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Did You Know?



February, 2003

Dr. Gus Stavros, a longtime USF friend and benefactor of education, has joined the USF St. Petersburg Campus Board. "I am focusing my energy on helping USF St. Petersburg reach its potential in Pinellas County," Stavros said after the Board of Trustees okayed his appointment Jan. 21. "I asked the Chairman of the USF Board to appoint me to the USF St. Petersburg campus as it is only a few blocks away from where I live and I am anxious to help the campus grow. I want to help USF St. Petersburg become an integral part of downtown St. Petersburg, and I want downtown St. Petersburg to be part of the campus."

USF St. Petersburg's reputation as a place to get a quality education is spreading. Student credit hours this semester increased 10.71 percent over last spring. More than 63 percent of the student body is female. 18.8 percent of our students represent minority populations. The mean age of an undergraduate student is 27; the mean age for a graduate student is 34.

Dr. Gary A. Olson is the newly appointed Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. As the campus' chief academic officer, Olson is leading the effort to increase our faculty by more than 50 percent. All three

colleges (Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education) are searching for new faculty – more than 50 this spring – as our campus continues to define our unique identity as a small institution that delivers a high-quality education while fulfilling the mission of a Research I university. Olson is professor of English and director of USF's nationally prominent graduate program in rhetoric and composition.

You can now call USF St. Petersburg "the campus with distinction." The university is developing four "**Programs of Distinction**" to establish a unique regional and national identity:

• **Journalism and Media Studies** *strengthens the teaching of science journalism, visual communication and media convergence, and increases support of a student-run news bureau that covers life in our rapidly changing city.*

• **Environmental Science, Policy and Geography** *merges faculty from the physical sciences, mathematics and political science. Faculty will apply scientific research, policy, social and cultural analysis and geographic information with the campus' ready access to numerous fresh water and marine environments in order to delve into national and global groundwater issues, including sustaining healthy, clean beaches.*

• **Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting** *builds on the university's national reputation in accounting to focus on management and marketing ethics, fraud prevention and detection.*

St Petersburg

• **Florida Studies** *explores the state's history, culture, political economy and changing identity by drawing together scholars from anthropology, geography, history, economics, political science and related fields.*

Dr. Barbara Frye, associate professor of childhood education, will participate in the TransEurope Footrace, which begins April 19 in Lisbon, Portugal, and ends June 21 in Moscow. The 63-day race will go through seven countries for a distance of 3,150 miles. Frye will represent West Florida Y Running Club and USF St. Petersburg, and is running to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as part of the Team in Training program. Donations she raises during the race will benefit research as well as patients and families battling blood-related cancers.

Renovation of the first floor of the **Williams House**, the 113-year-old home of the co-founder of St. Petersburg, is more than 20 percent complete. Among the extensive work underway: Custom doors are being assembled and wooden floors refinished. Artists will touch up decorative stenciling and artwork on ceilings and walls. On the wraparound porch, portions of the canopy and banister scrollwork are being replaced. Once ready, the first floor will be used for campus and public programs, charging space rental to non-USF groups to raise funds to maintain the historic house in perpetuity. The second floor is already in use as faculty offices.

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