Snell House moved to USF St. Petersburg

The Perry Snell House, all 80 tons of it, was moved in the dead of night to the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus Aug. 17.

The house traveled by trailer from its original site at 106 Second Ave. N. to university property at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Second Street South. It arrived about four hours overscheduled because of several mishaps, including a broken axle and a blown tire. The house, at times glowing eerily in the dark from a generator placed inside, crept through the empty streets at about 2 miles per hour.

The two-story structure will be renovated and used as a gathering place for faculty and alumni, and as an information center for visitors to the campus. The house will also be available for community use. The restoration is expected to be completed by year's end.

The house was built in 1904 by developer Perry Snell. It is eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places, and USF will apply to place it on the registry after restoration. Bay Plaza Cos. donated the house to the campus and helped defray the costs of moving it.

Moving and restoring the house has been a total community effort. Florida Power Corp., GTE, Paragon Cable and the City of St. Petersburg waived their fees for the house moving. Architect Randy Wedding will lead a volunteer design team which includes landscape architect Phil Graham, interior designer Linda Forch and Mary Wyatt Allen, president of the St. Petersburg Historical & Flight One Museum.

More than 600 graduates received diplomas from USF St. Petersburg in May. Some reflected on their time at the campus. See comments on page 7.

USF students get site, classes in north Pinellas

In the future, some USF St. Petersburg students may be going to a high school to take their college classes, but they won't have to travel to St. Petersburg to do it.

They will be taking courses at the new Palm Harbor University High School that will be open in fall 1996. Thanks to an agreement between the School Board of Pinellas County and USF, the university will be able to extend its services to the north.

"This is a great development for USF St. Petersburg," said Campus Dean H. William Heller. "It will significantly cut the travel distance of our students who now live in Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs."

USF courses in the College of Education will be offered initially. Pinellas
Student is a winner despite obstacles

Once imprisoned, Truman Scholarship recipient Cynthia Matthews-Hamad now soars.

Sometimes it may seem that hours of studying and perseverance is slow to reap immediate payoffs. But for one USF St. Petersburg undergraduate, Cynthia Matthews-Hamad, her hard work paid off doubly when she received not one but two victories in the course of a week.

Matthews-Hamad

In addition to winning a $30,000 Harry S. Truman scholarship on March 11, Matthews-Hamad achieved another victory when Kimberly Soubielle, who had been serving a 15-year prison sentence for killing her husband in 1987, was granted clemency.

Matthews-Hamad, a 33-year-old legal assistant, is a volunteer for the group which was actively pursuing Soubielle’s release, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV).

Her interest in this group is much more than superficial. Matthews-Hamad was imprisoned five years ago after being convicted for assisting her ex-husband sell cocaine.

“I was coerced to translate for him (her ex-husband could not speak English) during his cocaine deals,” Matthews-Hamad said.

After being imprisoned for two years, a federal court overturned her conviction and erased the charges from her record.

“They determined it was an illegal trial because the jury wasn’t allowed to hear my witnesses,” Matthews-Hamad said. “They were told that I translated for him, but weren’t allowed to hear why. The charges no longer exist on my record.”

She felt that refusing to help her ex-husband would have endangered her life as well as her children’s.

“I reacted to protect myself and my daughters,” she said.

Matthews-Hamad is also the co-chairwoman of the Pinellas County chapter of the Battered/Formerly Battered Women’s Caucus, a part of the FCADV, and she is a member of the Women in Prison Committee.

Winning the scholarship will aid Matthews-Hamad’s pursuit of her bachelor’s degree and her planned graduate studies.

“I’m getting my bachelor’s in psychology and will work for my master’s in clinical psychology,” she said. “What I’d like to do is be involved in a program offering a diversion program for battered women facing possible incarceration.”

Matthews-Hamad made history by winning the Truman scholarship. She is the first part-time student to receive the award since its inception 15 years ago. The scholarship is designed to assist college students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in public service. Approximately 85 students are chosen from a nationally competitive pool to receive as much as $30,000 in scholarship support.

“Cynthia has overcome special obstacles to achieve this scholarship,” said USF St. Petersburg Dean H. William Heller. “She’s determined and impressive. My hat’s off to her.”

—Lisa Provenzano

Reprinted with permission from the USF Oracle, a student-run newspaper.
Some say Gail Rassier has gone to the dogs, but the petite, vivacious 1992 USF St. Petersburg alumna doesn’t mind. In fact, she spends most of her time surrounded by dogs, cats, rodents, rabbits and various forms of wildlife.

As executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of St. Petersburg, Rassier enjoys the sights, smells and sounds which accompany her job, including the occasional cry of a male peacock parading outside her office window.

Rassier says as a child her family kept pets and she has always had a deep love for animals. But her passion heightens when she speaks of the abuse the SPCA staff witnesses each day.

“When man domesticated animals and made them his pets, he also took on an implicit responsibility to care for them,” Rassier says. “But we have left them to forage in garbage for food and drink water from the street that contains toxic residue from the chemicals we put on our lawns. They are subjected to injury on a daily basis from accidents, neglect and abuse.”

Case in point is a puppy named Taylor. The 7-week old shepherd mix was brought in by SPCA ambulance last October. Witnesses had observed the dog being thrown from a moving vehicle and subsequently being run over by an attached trailer. Upon physical examination, Taylor was found to be suffering from cardiovascular shock, multiple rib fractures, multiple lung contusions and a fractured skull. She also was severely infested with fleas. A rubber band that was wrapped around her tail eventually caused her tail to drop off. After a two-month rehabilitation at the shelter, however, Taylor was adopted into a loving home.

But not all cases have such happy endings. A cat, shot by an arrow, was brought in with a severed spine. Unable to recover from the injury, it had to be euthanized to eliminate further suffering.

“Man’s inhumanity to man spills over into man’s inhumanity to animals,” says Rassier. “Studies indicate that people who are child abusers also abuse animals. The difference is the animals have no voice and no one to speak for them.”

That is why services at the shelter include not only housing, feeding and medical care, but also cruelty investigation. The SPCA employs two full-time humane officers who manage rescue efforts and investigate reported cruelty. To date, the shelter is involved in 667 current investigations and 475 prior cases.

“When you get down to it, some people are just irresponsible whether by neglect or as a result of deliberate cruelty,” says Rassier. The SPCA tries to counter such behavior by offering a Humane Education Program which focuses on teaching children how to become responsible pet owners.

The non-profit organization, which began as the Animal Welfare League, has been serving Pinellas County since 1940. Although there are some similarities to sister organizations in the United States, Rassier says the St. Petersburg SPCA is unique in many respects.

The local SPCA has an ambulance service which provides emergency medical care 24 hours a day for sick and injured animals. Last year the shelter brought in 4,000 animals; nearly half were emergencies. These numbers represent only a fraction of the 15,000 homeless animals received annually.

Another program is the “No Time Limit” policy, which assures that animals will be maintained until they can be adopted. This is possible only because of the large core of volunteers who walk the dogs and interact with the cats to keep the animals healthy and socialized until adoption.

A staff veterinarian and two vet technicians offer medical care such as giving routine vaccinations, administer heart worm medication, testing for feline leukemia, and spaying and neutering to help curb the growing unwanted animal population. From May to August, the peak breeding period, the shelter may receive as many as 100 cats per day. According to Rassier, in order to assure every existing animal a home on the national level, each person in the United States would have to take in 45 cats or 15 dogs.

See ANIMALS on page 6.
High school interns learn ins and outs of college

Twenty high school students interning at the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus this summer learned more than job skills. They learned what to expect from college life.

The interns, part of the YES program (Youth Employment for the Summer) sponsored by the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas Private Industry Council, attend various high schools in the St. Petersburg area. They worked at USF St. Petersburg a maximum of 25 hours a week, doing everything from landscaping to data entry.

But the group also met regularly with university counselors who encouraged the students to plan for their own career choices. Students took a career interest inventory that helps clarify what they would like to do after high school. USF counselors then applied their interests to specific college majors. The goal, said counselors, was to develop the students' motivation to attend college.

"It was an effort on the part of everyone on the campus to welcome the

students to the campus family," said Diane McKinstry, director of the counseling and career center at USF St. Petersburg.

"USF St. Petersburg's program is unique," said Darren Hammond, YES program area coordinator, who places students at 60 to 70 job sites throughout St. Petersburg. "It's more elaborate than other organizations."

At USF, a workshop on communication skills, such as dealing effectively with the public, was held during one of the weekly sessions with the group. One session gave them tips on how best to prepare for college now, and in another session the students presented their perceptions of college life. The students also were urged to talk with the financial aid coordinator about planning for the cost of college.

"This program was a success, and USF is a very pleasant place to be," said Antonio Johnson, 14. "If smiles were money, we would have a million dollars!"

Nursing program may return to campus

A nursing program may be coming back to USF St. Petersburg. The Board of Regents recently approved a budget allocation that would reinstate the program which was slashed in 1991 as a result of budget cuts.

The two-year program would be for registered nurses and others who want to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. Classes would meet in the evenings and on weekends, and the program initially would serve 24 students. More than $168,000 was designated as seed money for the program.

The BOR action is the first step toward getting the program approved by the state legislature. The nursing program, part of the BOR's 1994 recommended budget for the entire state university system, now goes to Gov. Lawton Chiles and area legislators. The campus also plans to seek help from area hospitals, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Pinellas Education Resource Consortium.

If successful in re-establishing nursing, the campus's next challenge would be to make sure the program grows. To do that, the campus needs private donations to fund additional faculty positions and scholarships.

"Our location, near All Children's, Bayfront Medical, St. Anthony's and Edward White hospitals, makes us a natural for running a large, thriving program," said Heller. "There's a shortage of quality nurses and we know we can help make a dent."

A new USF entrance sign is being constructed on university property at the corner of Second Street South and Fifth Avenue South. The sign, which marks the campus's expanded boundaries, is modeled after the two large St. Petersburg signs located at the bottom of the exit ramps for I-175 and I-375.
Scientist tries to steal surprise from storms

The devastation of Hurricane Andrew will long linger with those living in South Florida. Houses were flattened and lives uprooted. The destruction resulted from two phenomena — inland winds and storm surges on the coast.

While nothing can be done to thwart nature, something can be done to lessen its impact on people.

Boris Galperin

Boris Galperin of USF’s Department of Marine Science in St. Petersburg is attempting to do just that by reducing the element of surprise from hurricanes with a model to predict storm surges.

Galperin’s storm surge model is still under development, but when his research is complete the technological advancement could help many, including people in the Tampa Bay area.

Although models for predicting storm surge have been around for 25 years, Galperin’s model is expected to be more effective.

He hopes to run the model for Tampa Bay with data from the Physical Oceanographers Real Time system, or PORT. The system measures present water temperatures, the height of tides and currents. By running the model with “real time” information from PORT, the model would be able to predict future currents, water temperatures and heights of tides. PORT is provided by the National Ocean Service.

The PORT system is only able to take measurements at a few Bay area points. Galperin’s model will be able to take information and make predictions for every point around the bay.

“His model is state-of-the-art,” said Mark Luther, a USF physical oceanographer. “It could eventually be used for studies of pollution, tracking oil spills or having more information available for harbor pilots.”

Tom Hopkins, associate chair of USF’s marine science department, agrees.

“This model will help all biologists in understanding the biology of Tampa Bay,” said Hopkins.

From Russia with resolve

Galperin, a native of Kiev in the former Soviet Union, is also on the cutting edge of computer modeling of a different type. Although his research has a long, complex name — renormalization group (RG) theory — its goal is to simplify.

According to Galperin, RG theory allows one to reveal the major features of complicated systems without a detailed account of the chaotic behavior of their components. “Using the RG approach, one can take a hard problem and simplify it to the extent that it becomes manageable by modern computers,” said Galperin.

His RG theory research will help answer such complicated questions as:

- How can the aerodynamic drag of a submarine or airplane be minimized?
- How can the efficiency of turbulence in a car be increased?
- Can we, by monitoring local changes in the sea surface temperature, predict catastrophic changes in the global climate?

The research is a pursuit for none but the most dauntless scientists, with immediate mass appeal. There are only a few people in the world working on the RG theory of fluid turbulence.

Before joining the USF faculty in 1989 as an associate professor, Galperin worked at Princeton University, where he began his research on the application of RG theory of turbulence to geophysical fluid dynamics and physical oceanography.

Prior to Princeton, Galperin’s career had taken a number of geographical turns and twists. After leaving the Soviet Union in 1977, he traveled to Israel where he earned his Ph.D. in environmental engineering and water resources at the Israel Institute of Technology.

Galperin, who joined Steven A. Orszag of Princeton in 1987, started the application of RG methods to geophysics. The Princeton environment, which combined extensive expertise in engineering and geophysical sciences, proved conducive to interdisciplinary research — the direction Galperin continues to promote at USF.

The multidisciplinary studies and cross-fertilization between different fields sparked interest in creating an international workshop on large eddy simulation held at St. Petersburg Beach in 1990 by Galperin, in collaboration with scientists from Princeton and Stanford universities, NASA and other organizations.

As a result of the workshop, a book, co-edited by Galperin and Orszag, is in the final stages of preparation. Large Eddy Simulation of Complex Engineering and Geophysical Flows details computer simulation of complex turbulence flows. According to Galperin, the book will be of practical interest to those in mechanical and aerospace engineering, computer science, meteorology and other fields.

“This book is unique in that it links many different fields,” said Galperin. It is scheduled to be published by Cambridge University Press by the end of the year.

— Charlayne Evans
ANIMALS from page 3

Included in the shelter's program is a special lost and found service provided daily by the staff. Each morning two staff members call all the lost and found ads in the paper to try and match owners with lost animals. The staff reports an impressive success rate.

Another unique offering to gulf coast communities is the policy of housing animals during hurricanes, major storms and other natural disasters. If people evacuate to a shelter, they can leave their pets at the SPCA.

"Once I visited the SPCA property I was hooked," Rassier says. "Before I even interviewed for the job I know that I wanted to apply my experience and skills in helping the SPCA meet its mission to the community."

Her vision includes an upcoming campaign to help raise public awareness of the services provided by the SPCA while soliciting money for ongoing needs. Immediate plans include enlarging the holding and receiving area, separating the dogs and cats for noise abatement and to reduce stress on the cats, increasing the educational program, and expanding the clinic.

Rassier, a former fund raiser for Bayfront Medical Center who accepted her current position while completing a degree in business management at USF St. Petersburg, acknowledges that taking on the responsibility of program expansion and building renovation was a challenge because the SPCA was without an executive director for six years.

However, with her extensive background in management and development, she says she is up to the challenge and regards it as an opportunity.

"This is a place where I believe I can really make a difference now, and continue to make a difference for the welfare of our animals."

— M.J. Macdonald ('87)

USF from page 1

County Schools' International Baccalaureate magnet program and a new medical technology magnet program will be offered at the school. Also envisioned is a community school providing a variety of courses, teaching programs and models. The facilities will include science and computer laboratories, making the new school a viable, cost-efficient location for collaborative use by the university.

The Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in forging the partnership which was spearheaded by members R. Carlton Ward, now chairman of the chamber, and Ann Wilkins ('87), who now is chamber vice chair of governmental affairs and education.

Since March 1989, the chamber has pursued the goal of expanding the availability of junior, senior and graduate level university classes to north Pinellas and south Pasco counties.

"Getting USF classes in north Pinellas is a dream come true," says Heller. "Our goal is to expand our services northward."

Saluting a leader ...

Dr. Edward L. Cole Jr., left, was honored by USF St. Petersburg in April for his humanitarian efforts, civic leadership and dedication to education. Cole, a pediatrician who was mayor of St. Petersburg from 1985-87 and is currently serving his second term on the St. Petersburg City Council, received the Dean's Citation Award from Campus Dean H. William Heller.

... and breaking ground

St. Petersburg Mayor David Fischer makes a point during the groundbreaking ceremony for a new library at USF St. Petersburg. Seated is former USF President Francis T. Borkowski, Eugene Patterson, editor emeritus of the St. Petersburg Times and keynote speaker at the ceremony, and State Rep. Doug Jamerson ('79).

A decade of dreams became a reality April 16 as the campus broke ground for a new library.

USF St. Petersburg administrators will transfer the name Nelson Poynter Memorial Library to the new 54,000 square foot building, which is targeted for completion in 1995.

"This library is sure to be a place of distinction. The heart of any university is of course its library," said keynote speaker Eugene C. Patterson, editor emeritus of the St. Petersburg Times.
Young receives USF's President's Fellow Medallion

Former USF President Francis T. Borkowski presented the President's Fellow Medallion award to U.S. Congressman C.W. Bill Young during USF St. Petersburg's commencement ceremony May 5.

Young was recognized for his service to community, state and country during his tenure as a Florida state senator and member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Since being elected to office, Congressman Young has dedicated himself to issues critical to this community, including children's health care and education, the national defense and veteran's affairs," said Borkowski. "His leadership has been pivotal."

The President's Fellow Medallion is a replica of USF's seal cast in bronze. Awarded at the president's discretion, the medallion is presented to a Floridian who has rendered distinguished public service to the state and nation.

Young also was the guest speaker at the commencement ceremony.

Alumni chapter elects new officers

New officers were elected in June for USF St. Petersburg's Pinellas County Alumni Chapter.

The 1993-94 president is Paige Fisher ('90). Frank Reinhart Jr. ('91) is vice president, Valerie Prosser ('85) is secretary and Nancy Johnson ('90) is treasurer.

The alumni chapter hosts a number of events each year to raise scholarship money for students attending the campus, including a golf tournament each fall and a winetasting each spring. The group also hosts a "Bulls Blast" viewing party every year during basketball season, where they cheer on the USF Bulls.

Looking back at their college life

College means different things to different people. Here are comments about USF St. Petersburg from three of the more than 600 students who graduated with the Class of 1993:

"USF St. Petersburg gave me a first-rate education without causing me to travel far from home," said Brian Thomas, who completed the five-year CPA program in the College of Business Administration. "I only wish we had a football team."

"The encouragement I got from faculty and career counselors made me realize a career change at mid-life was possible, not so scary, and even exciting," said Diane Richards, a former bank executive who earned a degree in geography and now works for Geonex, an international map-making company.

"It's been a great foundation for future goals and aspirations. My plans are to start my graduate studies overseas, finish in the states and begin my international business career specializing in Latin America," said Alfredo Barquin, who was awarded a Rotary International Scholarship to study abroad.
Doug Jamerson
Community Views

State Rep. Doug Jamerson gave the following speech at USF St. Petersburg’s library groundbreaking April 16.

I’m particularly pleased and singularly honored to have been asked to share a few brief remarks on behalf of the legislative delegation at this most auspicious library groundbreaking ceremony.

Since being elected to the House in 1982, I have probably been one of the most fortunate members in the legislature, and particularly in our delegation. Even though the USF St. Petersburg campus sits in District 55, I’ve long enjoyed the support of all members of the delegation and this support and interest has served to ensure that USF St. Petersburg receives its fair share of state revenue dollars from Tallahassee.

Regardless of political party affiliation, this campus has garnered a oneness of purpose among all legislators to keep this project moving forward in order to serve the entire Pinellas County community. I believe that Pinellas County is poised for unprecedented influence at the state level. This bodes well for the city, county and region to receive the resources necessary to keep this new library at the cutting edge both in text and in technology.

I certainly would be remiss if I did not congratulate and commend those of you in the audience who have played an even more meaningful part in the development of this site: members of the business community and the Chamber of Commerce whose mission, along with Nelson Poynter, for this site caused its creation; City Council members past and present whose dedication of land led to its construction; representatives of the Poynter Institute whose inspired interest led to its development; staffs of the St. Petersburg Times whose redaction on the importance and need for the library kept the pressure on us in Tallahassee; and the Society for Advancement of Poynter Library whose efforts physically and financially have sustained the existing library. Last, but certainly not least, the USF administration, under Frank Borkowski’s capable leadership, whose efforts at keeping the library as a top priority helped us move its funding through the process.

A visible, viable library is the heart of any university. Starting today, we can and will assure all of you that USF St. Petersburg’s heartbeat will grow strong and stay strong now, into the 21st century and beyond. Thank you all.

Doug Jamerson graduated from USF St. Petersburg in 1979.

Library benefits from a 'oneness of purpose' among legislators

The University of South Florida is an affirmative action, equal access and equal opportunity institution.