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Provost discusses enrollment, change in culture

Armed with the slogan, "It's enrollment, stupid," and his overhead projector, Interim Provost Michael Kovac delivered a 10-minute address to an estimated 100 USF faculty on April 5 in Theatre I.

Increasing student enrollment is one of Kovac's top goals. About 90 percent of USF's funding is tied to enrollment figures, Kovac explained. "Like it or not, that's how we're being funded."

One way to address the issue is to ask all faculty members to suggest to their students: "Why don't you take one more class per semester or year?" Kovac said. If only 10 percent of all USF students take another class, enrollment numbers will increase dramatically, he added.

Kovac brought along three vice presidents — George Newkome of Research, Vice President of Administrative Services Bert Hartley and Harold Nixon of Student Affairs — to make his points.

Another goal is to improve USF's support services to students, including financial aid and accounting, Kovac said. The Culture Transition Team is working completely to re-engineer the financial systems, and improvements could be initiated in the fall, Kovac said.

Kovac also discussed the often negative public perception of higher education. "Learner universities are being called for," he said. "We have to make sure that we focus on our mission and articulate it, once we are really into it."

"We (at USF) have failed to let our mission be known to the general populace," Kovac said. "We need to focus in on our culture...how we operate.

The ideal university, according to a Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching article, is purposeful, just, open, disciplined, caring and collaborative.

These words mean pursuing diversity aggressively and encouraging people to serve others, Kovac said. "The university in 10 years is not going to look like the university now," he predicted. "One of the biggest problems we have is accommodating change."

USF can learn from companies such as Motorola and IBM, which implemented total quality management, Kovac said. "The forward momentum hasn't been as intense as it is now at USF," he concluded.

By Lisa Cunningham

Carnegie Foundation lists USF as research university

USF is now classified as a "Research University II" institution, thesecond highest category listed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The foundation's classification is a key resource for academe, used by researchers to assess the changing state of higher education, according to an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education. This is the first time the foundation has published its report since 1987, when USF was listed as a doctoral university that offered doctoral degrees but was not recognized for research.

"There are a handful of benchmarks you really want to reach as an institution, and this is one of them," said Vice President for Research George Newkome. "When I came here in 1986, we were only doing $23 million a year in sponsored research. We've come light years since then."

The foundation describes Research II universities as those that have sustained for three years or more federally sponsored research of between $15.5 million and $40 million and have awarded 50 or more doctoral degrees annually in diverse areas.

In the last five years, USF has had more than $60 million a year in research awards and has brought in $70 million so far this academic year. The total is expected to reach $80 million for this year.

USF has evolved from a two-year upper division school in 1960 with 1,860 students to a 35,000-student university with 194 degree programs, five campuses and 1,560 faculty.

"All this in just 33 years, you understand," said President Betty Castor. "USF is the fastest growing school in Florida's history."

Castor said the foundation's re-classification brings public awareness of the strength and growth of USF's research efforts and undergraduate programs.

Other institutions that have achieved the Research II classification include Notre Dame, Syracuse, Washington, the University of South Carolina at Columbia and the University of Rhode Island.
Statistician earning master's says "I feel lucky"

Judy Perry has been raising two children single-handedly since 1979. Last October, her aging parents moved in with her. She has a hearing impairment for which there has stopped Perry from working on a master's degree in sociology.

On March 1, Perry, a statistician in Florida Mental Health Institute's Aging and Mental Health department, will take home her master's degree. She earned her bachelor's at USF in 1988.

When her supervisor, Cathy McEvoy, encouraged her to apply, Perry went to talk to her mentor from under­graduate school, Carolyn Ellis. "She (Ellis) pulled the application out of her file cabinet and handed it to me," Perry said.

"They were very supportive," Perry added. Donna Cohen, chairperson of Aging and Mental Health, arranged for Perry to do research through USF's Sociology department.

"It really was a shining star," McEvoy said. "She's part of the sandwich generation — trying to make a life of her own and care for her parents. What I appreciate about Judy is she's always good­natured and she always works hard — that's the mark of an excellent person.

Perry is more modest when she explains combining her work, studies, and home life.

When Perry first started studying at USF, her youngest, Alex, was just starting school. "I don't think you shortchange your children, going back to school. It sets an example for them."

Perry recalled sitting at the table and studying with her children in the evenings. "It did bond us together more."

Her son is an honors student at King High School and will graduate in June. He plans to attend USF this fall. Also this fall, her daughter Heather will enter the master's program in education at the University of Florida.

"I stayed one step ahead of her," Perry joked.

Last October, Perry's parents, Ralph and Louise Outcalt, moved in with her. Perry's father is in a wheelchair and both have health problems and vision impairment.

"It's happening to a lot of people (taking care of aging parents)," Perry said. Perry helped proofread Donna Cohen's book, Seven Steps to Effective Parent Care. The book has even helped Perry, who for 10 years worked as a rehabilitation counselor, training people taking care of their parents.

"It's one thing to say this is what you do, this is how people with disabilities and impairments make it a little bit different...when it's your own parents," Perry explained.

With a few changes, the commencement ceremony at USF has a little more decorum in the past.

One addition is a Faculty Marshal Corps dressed in USF Green and Gold robes. When Coli guide the flow of students as they proceed across a stage to be recognized.

"It is an honor to serve on the marshal corps. It shows appreciation to the students who have done the work necessary to get to this point," said Kofi Glover, head of the Faculty Senate.

With the marshal corps guiding the students, no one on the floor of the Sun Dome is left behind, Cohen said.

Gary Werner, an assistant professor of Communication, created a flow plan for the students to move from their seats, across the stage and back to their seats. He that the sophisticated tools of colored markers and lots of paper to create the plan. Werner, no stranger to pomp and circumstance as a retired Army officer, also suggested horns instead of organs and more lush plants to decorate the stage.

"It makes it nicer for the graduates and the families," Werner said.

USF now holds two commencement ceremonies to allow students to have as many guests as they wish. This year they are scheduled for May 3 with regional campus ceremonies scheduled in St. Petersburg on May 4, Fort Myers on May 5, Sarasota on May 6, New College on May 20, and the College of Medicine on May 27.

Artist motivated by research with children

Doing research with emotionally disturbed children inspired artist Steven DaVerne to create a series of paintings, one of which was given to former first lady Rosalynn Carter, as a gift from USF.

Carter chose his painting At Work, which depicts a girl concentrating at her desk. She accepted the painting during the Florida Mental Health Institute's Seventh Annual National Research Conference, "A System for Care of Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base" on March 1.

"I was really impressed with her," DaVerne said. "I sent her slides and she selected that one (At Work). She told me she had a hard time deciding among them.

"Mrs. Carter is so low-key, yet proper and stately. I sensed a really incredible strong-mindedness about her."

Perry's enthusiasm for art is clearly etched in her heart. "I was really impressed with her," DaVerne said. "I sent her slides and she selected that one (At Work). She told me she had a hard time deciding among them.

"Mrs. Carter is so low-key, yet proper and stately. I sensed a really incredible strong-mindedness about her."

The theme for me right now is that this piece is linked with the work that they (the Carter Center at Emory University) do, on a global scale. I couldn't come up with a better collection if I had tried."

Several years ago during a research meeting at PMH, DaVerne hatched the idea for the Learning Series, a set of about 10 paintings that he has created over the last four years. He was working with researchers Pam Onnes and Trevor Stokes, who later bought his first paintings.

"What kids learn is so important to what our society is going to be," DaVerne said. The crime rate is affected by what happens to a child from age 3 to 15, he added.

"I got to thinking about the whole concept of normal behavior for children...as a consequence of learning...based on teaching, and the reinforcement process."

In his research at PMH, where he was an assistant director of research in the Department of Child and Family Studies, DaVerne worked with severely emotionally disturbed (SED) children who learned appropriate behavior through a rewards and reinforcement system.

"The theory was if the target behavior was reinforced, it would increase," he explained. "It did, it would decrease. This work was based on B.F. Skinner's Learning Theory principle."

Since DaVerne has studied fine arts, including painting, at New College, he decided to mix his research with art.

"When you're doing research, it's very regimented. When you're doing art, you can play around with it."

DaVerne, who is represented by galleries in Tampa, Sarasota and Philadelphia, said he enjoys art at all times of the day and night. One time, he sprang out of bed at four in the morning and finished the painting by mid-day.

He now paints full-time, in addition to doing freelance computer graphics work for an advertising agency and a magazine. "In addition to my exhibits, many of DaVerne's paintings have been purchased by companies in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota," McEvoy said. One of his collections is at the United States Embassy in Guatemala City, Guatemala. DaVerne, who has worked with government media, has also done underwater abstract art. "But there's something in me that keeps pulling me back to The Learning Series...to keep evolving it."

"Maybe that's because DaVerne saw the most results working with children. They're impressionable. Their behavior can change quickly."

He’s a statistician, married, and a mother of two. He’s a statistician earning a master’s degree in sociology...and she always works hard...that’s the mark of an excellent person. Perry explained.

"Caring for your aging parents is not like having children," Perry said. "You have to find ways to keep them in control of their own lives, especially if they’re living with you."

"Sometimes it’s hard to find the balance," Perry said. "But the bonds that you form... those bonds are out there. Everyone has to find their own level of support.

"I enjoyed my experience at USF's Faculty/Staff/Alumni. She also contributed to the fund. Perry plans to keep doing research on hearing impairment and other disabilities. She might even pursue the new doctoral program in Aging Studies that Cohen has initiated at USF.

"It's really exciting...I'm really attracted to it because it's interdisciplinary," Perry said. USF doesn't have a Ph.D. program in sociology.

"Now I'm haranguing her about getting into a Ph.D. program," McEvoy joked. "Putting my education together...work...it makes my education meaningful," Perry said. "Not everyone is as lucky as me."
Faculty/Staff Notes

Elections, Awards and Appointments

Nancy Anderson, Education, was recently appointed to the editorial review board of The College Reading Association Yarnook.

Samir N. Banooob

Samir N. Banooob, Public Health, was selected as chairman of the International Health Section, which visited Cuba for the American Public Health Association on Feb. 17-25.

John Hinz, Arts and Sciences, USF St. Petersburg, was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa after a review of his City College undergraduate transcript from 50 years ago. Hinz served as campus dean in St. Petersburg from 1979-1986 and as a professor of English until he retired in December 1993.

Clare Hite, Counseling Center, has been elected president of the Florida College Counseling Association.

Bobbie O'Brien, WUSF-FM 89.7, won first place in the Green Eyes Shades Awards' "Criticism of the Arts" category for her story on "Race: The Play." Darryl Paulson, Government and International Affairs, USF St. Petersburg, has been selected as a Salvador Fellow by the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC.

Christine M. Probes, Modern Languages, was re-elected as secretary and a member of the Executive Council of the North American Society for Seventeenth Century French Literature during the annual meeting on March 17-20 in Santa Barbara, CA. On March 25, she was also re-elected chairman of the ARF/Presbyterian Board of Publications at its meeting in Greenville, SC.

Presentations


J. Carlos Busol, Engineering, presented a three-day seminar on Chemical Engineering for Nonchemical Engineers in Beaumont, TX on March 9-12.

Andrea Dimino, Literature, New College, presented "Race, Gender and the Canon: Re-visit in Contemporary American Fiction" at Florida State University's 19th Annual Conference on Literature and Film: "The Voice of the Voiceless — Non-Cartoon Approaches to the Canon," in Tallahassee in January.

Derryl Paulson, Government and International Affairs, USF St. Petersburg, presented "Packaging for Nonchemical Engineers in Beautiful Omega" during the annual conference "Packaging Strategies in Tampa and Orlando, Florida" during the annual meeting of the American Vacuum Society board meeting in Albuquerque, NM on March 12-15 and made a presentation at the U.S. Department of Energy's Sandia Laboratory. He also attended an Environmental Protection Agency conference on emerging technologies for hazardous waste remediation in Cincinnati, OH on March 16-18.

Clare Hite, Counseling Center, presented "Increasing Comprehension Awareness and Control on College Reading Tests" during the 18th annual conference of the National Association for Developmental Education, March 2-6, in Kansas City.

Candy Levine, William Blount, Mitchell Silverman and Christine Selliers, Criminology, recently presented "Gender Bias in Prisons: An Analytical Study of Sentencing Decisions and Time-Served in Florida Prisons" during the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Phoenix, AZ.

Karen Liller, Health Sciences, conducted a conference on "Stress and Burnout in the Laboratory Profession" for the American Society of Clinical Pathologists on March 17. The conference reached more than 100 sites in the United States and Canada.

Publications


Richard Dembo, Criminology, Linda Williams, PM&I, and Christine Schmedler published "Psychosocial, Alcohol/Other Drug Use, and Delinquency Differences Between Urban Black and White Male High Risk Youth" in recent issue of the International Journal of the Addictions.


Judith Kase-Pollins, Education, recently presented "An Evaluation of a Model" in Artists-In-Schools Youth Theatre Journal, and "Perspectives on Theatre Literacy and Social Promise Play" in all publications of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.


John O. Robison, Music, with Samba El-Kholy of the Cairo Conservatory in Egypt, recently published A Festschift for Gerald Albrecht Salmen, Cairo.
