Acting dean takes action

By Deborah Kurelik

Karen Spear has a lot on her mind these days. As acting dean of USF St. Petersburg, she finds herself overseeing academic affairs while juggling the broader responsibilities of campus dean. It's a big job, but one Spear seems to handle well. She has a solid plan to advance the campus while she is in charge.

Her agenda is based on nourishing the existing links between the campus and Pinellas County. Her eight-point plan includes expanding curriculum to offering the public more involvement with the campus through alternative forms of education.

"I'm approaching what I'm doing now not as a place holder but as someone who is trying to move the campus forward, and with the authority to do that," she says.

Spear, a Baltimore native with a quick laugh and easy-going manner, came to USF St. Petersburg as associate campus dean in 1988. She became acting dean in August 1989 after campus Dean Lowell E. Davis suffered a stroke and later died. She has a doctorate degree in literature and psychology from American University in Washington, D.C. She formerly was an associate dean of Liberal Education and an English professor at the University of Utah. She intends to emphasize the academic diversity of the campus. The existing programs - business, education, social and behavioral sciences, arts and letters, marine science and nursing - are the campus' strong points, she says. She believes it's time to build on those strengths.

See SPEAR, Page 2

Dean Davis dies

Lowell E. Davis, 58, dean of the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus, died Sept. 30 at Bayfront Medical Center. He was hospitalized after suffering a stroke on Aug. 23.

Davis was USF's first black dean. He came to the St. Petersburg campus in August 1986 after a 17-year career at Syracuse University in New York, where he was a biology professor and an administrator. At Syracuse, he served as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, overseeing 17 schools and colleges. He did extensive research in developmental biology, electron microscopy and biochemistry. He was a full professor of biology at USF.

Davis, an energetic and enthusiastic man, once said he wanted to leave an everlasting imprint on the campus.

"I want to feel that I have made my mark, put my signature to something that is real quality," Davis said in 1986, upon accepting the USF position. He had hoped to leave a legacy to St. Petersburg.

His colleagues say he did.

"He was a strong, articulate leader for the St. Petersburg campus, and very sensitive to the role blacks should play in higher education," said Francis T. Borkowski, president of USF.

"He was a very caring human being and had a way of getting through to you almost immediately, a way of getting to the

See DAVIS, Page 9
SPEAR from page 1

"The programs that we have in place give us a kind of anchoring that provide stability," she says. "But I think we need to move beyond that."

She thinks the campus can vary and improve its traditional programs, and she is determined to innovate liberal arts studies.

She wants to start with programs such as the National Writing Project, a collaboration between higher education and public education for the research and teaching of writing. It began in the early 1970s as a San Francisco Bay area project but has since spread to 48 states and several international sites.

Spear, a former writing project director at the University of Utah, is seeking grants to establish a program here by this summer in cooperation with the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

If she succeeds, the campus would hold an intensive summer institute in writing, the distinctive feature of the NWP. Public school teachers in Florida, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, would be selected by invitation only. Essentially, the participants learn to teach writing by learning to become writers themselves.

"It's a very different way to think about writing," Spear says. "Instead of people who are non-writers lecturing to people on how one writes, it tries to look at writing from the inside out."

USF St. Petersburg already offers several annual writing conferences, including the Suncoast Young Author's Conference, Teacher's Writing Conference and the Florida Suncoast Writer's Conference.

"If St. Petersburg is chosen as a NWP site, the distinction would consolidate the campus' identity as a place that cultivates writing and literacy," she says.

Spear already has accelerated new liberal arts programming at USF St. Petersburg.

For the first time, the campus is offering four new courses, each with an interdisciplinary spin. A course in women's studies looks at American women from 1877 to the present, and examines the changes women's roles have taken. A 19th century art history course is scheduled, along with a course on the geology of Florida.

But the gem of the spring offerings is a course on cities and their role in human affairs. It is being presented as a free public lecture series that features nationally known speakers on topics from urban culture to social change.

Spear hopes the series will arouse wide community participation.

"It's the kind of program a university ought to be doing. I'm eager to try to attract and sustain a continued audience for the programs. As St. Petersburg is poised for major redevelopment, the lecture series offers a timely and significant perspective to what lies ahead."

A longtime liberal arts advocate, she is devoted to advancing liberal studies throughout undergraduate education. Though the campus has offered such courses in the past, the effort was scattered. Students were apt not to know what a liberal arts course was, or realize its importance in the long run.

"Liberal education...helps students feel empowered - to be agents in the world and not passive members of a society that acts on them."

Spear combatted that by masterminding a liberal arts catalog that details what liberal arts courses are available at the Bayboro campus. She is targeting it toward community members and St. Petersburg Junior College students, part of her initiative to strengthen the connection between USF St. Petersburg and SPJC.

About 300 SPJC students enroll at USF St. Petersburg each year, compared to the 14,000 students who graduate from the junior college each year.

"Many of the SPJC students graduate from vocational training courses, but I'd like to see a higher percentage of SPJC students transferring to this campus."

To that end, Spear is urging meetings between SPJC and USF academic advisors.

"Junior college advisors will be better equipped to promote the campus to transfer students, and junior college faculty will be more aware of upper division possibilities for their freshmen and sophomore students."

Spear also aims to reinvigorate the master's of liberal arts program at USF St. Petersburg. Although the program was never well-promoted and attracts few students, Spear contends it offers a "wealth of intellectual challenges for adults interested in continuing their education."

Spear is president of The Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS), one of the country's oldest liberal arts organizations. AGLS sponsors professional activities and programs that encourage excellence in classroom teaching and curricular innovation.

"Liberal education in its simplest form is an education that frees the mind from ignorance, and in doing so prepares students to solve problems in their personal, professional and public lives," Spear says. "It helps students feel empowered - to be agents in the world and not passive members of a society that acts on them."

Her agenda also includes tapping into the faculty's energy to encourage them to devise courses and programs that will be genuinely exciting to them.

"The best education comes from faculty who are passionately engaged in their subject," says Spear. "The size and collegiality of the campus needs to be exploited in order to provide more creative and innovative programs."

She has been working closely with faculty to develop just such programs. One falls under the auspices of continuing education - shorter, very focused courses worth one credit hour each - that would deal with a topic that doesn't lend itself to a full-blown course. For example, one of the possibilities is a workshop on communication skills in the workplace. Another is a workshop for parents on how to tutor their children.

The campus hopes the program would attract adult learners, especially business people and professionals. "It's an area in which the St. Petersburg campus can be more responsive to community needs and provide educational alternatives," Spear says.

Spear and the faculty also want to develop a faculty mentor program for undergraduates. The students would join in faculty research projects, something Spear says would give them a better understanding of "what a university is really all about."

The campus and Spear have a plan to re-establish the honors program, which was discontinued at the campus in 1984 when university officials made it a four-year program. Since USF St. Petersburg mainly serves only juniors and seniors, the change made it impossible for the campus' students to participate.

The other initiatives Spear has in mind include developing a business minor for students majoring in the liberal arts, and conversely, offering a liberal arts minor for business majors.

Can USF St. Petersburg be all things to all people? "I think we ought to try," she says firmly. "Instead of being a small university that tries to do what a big university does and always fails, we have to think about what we can do given the strengths that we have, as defined by the people and the resources that are available to us."

What does the campus lack? She laughs. "The same thing all universities lack - money, faculty and autonomy."

"But not direction."
Salisbury stakes past on professor's translations

Some might say that translating hundreds of pages of abbreviated Latin from a ledger written 600 years ago was a job meant only for the most motivated of scholars.

Dr. David Carr says it's more like a form of madness.

He has a right to that opinion. The ledger, containing the records of the city council meetings in Salisbury, England, covers the period from the last decade of the 14th century to the mid-15th century. After working on the ledger sporadically, but painstakingly, for 14 years, Carr has nearly completed his task.

The English version of the ledger will be published later this year, making Carr, an associate professor of history at USF St. Petersburg, the first and only scholar to have decoded the ledger. His achievement will afford a lingering gaze at medieval life in Salisbury that was not easily seen before.

"The document is probably the earliest existing city ledger in England," Carr says. "The great bulk of it is in Latin, but some bits of 15th-century French and English pepper the ledger."

That clerks wrote the ledger on paper makes it even more interesting, he says. "The paper is most likely French, since the English did not manufacture paper until the end of the 15th century." Carr now is tracking down the precise origin through the watermark on the paper.

The ledger contains common transactions and uncommon events, from elections of officers and collections of taxes, to a scandal involving the custodian of the alms house, who skimmed pious donations into his own pocket.

"Merry Olde England apparently didn't contain Salisbury," Carr says. "Incompetence and corruption also cropped up among the officers, and a number of them were removed from office. This led to the institution of rigorous and regular checks on their accounts."

Carr discovered that Salisbury contradicted other 15th-century cities. As the fourth richest city in England, Salisbury had a government with members from many segments of society. While other English cities at the time were oligarchic, roof tilers, wool workers and rich merchants all held offices in Salisbury.

He speculates Salisbury's thriving economy kept the government more democratic than elsewhere.

"Salisbury's economy survived better than its competitors. My hypothesis is that as long as it prospered, the political system remained fairly open."

When economies tightened, as they did in the latter part of the Middle Ages, English governments became more dominated by the upper class which attempted to secure their economic position through political control.

"The economic attraction of the city was seen in the quality of immigrants it had - not local bumpkins, but people from thriving cities like London and Bristol."

Salisbury boasted a thriving cloth industry and was known for its wool. It also was known for its saddles, shoes and cutlery.

The city of Salisbury, Carr found, seemed progressive in other ways. It was a planned city laid out in a grid, much like American cities. Cloth production needed water, and Salisbury was provided with plenty of it. The drainage system, established in 1225 when the city was founded, was used well into the 19th century.

"The bishops and citizens outfitted the city to be a good, comfortable and profitable place to live. It became a regional center that lasted while others declined in the 15th century."

Typical government officers included the mayor, aldermen for each quarter of Salisbury, tax assessors and collectors, and constables. Perhaps one of the more desirable jobs to have was a taster of ale, "a medieval version of the Food and Drug Administration," Carr says.

How Carr found all this information is a story in itself.

When Carr began his quest in 1976 after hearing of the ledger during a research trip to England, he was merely motivated.

But after a computer technician erased his early work, an unprecedented library strike in England hindered it and antiquated technology slowed it to a crawl, Carr is a changed man.

Now, he is driven.

"I think my compulsiveness began when a fellow medievalist pronounced this an impossible task. I picked up the gauntlet."

He set out by ordering microfilmed copies of the ledger's pages, scrutinizing the tiny squiggles of the abbreviated Latin scrawl. He couldn't devote much time to the project, but his fancy was caught, and by 1980 he had transcribed nearly one-third of the daunting ledger onto a USF mainframe computer.

Returning from a summer seminar, he was unable to call up his program on the computer. A careless technician had erased three years worth of his research because the file had been inactive for two months.

And Carr called it quits on the project. "That incident discouraged me, to put it lightly."

For a few years, Carr moved on to other research. It wasn't until 1985 that he gave the ledger a second thought. Soon he would be in the "belly of the beast" once more.

"I was retooling an article I had written about Salisbury and had to recheck the data taken from the ledger," Carr says. "And I was bewitched by it again."

This time, though, he bought a personal

See LEDGER, Page 11
USF
St. Petersburg Salutes these Community Leaders

Members of the Campus Advisory Board meet regularly with USF St. Petersburg administrators to help shape the educational and cultural mission of the campus, and enhance its development.

Louie N. Adcock, Jr.
Larry Arnold
Ronald W. Braun
Mary R. Grizzle
Robert J. Haiman
Ray G. Harrell, Jr.
Watson Haynes
Jerry T. Kendall
John B. Lake
Martha Maddux
Howard W. Nix, Jr.
Scott N. Rose
Stan Salzer
Dennis Sexton
Michael Van Buttel
1990 Campus Advisory Board

members not pictured:

Victoria K. Dunn
Douglas L. Jamerson
Thomas Mahaffey, Jr.
Marion K. Poynter
Joan Walker
David T. Welch
Anet Willingham
USF professor has inside track — on race walking

Joy Clingman has one foot on the ground at all times. As a race walker, she has to.

"If you don't, it's called lifting - which actually means you're running," says this state champion race walker who can tell you the sport is not that easy.

"When the leg goes under the body it must be straight. You'll be disqualified if it's not."

Disqualified she's never been. A winner, she is. The USF St. Petersburg psychology professor won the Sunshine State Games last summer, and ranks high in national competition for her age group.

This 55 year-old-grandmother placed in the 5k and was second in the 10k during last summer's National Master's Track and Field Championship in San Diego.

Clingman's best time in the 5k was 9 minutes, 43 seconds per mile. "There are a lot of women entering in competition who walk in the high 11s," she says. "And that's respectable."

Though she says her time of 32:00 in the 5k Sunshine State Games was lousy, she still was a minute ahead of everyone else. What pleased her about the Master's games was her time of 30:12.

"I don't see myself as all that competitive, but I like to do well. It's more important to me to have a personal best than just win."

These contests are for superfit people, of all ages. Clingman had a narrow win over a woman in the 70-74 age group during one tight race.

"It's a real crusher to see someone 70 ahead of you. But she was fast."

There is a psychology to race walking, and Clingman co-authored an article on different techniques race walkers can use to increase their times.

They either can focus on stride length, taking long steps and "striding out," or concentrate on cadence, the number of steps taken per minute.

"We wanted to see if their time would increase if we told them what to think."

For their article, Clingman and Van Hilliard studied local race walkers, including record holders, who walked four timed, half-mile segments. They found the times increased most significantly if the race walkers centered on cadence.

The results of their study will be in the March issue of The Sport Psychologist. Clingman also suggests that race walking raises self-esteem and lowers depression.

Olympic race walking, she says. The sport just now is gaining respect in this country. It's big in Boston and beginning to flourish in Miami. Race walking still is dominated by men.

Lest you think the sport is a cache for sloches who can't hack running, think again.

"Many race walkers race walk by choice, not because they can't run. It's a different sport."

There's a fine line between running and race walking. The best race walkers are right on the edge. "They're not really violating the style, but almost."

Clingman has done some running, but likes race walking better - precisely because of the style.

"At a given speed race walking is harder than running. If you run a mile in 10 minutes it's easier than race walking a mile in 10 minutes."

She says race walking is less stressful to the joints than running, but it's not injury free. Pulled hamstrings can occur among race walkers. Clingman wears running shoes because she says she hasn't yet found a suitable race-walking shoe.

Although the best runners are faster than the best race walkers, "a lot of race walkers are faster than a lot of runners."

But unlike runners, race walkers have to develop a thick skin.

"The way you wiggle when you race walk encourages some people passing by to make rude comments," she says with a laugh. "A lot of people still don't know what race walking is."
They've lost no time in attending to their "study of Indian Rocks Beach to determine sinking. We don't think Indian Rocks Beach can erode," said USGS scientist Dr. John Haines. "So we can predict future erosion and how renourishment will work."

The scientists have found, for instance, that erosion is eating Louisiana's barrier islands by as much as 70 feet per year, and taking the state's mainland with it. They've also discovered that wetlands there are disappearing at the alarming rate of 60 square miles per year, damaging the state's multimillion dollar fishing industry.

"Louisiana is a special case, and the interesting thing about it is the land is sinking. We don't think Indian Rocks Beach can erode," Haines says. "But these types of things can happen here if the sea level rose quite rapidly due to hurricanes or global warming."

The USGS is the nation's largest earth science and mapping agency and is responsible for assessing the natural resources and hazards of the country on shore and as far as 200 miles offshore. It has mapped 1.5 million square miles of these offshore areas and will complete the deep-water seafloor mapping of all U.S. coastline by 1991. The USGS also plays a major role in understanding the geologic and hydrologic consequences of global change, such as shoreline and wetland erosion brought on by global warming, sea level change and other factors.

In 1988, the USGS was intent on finding a headquarters for its expanding coastal geology program. The competition was vigorous — USF was in the running with 22 of the country's top marine science programs. The final cut included four institutions — the University of Rhode Island, a consortium of North Carolina universities, Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geologic Observatory in New York, and USF St. Petersburg.

Survey officials were lured to St. Petersburg by city and chamber of commerce representatives and USF officials who hoped to transform St. Petersburg into a nationally known center for marine research. The drawing card was USF's reputable marine science department, led by Dr. Peter Betzer. Betzer, who played a pivotal role in persuading the USGS to relocate to St. Petersburg, enlisted the support of city government and the business community when he learned the USGS wanted to move.

Betzer says his wife had the idea first that the Studebaker Building would be a great place to house the USGS. So one day he informally approached Mayor Bob Ulrich about it while "his honor" was at home weeding his yard.

"The Mayor turned to me and said, 'You've got my support on it. Let's go get 'em.' That's the same spirit everyone in the community had — it was unbelievable," Betzer says.

The city offered the USGS the Studebaker Building, an old auto dealership, as a home for the center. St. Petersburg Progress offered to renovate the two-story, 65-year-old building specifically to the scientists' specifications.

"USF was recognized as a major contributor to growth in the downtown because of its economic and cultural influences," says Marty Normile, executive vice president of St. Petersburg Progress Inc., a private, non-profit civic organization.

USF President Francis Borkowski promised to hire five new faculty members for the marine science department. After State University Chancellor Charles Reed, top USF officials and the Florida Legislature put their support behind the proposal, the "circle was closed," Betzer says.

"The USGS really didn't need anymore — they could see support on every level and see their program would evolve into a major marine research center."

Survey officials settled on St. Petersburg in the spring of 1988, and the result is a jewel of a program, the Center for Coastal Geology.

"We recognized that Florida as a state is in the forefront of awareness of coastal issues, and that's one of the main reasons we knew Florida was the place to be. St. Petersburg in particular — USF has great expertise in coastal issues, and the marine science department is here," says Dr. Robert Halley, who heads the center.

The USGS collaborates to a large degree with USF's Marine Science Department, designated as a "Center of Excellence" by the Board of Regents. Faculty and graduate students from the department work with USGS scientists on marine science research, and the government scientists regularly will give lectures as part of the USF curriculum. USGS scientists also will help serve as mentors to graduate students in the marine science and geology departments.

The USGS already is integrated in the educational fabric of the campus, Betzer says.

"It's a tremendous thing for our group," he says.

So far nine top government scientists — geophysicists, physical oceanographers and geologists — and 13 support personnel are located at the center. The USGS plans to increase its St. Petersburg staff to 30 within the next five years, including six or seven more scientists.

Halley says he gets flooded with applications from scientists around the country who hope to work at the center. But he is extremely selective about who he hires. "We look for those who have national reputations," Halley says.

Besides the Indian Rocks Beach project, USF and USGS scientists plan to work together on four other major projects in...
Dedicated to the future

Campus Activities Center Dedication
USF St. Petersburg's expanding campus now includes the new Campus Activities Center, located at the northeast corner of Sixth Avenue South and Second Street. The facility will be used for campus fitness and intramural sports programs, as well as public lectures and performing arts. The building will be dedicated Jan. 26, and the event kicks off the campus' 25th anniversary. Free posters marking the anniversary and dedication will be available. The poster includes a calendar of upcoming events at the campus. Call 893-0760 for more information.

New courses offered

The Cycle of the City

The St. Petersburg Campus of the University of South Florida invites you to join your neighbors and colleagues for an extraordinary free public lecture series and interdisciplinary course. Each Monday night, a speaker of national distinction will explore a specific question about cities and their role in human affairs. Questions and responses from local experts will probe the implications of the speakers' views for the development of St. Petersburg.

Participants may enroll in the course, for credit or audit, under any of the departments listed below. Or, simply join us each Monday night and enjoy the lecture.

January 8
Cities in American History, David Hackett Fischer

January 22
Children in Urban America, Virginia Demos

January 29
Urban Culture, William Whyte

February 5
Environmental Dollars and Sense: Dirty Air and Human Health, Victor Brajer

February 12
The City and the University, Sheldon Hackney

February 19
Social Change and Social Action, James O. Horton

February 26
Commonwealth, Common Welfare: Urban Responsibilities, David Gould

March 5
Keeping the Peace: Crime and Unrest in the City, Marvin Dunn

March 12
Urban Planning: Promises and Problems, Brian J. Berry

March 26
Urban Architecture: A Critical Assessment, Beth Dunlop

April 2
Urban Economy: Broadening the Base, Clarence N. Stone

April 9
Urban Government and Municipal Finances, Thomas Dye

April 16
Future of the City: Utopia or Dystopia? Frances Fitzgerald

Two other new courses offered are 19th Century Art and the Geology of Florida.
Advance the campus through the Dean’s Council

By Ralph L. McKay, director of development

In one of our earlier publications, I mentioned the Dean’s Council at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Since current members are now renewing their memberships, I thought it appropriate to tell you about the Dean’s Council.

The Dean’s Council is an informal organization of people helping the University to advance USF’s breadth of service.

All contributors of $500 or more annually are included. These gifts may be restricted by the donor for a specific purpose or a specific college with USF St. Petersburg.

But donors also have the option to give the Dean the opportunity to identify where private support is most important. This “where the need is greatest” fund is for those leadership opportunities that do not fall within the normal state budget guidelines:

- incentive research grants for faculty
- programs of special service in response to immediate community needs
- special recruitment efforts for nationally ranked faculty and staff in competitive situations
- travel grants for faculty and staff for professional development

- funding for public/private partnerships through research projects, philanthropy, community outreach and other service and support programs
- those other ways by which the Dean can make things happen, reward special merit, encourage improvement, set an example, solve problems

USF St. Petersburg does not ask for private support for “business as usual.” Instead, USF presents opportunities for donors to accomplish, through the University, something that is important to them.

The Dean’s Council is for those who find it important to help the University exercise leadership.

Members of the Council each year are invited to an elegant Alumni/Scholarship Dinner, hosted by the Dean.

Your membership provides these benefits:

- invitations to selected University activities and other special mailings, including the Friends/Alumni newsletter.
- USF parking permit, library card and use of USF swimming pool for family and guests.
- formal recognition at the Alumni/Scholarship Dinner.
- listing in the USF Foundation Annual Report.

Southeast Bank recently donated $50,000 in fellowships to USF’s College of Business and Department of Marine Science. The gift represents the bank’s 1989 commitment to USF. From left are Ralph McKay of USF, Dave Driggers and Bill Klich of Southeast Bank, and Dick Bowers of USF.

DAVIS from page 1

heart,” said Ralph McKay, development director of the campus.

Davis was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica, the youngest of seven children. He left the island in the mid-1950s to come to the United States, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in biology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He earned a doctorate in biology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

At USF St. Petersburg, he concentrated on expanding the campus, faculty and course offerings available to students. New buildings at the campus during his tenure include a $2.1 million Campus Activities Center, and the acquisition and renovation of the Studebaker Building which houses the U.S. Geological Survey’s Center for Coastal Geology. As dean, he strove to establish the university’s largest regional campus as a center for academic excellence.

“He worked hard to bring additional programs and courses to that campus, and was very successful in doing so,” Borkowski said.

“I appreciated his ability to speak for his campus, to develop good relationships with the community,” said USF Provost Gerry G. Meisels.

Davis was very active in the community. He recently was named chairman of the board of the Pinellas County Urban League, was a member of the board of trustees of All Children’s Hospital, and was a member of the board of governors of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the

Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp.’s advisory committee, and belonged to the St. Petersburg Rotary Club.

He also was president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association of USF.

The family suggested memorial contributions be made to the Lowell E. Davis Scholarship Fund at USF St. Petersburg.

A nationwide search for a new dean will begin later this year. Karen Spear, associate dean of USF St. Petersburg, is acting dean in the interim.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; two sons, Christian of Syracuse, and Ian of St. Petersburg; his mother and stepfather, Lena and Julius Dawes of Brooklyn, N.Y.; three brothers, Vincent and Eric Davis of Boston, and George Davis of Toronto; and three sisters, Selma Henry of Port Antonio, Lucille Duncan of Syracuse and Dorothy Davis of Toronto.
Research to protect the Keys' health

By Sue Landry

The Florida Institute of Oceanography, based at USF St. Petersburg, is coordinating the first comprehensive study of the Florida Keys and their environmental ties to the entire Caribbean Basin.

Florida's only living coral reefs — 220 miles of spectacular underwater formations south of the Florida Keys — are losing their color and dying. Sea grasses are dying, too, and pollution is clouding the sky-blue water.

Scientists have known this for years. What they don't know is why.

In a few months, pieces of an answer will start trickling in from a string of new monitoring stations from Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas. The measurements will be the start of a unique research project coordinated by a state research organization based in St. Petersburg.

Starting with a $788,600 grant from a Chicago foundation, the research project is expected to expand into the first comprehensive and coordinated study of the Keys and their environmental ties to the entire Caribbean basin.

"One of the things that hasn't been done generally in marine science is coordinated multidisciplinary group work," said Dean Milliken, assistant director of the Florida Institute of Oceanography.

The state-funded institute serves the nine public universities and a couple of private members by purchasing expensive equipment. The institute also acts as a marriage broker, connecting researchers with funding.

"What tends to happen," Milliken said, poking his finger at a map of the Keys, "is somebody studies this and somebody studies this and they don't always come together. It's very difficult to get the broad picture...."

Unprovable theories

A mysterious change in coral throughout the Caribbean basin and an embarrassing public hearing in Washington made scientists realize how little they know about the "seascape" of the area.

In 1987, "the coral, which are normally brown and green and rather colorful, turned pure snowy white," said John Ogden, director of the oceanography institute. "This was a dramatic and very startling and worrisome thing."

Scientists soon developed a number of hypotheses about what happened to the coral. Then they found out they couldn't prove their theories.

At a public hearing called by former Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., R-Conn., a scientist suggested that the coral bleaching was related to elevated water temperatures, Ogden said. "Sen. Weicker asked what the temperature was and the answer came back that no one knew."

Weicker "is not a patient man and he said, basically, 'What the hell do you mean, you don't know what the temperature is?'" remembers Ogden, who at the time was working at Fairleigh Dickinson University's West Indies Laboratory in St. Croix.

The experience led to the Keys project.

"I realized that we really do need to know what the temperature is, and we need to know a lot of other things that are routine, that are basically dull and boring to collect, but will tell us a lot about the ocean in the long run," Ogden said.

Pieces of the puzzle

Much of the Keys project is still a vision in the imaginations of institute officials. A lot of planning, lobbying and fund raising remains.

The $788,600 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago is just the beginning. The grant will pay for the monitoring equipment at the four stations in the Keys and for some related research.

The stations will collect the missing pieces in the puzzle of the Key's environmental health. Underwater monitors will measure temperature, salinity, wave heights, and oxygen in the water while above-water monitors will measure wind speed, wind direction, temperature, rainfall, and solar radiation.

The grant will also fund studies of water flow, coral growth and the effects of excessive nutrients on corals. A Georgia researcher will work to supply another piece of missing data — just how much coral is out there.

"Ironically, we're all concerned about degradation of the reefs and changes in the reefs, but we can't really even document the changes," Milliken said. "I mean, we can document it when a ship runs aground and smashes them to bits, but over the long term there's not really any good documentation of what was there, what is there, (and) what will be there...."

Already, the oceanography institute has drawn together researchers from a number of organizations, including state universities, the University of Miami, the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, the state Department of Natural Resources, and the Nature Conservancy.

Eventually, institute officials hope to expand the project to a grander scale. For instance, they are working to create a network of 12 marine research laboratories in the Caribbean basin. And they hope to combine data from those Caribbean laboratories with information from the Everglades area to paint a picture of the wide-ranging influences affecting the Keys.

Development in South Florida can have a huge effect on the Keys as pollution from development there washes south into the Gulf. Tides sweeping into the southern Gulf pick up pollutants, then deposit them on the Keys on their way out.

"The whole system comes together. This whole system can't be addressed by looking (at one spot). This whole system has to be addressed by looking at this whole interaction," Milliken said.

A public trust

None of this research will do any good unless the public knows what's going on and understands the need to protect the coral reefs, Milliken said. So some of the grant money from the Chicago foundation will be used for a public education campaign.

"The public needs to know that (the coral reefs are) unique in the United States," Milliken said. "Florida really is sort of the national curator of a very special piece of coastline. It has a responsibility not just to Floridians, but to the rest of the country and the little old lady in Alaska who wants to come some day and see a coral reef."

The reefs off the Keys are the only living coral reefs in the continental United States.

Scientists also need to find ways to convey their often-complex research to the general public so the public understands decisions that may be made to protect the reefs, he said.

"Part of what needs to be done is to translate the expertise and the understanding of the system so that we — not me and not the director of DNR and not the Cabinet — but we the people can have some educated input into the decisions that we have to make," Milliken said.

Just what those decisions will be, no one

See KEYS, Page 12
DETECTIVES from page 7

the next year. Two involve seismic surveys, or gathering data that identifies the depth of the ocean floor and the configuration of its sediment and rock layers. One will concentrate on the areas around the coral reefs in the Florida Keys, the other on the area along the Louisiana coastline.

The other two cooperative efforts concern digital mapping (taking old and new data to produce detailed maps that show shoreline erosion of a specific part of the coastline over a period of years) and remote sensing, or satellite-produced imagery of coastlines. USF and USGS scientists will digitally map the Louisiana shoreline, and begin the remote sensing of coastlines in Alabama and Mississippi.

The USGS and USF are sharing equipment and the USGS is upgrading some of the equipment USF uses to conduct research. Because remote sensing is a joint project, for instance, Halley says the USGS will probably invest in improved sensing equipment for USF. And because of money made available to USF as part of the package to attract the USGS, USF was able to buy an X-ray diffractometer, a sophisticated device that determines what minerals lurk in the sediments of rocks.

Betzler says the USGS is "immensely" helpful scientifically as well as financially.

LEDGER from page 3

computer to which only he had access.

By 1987, after transcribing what he had lost, he decided there were distinct limitations to what he could get from the microfilm. The problem was much of the ledger had been damaged as a result of an 18th century fire.

Although the ledger wasn’t burned, it was doused by water that leached the ink and left huge blots on most of the pages. Carr needed to go back to England to view the ledger itself with the aid of an ultraviolet light that would raise the blotted portions into clarity.

After getting the necessary grants to fund a summer research trip, he left for Trowbridge, the county seat at Wiltshire and the location of the Salisbury archives.

It turned out to be a nervous summer. He immediately ran into a snag.

"The first day at the archives, I saw a notice that read ‘Industrial Action Planned.’ Well, in England that means industrial inaction — a strike."

In an unprecedented move, all the librarians and archivists in England went on strike. At the end of the first week, Carr panicked. He made a deal with the director of archives who agreed to send the ledger to a private museum in the next town where Carr could work unaffected by the strike.

Not that it was easy getting to the town of Devizes, a mere 15 miles away.

"I had to clamber on a bus at 7 a.m. for a journey that took more than an hour," he says. The massive, double-decker bus would trundle down narrow roads, both sides hitting hedgerows. Milk cows frequently would cross the road. "It was an interesting slice of rural life — a fly caught in amber."

The strike was settled, and Carr moved back to the Trowbridge archives. Just when things were falling into place, his laptop computer got cranky and refused to make backup copies, putting his research into peril. This in the midst of a heat wave and his bout with a cantankerous UV light.

"This light, I suspect, was invented by Thomas Alva Edison. It was a massive, heavy thing, that looked like something the Navy would use to send messages from a battle ship to a cruiser."

The all-metal lamp had no insulation on the handle and took 10 minutes to warm up. Juggling the lamp in one hand while operating his keyboard with his other, forced Carr to work in 10-minute spurts before the lamp got too hot to hold. It then took another half hour before the lamp had cooled enough to try it again.

Improvising, Carr finally bought a shapely oven mitt that helped the process. But by then a heat wave had hit England with full force. The archival reading room had no air conditioning and was only moderately supplied with fans. The combination of the lamp and the heat wave meant one drenched Carr.

He laughs about it now. Somehow, the trials spurred him on. By summer’s end, he had finished 95 percent of his task.

These days, he looks more kindly toward the ledger than he used to.

"There’s some light at the end of the tunnel, and I’m relatively sure it isn’t a train headed my way," Carr says. "But it will be a difficult 5 percent to complete, and some of it may not be recoverable at all."

After he completes the English translation next summer, he plans to start the annotation. The Wiltshire Record Society will publish an edition of the ledger.

Carr calls his efforts "yeoman labor." But thanks to him, the ledger soon will be generally available to researchers.

"It’s probably the kind of thing every historian ought to do, because so much in archives is otherwise inaccessible."
As we start the new decade, I invite you to consider a gift to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. The value of the university to the community is well known, and our $5 million dollar campaign has nearly reached the halfway mark. What you may not know is that one-half of the university's budget depends on private support. I'm asking you to participate now.

The campus has had a turbulent year. The death of Lowell Davis left us all stunned. Yet the first Alumni/Scholarship Dinner attracted over 300 people to celebrate the academic achievements of USF students and alumni . . . our superb Marine Science Department keeps getting bigger and better . . . we dedicated the Studebaker Building for the U.S. Geological Survey . . . and we finished construction of the beautiful Campus Activities Center, to be dedicated January 26.

As the year begins, I hope you will consider a gift of $500 to the Dean's Council a scholarship donation, or a gift of any amount to benefit the campus as it continues to grow.

Our campaign is a significant undertaking. Please join with us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jack Critchfield, Chairman Campaign USF, St. Petersburg

P.S. Make checks payable to USF St. Petersburg.

KEYS from page 10
knows. But they do know that protecting the reefs and the environment of the Keys will take a coordinated effort.
Ogden and Milliken have an idea about how that could be accomplished. They would like to see the state establish coastal marine management districts similar to the state water management districts that now oversee water issues in large regions of the state.
That "would let us address an area like this through a coalition of agencies, all with responsibility for management decisions," Milliken said. "If we keep on the way we are, we'll piecemeal it to death and we'll end up with nothing."
Reprinted with permission from the St. Petersburg Times.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS
140 7th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
USF St. Petersburg campus administrators:
Karen Spear
acting dean
Ralph McKay
development director
Herm Brames
director of finance and administration
Steve Ritch
director of student affairs
Sam Fustukjian
director of Poynter Library

Deborah Kurelik
editor

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
The University of South Florida is an affirmative action equal opportunity institution.

This publication was promulgated at a cost of $2,429 or .694 per copy to provide information about the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg. 186-141