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USF marks most successful legislative session in recent years

The recently concluded 1994 session of the Florida Legislature was the most beneficial USF has seen in recent years. The College of Medicine, with its major replacement of faculty and investigators, has been invited to present Counts' statement on research productivity during a recent session in the Senate. The deadline is April 30.

Other legislative initiatives were designed specifically for USF. The university's Marine Sciences Program on the St. Petersburg campus, for instance, received $600,000, while the new Institute on Aging got $400,000 in first-year start-up funds. The College of Education also benefited from a $400,000 appropriation for its "Collaboration of Schools Program," which will put the college in close working contact with 20 public schools throughout Southwest Florida.

In the addition to the library endowment monies and equity funding, USF benefited from other initiatives targeted at improving the entire State University System. The new SUS Challenge Grant Bill expands and makes more flexible the program that allows for the matching of major donations to universities.

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Still, Castor is positive in her assessment of the session. "After the loan budget years of the late '80s and early '90s, we've finally gone through a session in which the state university system made some headway, rather than losing ground or just maintaining the status quo," Castor said. "Our goal is to put a few of these back to back. And then just watch where USF winds up." By Todd Simmons

Legislative beneficiary

Funding for the new Marine Sciences Building (above) on the St. Petersburg campus was part of the $23 million USF brought home from the state capitol for construction and renovation. A bill also passed to rename the building the "Knight Oceanographic Research Center." Else Stratmann Knight, the widow of William W. Knight Jr., and her family have made generous contributions to USF's Marine Science studies. The building will house the Marine Science Department and offices of the Department of Environmental Protection. The building is scheduled to be completed in May.

Other highlights include:

- **Salary - 4 percent raises take effect Nov. 1**
  USF employees who are Administative & Professional and University Support Personnel Services will receive a flat 4 percent raise.
  Although the state legislature approved 4 percent raises for all state employees, effective Nov. 1, not all employees will receive 4 percent.
  For example, last year each faculty member was eligible for a 3 percent raise. Once adjustments for salary equity (.3 percent) and promotions (.3 percent) were subtracted, each faculty member received an across-the-board raise of 1.58 percent.

  After the across-the-board amount was decided, faculty members could then receive a discretionary raise of 1.06 percent, based on the member's annual performance evaluation. A department committee and the department chairman made recommendations to the dean of each college.
  Thus, faculty members last year received raises of 1.58 to 10.58 percent, with the average being 3 percent.

- **Challenge Grant Program - More opportunities to raise money for the library**
  The State University System Challenge Grant Program will allow the university to consolidate major gifts and endowed chair matching programs. Those endowments may now be used in matching programs to double the funding coming into the university, including matching library gifts.

- **State University System Flexibility Bill - Gives university presidents control over tuition**
  The State University System Flexibility Bill allows the president of each university to add up to 10 percent to tuition fees. The bill will also allow each university to provide tuition incentives - such as allowing a student who pays for 12 hours of classes to take an additional 3 hours of classes free. This would increase enrollment figures for USF and help students to complete their coursework sooner.

- **Other new funding for USF programs**
  Specific funding for USF includes $165,665 to reinitialize the nursing program at the St. Petersburg campus; $600,000 for the Marine Science Program on the St. Petersburg campus; $400,000 to begin USF's new Ph.D in Aging; $800,000 for the College of Education's "Collaboration of Schools" project; $250,000 for the Health Sciences Center's primary care education and training project; and $100,000 for the USF Autism Center.

### Health Sciences VP steps down to teach

Dr. Ronald P. Kaufman, Vice President for Health Sciences has stepped down from his position to teach medical students issues of finance and the health care marketplace.

College of Medicine Dean Marvin R. Dunn, will serve as acting Vice President until a permanent replacement is found for this position. Kaufman came to USF in 1987, when he reconceived the three colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health into the USF Health Sciences Center. "This is the perfect time to pursue my interest in the economics of health care," Kaufman said. "I miss teaching medical students, and I've found I'm eager to learn about the financial world of medicine and all the resulting ethical and treatment issues."

Kaufman will direct a new Division of Health Policy and Practice Management in USF's Department of Internal Medicine. The division will help develop "clinical classrooms" for generalist education in ambulatory settings to teach the skills and tools of managed care and other health policy subjects, he said. "In a time when health care issues are at the forefront of the national agenda," President Castor said, "Dr. Kaufman's new role will help the College of Medicine to help medical students and patients to care reform itself."

"I am confident that Dr. Dunn will provide effective leadership to the Health Sciences Center during this transition period," President Betty Castor said.

### Continuous ... hat is

To clarify, the employees who were termed during the outstanding service mention noted in this space in the April 15 issue were those who have been continuously employed at USF. For 20 years now, many people who have worked with USF for more than 20 years but who had a break in their service.
Elections, Appointments and Awards

Gert Anderson, Business Administration, USF, Petersburg, Valerie Prosser, USF, Petersburg Campus Activities Center, and Al Wilson, Physical Plant, USF, St. Petersburg, recently earned the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Employee.

Richard Dembo, Criminology, has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse.

Cecil Greek, Criminology, USF, St. Petersburg, served as a panelist for a violence film festival showing of Romper Stomper in Tampa in February.

Eleanor Guetzloe, Education, was recently chosen as the International Council of Exceptional Children’s Contributor of the Year.

James M. Roth, Library, was recently elected to the Executive Board of the Society of Florida Archivists for 1994-95. He will also continue to chair the society’s legislative committee and will serve on the local arrangements committee for the 1995 annual meeting in Tampa.

James D’Emilio, Humanities and American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, presented “Georegearchological Techniques and an Historic Russian Cemetery at Fortyokh State Historic Park, Sonoma County, California” at the Association of American Geographers’ annual meeting in San Francisco in April.


David Gray, Center for Economic and Management Research, recently made a presentation in Tallahassee on the impact of crime on business. The presentation was made as a part of Tampa Bay Day, which is held each year in the State Capitol.

Shelly Happel, Center for Urban Transportation Research, and Robert Brinkman, Geography, presented “Socioeconomic Status and Quality of Living Environment in Tampa, Florida” during the Association of American Geographers’ annual meeting in San Francisco in April.


Sonia Helton, Education, USF, St. Petersburg, presented “Journal Keeping in Mathematics” at the New Mexico International Reading Association State Meeting in Las Cruces, NM, in February.

Richard McHugh, Economic and Management Research, recently participated in a week-long lecture series, “The Market Economy: Its Institutions and Operation.” The lectures, which were presented to a group of 50 Ukrainian shipping company executives and port directors, were held aboard the cruise ship M.S. Gruinzog, which is based in Tampa.


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USF researchers are participating in research activities aimed at understanding the neurochemical changes that occur with normal aging and with age-related neurodegenerative diseases.

Led by Lynn Wecker, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the College of Medicine, a team of graduate students and post-doctorals is working on projects linked to both Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

These projects focus on: regulation of nicotinic receptor function and plasticity in the brain and alterations that occur as a consequence of aging and neurodegeneration; regulation of the metabolism of the neurotransmitters dopamine, and the consequences of the administration of MITP, a neurotoxin which causes Parkinsonian symptoms in monkeys; the ability of sodium to modify drugs via the cytochrome P450 monoxygenase system and how aging affects this system; regulation of the synthesis and release of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine; and basic studies on the neurophysiology of selegeline, a drug that was approved by the Food and Drug Administration this past year for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease.

We are using multidisciplinary approaches, including whole organ, cellular and molecular studies to understand what happens to brain chemistry during the normal aging process and in the course of neurodegenerative disorders,” Wecker explained.

Nicotinic receptors in the brain are involved in learning and memory, she adds.

During the past several years, published papers from Britain have indicated that nicotine may be of benefit for treating information processing deficits in Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition to understanding how the normal brain functions, Wecker’s team hopes to understand what happens to the brain as a consequence of injury.

It is likely that effective therapeutic treatments for Parkinson’s disease and better treatments for Parkinson’s disease will be developed by the year 2000 — provided, of course, that the government and pharmaceutical companies put sufficient funds into the pot.

Wecker, who is on USF’s Aging Studies Council, has been funded by the NIH for the past 15 years to investigate the effects of choline on acetylcholine synthesis in the brain — and by the Smokeless Tobacco Research Council, Inc, for the past five years to study nicotine and nicotinic receptors.

Before coming to USF four years ago, Wecker was a professor at the Louisiana State University Medical Center and at Vanderbilt University. She holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Florida.

She has more than 100 publications and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Neurochemistry and the Journal of Neuropsychiatry Research. She is also treasurer of the American Society for Neurochemistry and president of the Southwest Pharmacology Society.

Wecker, who was born and raised in New York City, now lives in Tampa with her husband, Jonathan Tigar, who is a court advocate for abused children.