard’s (Psychology) open-handed catch at first to force the out was a sparkling gem.

The 21st Annual USF Faculty/Staff Family Picnic and Softball Tournament was held on a sizzling Saturday, March 27. And the weather was not the only thing that sizzled! From Bayboro Harbor, the USF contingent, fondly dubbed the Wharf Rats II (WR II) and Wharf Rats I (WR I) teams, won all four of their games. Because of

Photo 1989
Among VAN’s MANY athletic endeavors, was weekly softball in the local City Leagues.

Our co-ed softball team featured USFSP employees, family members and friends. We played year-round for over 16 years. VAN’s daughter DANA played on the team for a spell, too.

Stationed at first base, VAN was the formidable anchor of the team jokingly self-dubbed as the “Fightin’ Tulips” – or Tavern on the Green, or Mike Alstott’s A-Train Pizza, or Ferg’s (depending on who gave us free tee shirts or food).

In 1994, to recognize her relentlessly brilliant play, VAN was the first - and only - inductee in the Fightin’ Tulips Hall of Fame.
Dr. Hilliard, as always, is an asset to this University. She is knowledgeable and applies experimental data to the development of the class. As a person, she is thoughtful, concerned and compassionate with all of her students.
VAN, RAY and HUGH chat at the 2004 inaugural Tomorrow’s Leaders Symposium, now called the Undergraduate Research Symposium.
Van’s knowledge and love of all genres of music was legendary. She possessed over 10,000 albums!
A Student’s Perspective

Dr. Van takes a subject and brings it alive. She is knowledgeable in so many areas. She teaches so you will understand. Shows the connections and makes the links.

She’s the best!
I'm thankful . . .

I'm thankful for so many things. I'm thankful for those of you on Flickr who have enriched my life so much with your sharing of photos, thoughts, ideas and friendship. Words will fail to reveal the warmth I feel on each visit here and when I have an opportunity to do a photo shoot with you.

I chose Whipley to say thanks because he too has enriched my life. He walked around a corner near my house, a skinny little stray, and responded to my call, "Hey, little puppy." The vet subsequently described him as a whippet or Italian greyhound/dachshund mix. He loves to run and play and he has added both love and play to my life. Whipley has astounding eye-to-mouth coordination while playing ball and has no trouble catching a thrown ball while running straight away without seeming to turn his head to see the ball. It reminds me of Willie Mays in 1954 against Vic Wertz and the Indians in the World Series -- and yes, I do remember that.
I spent the morning crawling in the Tierra Verde mud. Later I went to Fort Desoto, North Beach, where I grabbed this photo just as the egret was grabbing this tidbit. The light was getting harsh so I tried to use it to create dramatic patterns.
Words and Picture by VAN:

A photo from my archives. I thought about reaching out and turning the croc slightly toward me to improve the photo but then I didn't. I still have all of my arms and legs.
Library Dean Kathy Arsenault was greatly honored by the one-of-a-kind gift her employees gave her upon retirement in 2009. Van photographed the stunning evening scene of the Poynter Library on several occasions – just to get it right, in her view.
Overnight storms had created a large table of sand beside the area where I was photographing birds at North Beach, Ft. Desoto. I saw movement to my left, looked up and this creature was coming for me at about eye level. If I have him correctly ID'd, he's Ocypode quadrata.
I don't think I've ever seen a bird as startled as this wood stork was when his prey turned out to be a stingray. I was pretty startled too but still managed to get a shot. North Beach, Fort Desoto. Wood storks are fairly common in our area but I do not see them at North Beach very often. Five of them flew in earlier today (Oct. 12). I took this photo yesterday (Oct. 11).
Forever . . . in our midst.