Jane Lucas conducts the Center for the Arts Jazz Band during a USF St. Petersburg Excellence in Education reception April 28. During the dinner that followed, other students from the Sixteenth Street Middle School's Center for the Arts and International Studies in St. Petersburg also performed. GTE sponsored the event, which recognizes USF St. Petersburg scholarship winners and donors.

USF showcases students and accomplishments

USF St. Petersburg showcased student scholarship winners and other outstanding students during its Excellence in Education awards gala April 28.

USF President Betty Castor spoke at the dinner, lauding the campus's many successes, such as the $2-million Department of Navy grant that soon will establish a marine engineering institute.

She mentioned the $600,000 USF received from the state legislature to help fund marine science faculty positions, and the construction of the Knight Oceanographic Research Center, which will house the marine engineering institute and state-of-the-art laboratories for the marine science program.

President Castor also praised other priorities for the campus, including the creation of an ethics and teachers' center.

USF St. Petersburg officials anticipate that the new center will work closely with Pinellas County and other school systems to facilitate an infusion of ethics into their curricula. The center also will offer ethics and humanities programs for students, the community and the corporate sector.
Student wins ACLU award

Chris Eckhardt was suspended from school in 1965 for protesting the Vietnam War by wearing a black armband. His First Amendment struggle took him to the Supreme Court.

A political science student at USF St. Petersburg was awarded the Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award by the ACLU Foundation of Northern California.

Chris Eckhardt received the award in San Francisco Dec. 5.

Eckhardt was one of three plaintiffs in the 1969 Supreme Court Tinker v. Des Moines decision that involved students protesting the Vietnam War by wearing black armbands to school.

The court held that school officials in Des Moines, Iowa, violated the First Amendment rights of the three pupils, whose non-disruptive expression caused them to be suspended in 1965.

“I’m very proud to have won this award and it means a lot to me,” said Eckhardt. “It’s an award for civil liberties and an award for the men and women who died in Vietnam, and who served there.

“I think the country has come together — there’s a new respect for those of us who opposed the war. I have friends who are Vietnam vets.”

The Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award was established by the ACLU of Northern California 20 years ago to honor individuals who have worked to preserve and expand civil liberties.

Past honorees of the award include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, civil rights leader Rosa Parks, musician and civil rights activist Joan Baez, and Vilma Martinez, former president and general counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Ed Cole creates $25,000 scholarship at campus

The Amanda Cole Scholarship, named for Cole's granddaughter, is his second endowed gift at the campus.

Edward L. Cole Jr. donated $25,000 to the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus to create a student scholarship.

The Amanda Cole Scholarship, named for Cole's granddaughter, is meant for Pinellas County residents who graduated from a Pinellas County high school and St. Petersburg Junior College and now are pursuing their bachelor's degrees at USF St. Petersburg.

Cole, a St. Petersburg city councilman and pediatrician who has lived in St. Petersburg since 1922, said he was inspired to establish the scholarship because of the educational opportunities now available in the county that didn't exist when he went to college.

“In Pinellas County, yes, even within the boundaries of St. Petersburg, it is now possible to earn a four-year degree and a Ph.D.,” said Cole. “But there are many bright students here who need financial help to make this dream come true.”

With his gift, Cole issued a challenge to others in the community.

“Among us are those who have more assets than we will ever need or use. Some could live very comfortably and reduce spending on many unnecessary luxuries,” said Cole. “My challenge to you is to ante up for scholarship funding at the St. Petersburg campus of USF.”

“Dr. Cole is a true believer in the critical role education plays in society,” said Julie Gillespie, director of advancement at USF St. Petersburg. “His gift will allow many people the opportunity to get a college education and make a difference in their own communities one day.”

Campus lecture series focused on philosophical conflicts in education

Education and its reform was the theme of a free, public lecture series sponsored by the USF’s St. Petersburg campus Jan. 24 - April 19.

“Education: The Quest for Quality and Equality” highlighted the most significant philosophical conflicts confronting education in our nation and in Florida. Topics included busing and integration, separation of church and state, gender bias, school choice, school funding, and ethics.

The kick-off lecture featured USF President Betty Castor and Pinellas County School Superintendent Howard Hinesley, and state Rep. Mary Brennan, who discussed the current educational climate locally and throughout Florida, and the proposed Blueprint 2000 reforms.

Other speakers included Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and a leading critic of the "choice" movement in public education; Sue Rosser, a feminist zoologist and expert on gender bias in science; and Tom French, a St. Petersburg Times reporter and author who talked about how the increasing number of students who feel isolated from friends, family and school impact education.
John F. Kennedy stated he saw the recognition of the artist as essential to the future of civilization as a whole. Although he said it 30 years ago, it is a sentiment that is strongly echoed today in the lives of two St. Petersburg residents and USF alumni, Al and Nancy Karnavicius.

Al and Nancy have an active involvement in the arts in Pinellas County, an interest they began cultivating while dating.

Although they both attended USF's Tampa campus, they didn't meet until after graduation in 1973. Nancy, who holds a degree in marketing, and Al, who majored in mass communications, met in Gainesville after being selected for a Maas Brothers executive training program. They started dating and began developing their appreciation for the arts while attending art shows throughout the state.

Al says that for him, the arts have always been an integral part of his life. "I can’t remember not being interested in the arts. I did take a few art courses at USF, but even before that I sang with the choir at Boca Ciega High School and had a few bit parts in high school plays."

In addition to their financial patronage of the arts through their business, Bayprint, the couple both work as volunteers in the art community. Al presently serves as second vice president on the executive committee for the Arts Center, is the current ARTWORKS chairman for the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and participated in four of the American Stage's Shakespeare in the Park productions.

Nancy is treasurer for the Florida Craftsman, a statewide arts organization. Along with Al, she has assisted the Marly Group, an outreach group which supports the Museum of Fine Arts.

In 1992, the Karnavicius' were awarded the Friends of the Arts Award in the Business Patron category by the Pinellas County Arts Council. It is an achievement in which they share mutual pride, but they say their participation alone isn't enough — they also want others to learn to appreciate the arts.

"We would like to see other people enjoy it as much as we do and get involved. People should get away from their TVs and get out into the community," says Nancy.

Beside music and museums, the Karnavicius' are exuberant about the city of St. Petersburg itself. "One reason we like St. Petersburg is that in the entire bay area, there is not another community with a higher concentration of top-notch quality artists," says Al. "We count many of them among our friends, and we like that."

He and Nancy say they are very involved with the downtown community and often find themselves spending time there even when not working at Bayprint, a printing company they developed from a fledgling venture in 1982 to a profitable business a decade later.

But Al's enthusiasm about St. Petersburg doesn't stop with words. He is the immediate past chair of Common Ground, an organization whose sole purpose is to promote downtown St. Petersburg. He says he devoted time to developing the downtown area because of his conviction that what is good for the community is also good for the arts.

"The business community in St. Petersburg and Pinellas County should realize that supporting the arts is good for business and the economy, but it goes beyond just the Museum of Fine Arts and the Florida Orchestra.

"The arts are a couple of those little fibers that make up the fabric of an interesting city."

— M.J. Macdonald ('87)
Wealthy immigrant leaves life savings to USF St. Petersburg

Demetrious Karamesoutis was born in a small fishing village in Greece on Feb. 29, 1900. Raised in very modest surroundings, his mother handed him a one-way boat ticket and a small amount of cash on his 14th birthday and sent him to the United States to create a new life.

Karamesoutis did just that. He went to Chicago and began selling fruits and vegetables from a horse-drawn cart. He was “too busy” even to go to high school. A few years later he opened a butcher shop which grew into one of the largest in Chicago. He and his wife, Margaret, eventually sold the business and retired to Florida in 1957. They enjoyed their retirement years in a modest home in Pinellas Park until Margaret died in 1978. Prior to his death on August 9, 1993, Karamesoutis spent his last years in St. Petersburg.

During his lifetime, Karamesoutis carefully invested his savings. He left his entire estate to USF St. Petersburg to provide scholarship funds for students who may be unable to afford to go to college. This was motivated by his personal experience in this country.

The estate gift totaled nearly $400,000, and the state of Florida added another $200,000 through the Challenge Grant Program, funded by the legislature.

Now the Karamesoutis scholarships aid honors program students, students of Greek heritage and those who need financial aid to earn their degrees.

Contact Julie Gillespie at 893-9160 for details on this or other scholarship programs at USF St. Petersburg.

Judith Flynn, left, congratulates Laura Burrows, right, and Lana Romani, who won scholarships from the Committee of 200, an international organization of leading businesswomen. Flynn co-founded Geonex, a map-making company based in St. Petersburg, and is a member of the Committee of 200. Burrows and Romani are enrolled in the MBA program at USF.

Double your donation with your firm’s matching program

If you work for one of the following companies, your gift to USF St. Petersburg will be matched by your firm, perhaps doubling your contribution.

- AT&T
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- Anheuser-Busch Cos.
- H & R Block
- CSX Corp.
- Chase Manhattan Corp.
- Chevron Corp.
- CIGNA Corp.
- Circuit City Stores
- Citicorp/Citibank
- Colonial Penn Group
- Deloitte & Touche
- Delta Air Lines
- Digital Equipment Corp.
- Jack Eckerd Corp.
- Federated Department Stores
- Fireman’s Fund Insurance Co.
- GTE Corp.
- General Electric Co.
- Glendale Federal
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
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- IDS Financial Services
- IBM
- KPMG Peat Marwick
- Kmart Corp.
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- Merrill Lynch & Co.
- Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.
- NationsBank Corp.
- J.C. Penney Co.
- Shearson Lehman Brothers
- Tandy Corp.
- Times Publishing Co.
- USAA
- Westinghouse Electric Corp.
- Winn-Dixie Stores
Reinventing government, again

Imagine the battle that will ensue when Clinton and Gore try to implement their proposal to cut 10 percent of the 12,000 Department of Agriculture field offices. Each one of those 1,200 will have defenders who will say, “Cut somewhere else.”

Politics, as I explain to my friends, comes from the Greek word “poly” meaning “many,” and “tics” meaning “ugly, blood-sucking parasites.” To some extent, that describes many government programs. Once established, they become parasitic and expand. How often have you heard of a government program being terminated?

In many respects, the Clinton-Gore proposal to reinvent government strikes a responsive chord. The American public is fed up with government waste and inefficiency. At the same time, Perot and the Republicans have long championed many of the ideas that Clinton and Gore are touting, especially privatization. This plan gives Clinton the opportunity to prove he really is a different Democrat.

Unfortunately for him, this bipartisan support will collapse as soon as Republicans realize that the long-term objective of the Clinton-Gore proposal is not to reduce government, but to expand its role. The Gore report projects savings of $108 billion over the next five years (stop laughing — they really mean it). Instead of taking the savings and applying them to deficit reduction, the Clinton Administration plans to “reinvest” these dollars in new federal programs such as national health care. Unlike other reorganization proposals that sought to shrink government, the Clinton-Gore plan intends to expand government by moving it into areas where it has traditionally played a minimal role.

Instead of reinventing government again, perhaps it is time that we re-examine the role we want government to play in American society. If we really want to reduce government, then many Americans are going to have to sacrifice their self interests for the public good. Unless we are willing to do so, we are likely to see the twelfth report on government reorganization from the White House before the end of this century.

Darryl Paulson is a professor of government and international affairs at USF St Petersburg.

Standing on the White House lawn before stacks of thousands of federal rules and regulations, Vice President Albert Gore presented President Clinton the report of the National Performance Review Committee. This report — “Creating a Government that Works Better and Costs Less” — offers more than 800 recommendations on reorganizing government and cutting costs. (Its first recommendation should have been to cut the cost of the report itself. Fourteen dollars for a 168-page paperback?)

The Gore proposal marks the 11th time this century the White House has issued a report on how to make government run more smoothly. Serving on such committees must be the most secure job in Washington. You would think that after the fifth or sixth study presidents would learn that such efforts are doomed.

The Gore proposal will fail like those before it because it asks the wrong question. The question is not, “How can we make government run more smoothly?” It should be, “What should government do?”

Gore’s premise is based on the faulty notion that if we reorganize government, we can substantially cut spending and reduce taxes. While reorganization may result in greater efficiency, the potential monetary savings will be modest. The reason for this is that most federal spending is for programs, not bureaucratic salaries. If your goal is to reduce the cost of government, the only way to achieve significant savings is to cut programs.

Cutting programs is not an easy task for voters or politicians. Although Americans say they want to eliminate pork-barrel projects, they only want to eliminate them in someone else’s congressional district. Likewise, every member of Congress wants to eliminate “pork” throughout the rest of the nation, but they all want to bring home the bacon.

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President Clinton and Vice President Gore stand in front of forklifts carrying reams of federal rules and regulations prior to unveiling plans to cut, consolidate and reshape government. Their plan has an estimated savings of $108 billion by the end of the decade.
"One depressing fact is that female students who drop out of science (in college) have as good or better grades than the male students who stay in. So the suggestion is we're losing a substantial, well-prepared part of the brain power that might help us solve some of the problems we're bound to encounter in the 21st century."
— Sue Rosser, a zoologist and nationally recognized expert on gender bias, Feb. 28.

"We didn't know we weren't allowed to tell lies. We didn't know that business was seen as financial science and that was it, amen — and the soul and style of the product and the culture of the company and its relationship to the workforce was something you ignored. And we didn't know that you weren't allowed to talk about anything beyond profit — that you had to get orgasmic about the profit and loss sheet."

"We're seeing events we never thought were possible: the end of communism in Europe, the end of apartheid in South Africa, and the peace process in the Middle East. Although we're seeing a new world order, human nature has not much changed. We now need to look to the United Nations as the only effective authority to protect human rights, (as this is) the cause of most conflicts in the world today."
— David Atkinson, member of the British House of Commons, Sept. 14.

St. Petersburg Councilman Edward Cole Jr. unveils the dedication plaque that will grace an outside foyer of the newly renovated Piano Man building. Ted York, who once owned the former piano showroom, and Campus Dean Bill Heller assist. The building now provides classroom space for the campus's 3,200 students.

Conference draws 400 aspiring writers

Best-selling author Rosellen Brown (Tender Mercies, Street Games, Before and After), National Book Award and American Book Award recipient Peter Matthiessen (The Snow Leopard, At Play in the Fields of the Lord) and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Maxine Kumin (Up Country, Looking for Luck) headlined the Florida Suncoast Writers' Conference Feb. 3-5 at USF St. Petersburg.

The 22nd annual conference featured more than 50 workshops led by award-winning writers, editors, agents and publishers. More than 400 people attended the event. Other highlights included Bebe Moore Campbell, a regular commentator for National Public Radio's Morning Edition, who wrote Your Blues Ain't Like Mine, and Jeff Klinkenberg, an environmental writer for the St. Petersburg Times and author of Real Florida: Key lime pies, worm fiddles, a man called Frog and other Endangered Species.

This billboard is being displayed around Pinellas County as part of an awareness campaign by the campus and Patrick Media.
Support football

I've been a booster of USF Athletics for many years, as a current member of USF's Athletic Council and Athletic Association, and as a past president of the athletic and alumni associations.

I know many of you can relate to the years when basketball was just beginning for USF, since then we've had some very exciting and rewarding times for the university. And, as a measure of how far our program has developed, USF will host the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament in March 1999 at the St. Petersburg Thunder Dome.

Now it's time for football! After years of discussion, USF is ready to begin an NCAA football program. A $5 million endowment is nearly established through private gifts to support the program. We also have set a goal to reach 5,000 alumni and friends who want to help us start the program by making reservations for season tickets, so we can begin play in 1997.

What does this mean for you? It means we want you to get involved in supporting USF athletics, because it is the athletic program that very often creates the environment for lasting alumni relationships to develop and flourish.

Football also will help with community involvement and financial contributions, and make USF more attractive to new students.

We know football can enhance our image, but more importantly, ongoing conference changes make it imperative USF play football. If we don't, USF will be left out of the major conference realignments and no longer will be able to associate athletically with top universities.

Obviously, we need your help! Contact Mike Lewis, athletic association coordinator, at 974-3696 for details about USF football. I encourage you to join this winning team!

Riding the bus in Pinellas County can be challenging.

That's the conclusion of three USF St. Petersburg students who recently conducted a survey of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and released a discouraging report of its operations.

Students Michelle Florio, Ralph Spaights and Debra Smith rode all PSTA routes to get a feel for bus travel, and interviewed 100 passengers and 30 drivers for their feedback. The project took nearly 600 hours to complete, and was part of a city government internship program at the campus funded by Clearwater Commissioner Fred A. Thomas. Thomas also sits on the PSTA board of directors. The interns presented their report to the board May 25.

When the interns missed a bus, they waited up to an hour for another one. They rode in dirty, leaky buses, and dealt with confusing or incorrect bus schedules. Passengers must wait for buses in the heat, cold or rain without shelter and sometimes are treated rudely by bus drivers, the interns said.

"We weren't told there were problems with PSTA (to begin with) and we weren't out there to find specific problems," said Florio, a political science major. "But if everything was great, we would have said that."

Disabled passengers said they had trouble reaching Dial-A-Ride Transit, or DART, to make the necessary reservations for service because DART's phone lines were always busy. They also complained about the types of vehicles DART provides. Instead of dispatching vans equipped with a wheel-chair lift, DART sometimes dispatches taxicabs and other vehicles without the lifts. That means those who get taxicabs must leave their wheelchairs to enter the vehicle, which can be dangerous, they say.

Bus drivers also were dissatisfied with PSTA's management, which the interns said does not seek input from drivers when forming policy or communicate well with employees.

"The bus drivers are on the front line and they get the brunt of it all, but they have no way to release it," Florio said. "They have gone to their supervisors pointing out what needs to be done, but for the most part they've been ignored."

The findings reportedly got a lukewarm response from the PSTA board, which will refer the report to its executive committee and a transit advisory committee for review.

"I have a lot of mixed feelings about it," said Roger Sweeney, PSTA executive director. "The actual survey results were extremely helpful, but how they came to certain recommendations or conclusions based on that data is something I plan to follow up on with the students."

The Fred A. Thomas City Government Internship will continue through the summer, with this semester's students focusing on Clearwater's parks and recreation department. Thomas uses his city commissioner salary of $10,000 a year to fund the internship.

"The internship has been a good experience. Working with a large organization like PSTA gives you a feel for how they operate and how you should deal with organizations like that," Florio said. "Anyone planning on going into law or government should definitely do this."

— Deborah Kurelik
Peggy La Montaine received her bachelor's degree May 4, after spending 57 years earning it. La Montaine, 74, was the oldest degree-seeking student at USF St. Petersburg's spring commencement. She has taken courses on and off at various universities since 1937. An English literature major, La Montaine tried several different careers before deciding on her field of study. She understands when fellow students express uncertainty about their futures.

"I know what it's like for kids not to know what they want to do," she says.

Widowed for eight years, La Montaine raised four children, the oldest of whom is 49. In addition to her USF classes, she plays tennis, travels and volunteers for her church.

She, along with more than 300 USF St. Petersburg graduates, received her degree at the commencement ceremony held at the Mahaffey Theater.

"If your college experience has taught you nothing else, it has taught you what it means to engage in self-discovery, to expand your horizons — or, as one of my old professors used to say, to expand your arenas of ignorance."

— Jay Black, commencement speaker and Poynter-Jamison Endowed Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy