Focus on the Faculty: A Red Socks Fan?
Dr. Walter Musgrove, who taught psychological foundations of education, was always seen on campus wearing his trademark red socks. One former student remembered her first encounter with Professor Musgrove: “I walked in, and here’s this crazy looking guy [wearing] rubber sandals with red socks.” He often challenged students to consider opposing viewpoints by engaging students in lively debates.

When Sonia (Forseth) Helton came to USF St. Petersburg in the fall of 1972, the College of Education had ten faculty supporting two programs, undergraduate elementary education and special education. Winston Bridges, an avid sailor, anchored his barrack’s sleeping quarters for many years of service as a Pinellas County school teacher.

The “Swinging Profs.” (also known as the “Red Hat Profs.”), including English professor Bill Garrett, played for large audiences in the A Building auditorium, during the popular— and free— fried chicken box lunches. This one took place in June 1970. These collegial gatherings of students, faculty, and staff became a hallmark for the Bayboro campus that continued for many years.

Campus Chatter . . .
“Each quarter our campus is forced to endure the dictates of Tampa and the registrar’s office as to what day registration will be. Why Tampa? Why do you pick the most unavailing day? I for one will be taking final exams from 9 to 10. Merely rescheduling the week would solve the problem.” – Bob Carr, on the conditions of faculty life in the early 1970s.

March 16, 1977:
USF St. Petersburg was initially designated the “Bay Campus.”

December 1968:
The student ACLU chapter distributed “Impeach Nixon” bumper stickers.

March 1971:
The Florida Board of Regents designated the Marine Science program as a “Center of Excellence.”

Pulse of the Peninsula: A Chronology
July 1968: Name changed from “Bay Campus” to “Bayboro Campus.”
Fall 1968: Bayboro Campus opened with approximately 630 students. For the first time, courses were offered in the colleges of Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and Engineering.
December 1968: First campus graduates (approx. 50) earned bachelor’s degrees, all in Elementary Education.
March 1971: Activists gather for a panel discussion on campus to call for an end to the draft.
April 1971: USF President Cecil Mackey attended one of the regularly scheduled chicken lunches and met with the campus community.

Late May 1971: Newspaper articles called for greater autonomy or possibly independence from Tampa.

April 1973: Snack bar was able to serve beer for the first time.
December 1975: Albert C. Hatley, vice-president of finance and planning at USF, called the Clearwater city manager to inquire about vacant land for a possible north Pinellas campus.

1974: The USF St. Pete Singers formed, organized by J. M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer to provide social service through the performing arts.

May 1974: The student ACLEU chapter distributed “Impelch Nixon” bumper stickers around campus.

Spring 1975: New Women’s Center opens on campus.

February 11, 1975: Voters in Clearwater rejected a measure that would have called for city leaders to donate a 120-acre parcel for a north Pinellas campus of USF.

December 1975: The State Cabinet and Florida Board of Regents unanimously approved a city-state land acquisition agreement that would allow for Phase I expansion of campus if approved by the city.

1976-1977: Consolidation of properties along north shore of Bayboro Harbor on site of Phase I expansion.

1976: The first Army ROTC program began in the fall (Quarter I) of 1976 with 45 students. Space limitations required that they meet at local Army Reserve facility for some of their activities.

1976: About 50 students participated in the Center for Business Research, a program to provide them problem-solving skills in the business sector as well as internships. The College of Business initiated this program through a grant received by the U.S. Small Business Administration, which also had an office on campus for many years.

1976: The campus initiated “Project Focus” as a program to attract “mature students” (age 26 to 55) for degree completion, second degrees, or lifelong learning and enrichment.

1977: The College of Nursing began offering an outreach nursing program that allowed students to earn the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Nursing by taking courses on the St. Petersburg and Sarasota campuses. This program was administered at USF St. Petersburg.

March 16, 1977: The first group of students initiated into the new Lambda Tau chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the national honor society in Education at USF St. Petersburg.

1978: The Florida Board of Regents designated the Marine Science program as a “Center of Excellence.”

June 15, 1978: Groundbreaking for Phase I Expansion of the Bayboro Campus.