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Women's History Month celebrated with many events

Women students now outnumber men on many campuses across the country; they represent 58 percent of USF's student body.

The university's Status of Women Committee acknowledged the accomplishments of students, as well as faculty and staff, during a celebration of Women's History Month. "Women at USF: Networking into the 21st Century," on March 2. This kick-off event took place at the Phyllis F. Marshall Center patio and the Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza areas.

President Betty Castor discussed the challenges that university women still face, particularly in promotions and pay raises. USF hired a consultant to examine salary equity and will hire a liaison to work with her office and faculty on salary-equity issues.

"We have to do better," Castor says. "In a large, decentralized university, decisions affecting salaries are made at many levels. We are working hard to develop new ways to ensure accountability. At the same time, we are struggling to convince the Legislature of the need for higher salaries for faculty, graduate assistants and staff."

Many events are scheduled to celebrate Women's History Month on campus, including:

• March 9: Performance: Flutes by American Women Composers. 8 p.m., Samier Auditorium, New College.

• March 10: Lecture: Pamela Hall-Muller, "Senior Women in the Sciences." Muller is a USF Marine Science professor who specializes in the protection of coral reefs. 7:30 p.m., Grace Allen Reading Room, fourth floor, Tampa campus Library.

• March 11: Two-part series: "Women and Investing" and "Self-commitment: Tips to Personal Happiness and Fulfillment." 6:30-7:45 p.m., 15361 N. Florida Ave., Tampa. For more information, call ext. 4-8791.

• March 15: Performance: "Flutes by American Composers." B.S., Fine Arts building, room 102. General admission is $3; $2 for students and seniors.

• March 17: Panel Discussion: "Asian Women." Noon, Phyllis F. Marshall Center, room 269. Also, a two-part series for USF faculty and staff only: "Women and Divorce." Noon, Student Services building, room 2126. Also takes place March 28 for more information, call ext. 4-5469.

• March 18: Lecture: Carolyn Eichner, "Women and Work in the Paris Commune." Eichner, a USF Women's Studies professor, will discuss a significant aspect of women's labor history. Noon, Faculty Office building, room 106. Also, "Piano Music by Women" will be played at noon in the Fine Arts building, room 101.

Also, the documentary "Maria's Story" is shown at 2 p.m in Cooper Hall, room 127.

• March 22: Workshop: "Assertiveness and Effective Communication." Noon, Student Services building, room 2126. For more information, call ext. 4-5469.

• March 23: Workshop: Sex Fair Education: A Plus (A+) for Everyone." This workshop, led by Education Assistant Dean H. Walker, will inform participants about the status of gender equity and assists educators in assessing equity issues in their own schools. 5:30 to 8 p.m., TECO Conference Room, College of Education.

At the St. Petersburg campus, events include:

• March 16: Presentation: "African-American Women Poets." Phyllis McIwen, poet and performance artist, discusses the lives and works of noted black women poets, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde and Rita Dove. 7:30 p.m. in Davis Hall, noon, March 17, noon.

• March 24: Lecture: "The Psychological and Spiritual Aspects of 'Belonging.'" Kevin Van Paassen, director of USF's Studies, will discuss themes in Toni Morrison's novel "Beloved," including culture, race, gender and identity. 7 p.m., in the USF Activities Center.

• March 26-28: Women's Film Festival; 7 to 9 p.m. on March 26, 1:30 to 4 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 27, and 1 to 3:30 p.m. March 28; Department of Environmental Protection Joint Use Auditorium. Call ext. 3-1139 for more information.

by Lisa Cunningham

Lecture series presents political activist, professor Angela Davis

Political activist and Professor Angela Y. Davis will address how prison reform is making a difference in society in a March 30, lecture at the Tampa campus Special Events Center.

The event is also part of Women's History Month, celebrated at USF. Davis is internationally known for her contributions to the movement of racial equality, women's rights and world peace.

A political activist since her teenage years in Birmingham, Ala., Davis is a living witness to the major struggles of our times—as a student, teacher, writer, scholar and organizer.

Davis first came to national attention in 1969 when she was removed from her teaching position at UCLA because she was a member of the Communist Party.

During her student days, she became involved with the Black Panther Party and was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List.

She became the subject of an intense police search that drove her underground and culminated in one of the most controversial trials of the decade. She was acquitted in 1972. During this period, an international political fugitive, Angela Davis is interviewed by Education and Torture: The Political Prisoner, a political activist and professor at California State University, Long Beach, Davis was a member of the Communist Party and later became a lecturer at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she remains an advocate of penal reform and a staunch opponent of racism and classism in the criminal justice system.

Davis is the author of several books, including "If They Come in the Morning," "Bull-aramy '99" and "Angela Davis: An Autobiography of a Black Feminist." Her latest work, "Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: 'Ma' Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday."

The event is sponsored by the Office of the President of Women's History Month and programs are designed to give back to the university. For more information, call ext. 4-5202 or visit the Web site at usfca.edu/womenshistorymonth.

by R. Colette Glover-Hannah

'Bull-aramy' adds slime, celebrities to luck of the Irish

USF's College of Engineering isn't out to end the luck of the Irish. But it might throw a little slime on it.

In its annual "Bull-aramy Celebrity Dinner," which gained a reputation as one of the most brutal comic events featuring engineers — added a slime booth this year with the help of the Tampa Bay company Mad Science.

For celebrity waiters like USF's women's basketball Coach Jerry Winters and WFTS' Brendan McLaughlin, that means things might get a little bit messy.

'Bull-aramy '99' is scheduled for March 16 at 6 p.m. at Embassy Suites on USF's Tampa Westshore campus.

It will feature celebrity waiters from USF and businesses throughout the Tampa Bay area, including TECO Energy, HDR Engineering and Groeley and Hansen.

In addition to slime and celebrities, the evening's entertainment will include music, casino tables, magicians, 5-minute massages and TECO Energy's Buddy Bollo.

Additionally, an auction will put up for grabs a number of personal outings that alumni have offered as a way of giving back to the university. For example, a tailgate party, a fishing trip and a water ski party are among the items slated to be offered up at the auction.

Tickets for the event are $20. Sponsorship packages are available at costs ranging from $250 to $10,000.

For more information, call ext. 4-5202 or visit the Web site at http://crs.usf.edu/ulusa/.

by Michael Reich
Just put pen to paper, urges Joyce Carol Oates

For writers seeking some encouragement, book deals, collaboration, the USF St. Petersburg campus was the place to be on Feb. 4-6.

Perhaps the best news the participants of the 27th Annual Florida Suncoast Writers’ Conference received: "Joyce Carol Oates is sometimes tempted to give up on her writing."

Oates, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and author of more than 25 novels and short story collections, spoke on the St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses Feb. 4-6.

Other featured speakers included: a b linding flash of lightning, Oates noted. "They arrive fully formed."

"I don't believe in hurrying."

Oates is often amazed at where her writing goes. "I can't explain it."

"Some expect of writers what they don't expect of themselves."

Other things Oates said:

Discouragement can be the biggest culprit of writer's block. "You're going to get it. You're going to get published. That shouldn't be your ultimate goal anyway." - Fred Wright Jr., St. Petersburg freelance writer and USF instructor.

"Read for inspiration in your own work. 'Read a lot, and read widely — what you want, not what's expected of you.' Joyce Carol Oates, acclaimed writer.

"Write for the fun of it. 'Don't let anything discourage you from writing...some (works) are simply not going to get published. That shouldn't be your ultimate goal anyway.' — John Talbot, literary agent and owner of The John Talbot Agency.

"Learn to deal with rejection. "You're going to get it: take encouragement when you can." — John Talbot, literary agent and owner of the John Talbot Agency.

"Find ways to cope with stress. "Creative writing is delving into the unknown; this is stressful." — Fred Wright Jr., St. Petersburg freelance writer and USF instructor.

Focus on the interesting parts of your life for your stories. "Find the compelling moments (in your life), and write those stories into scenes." — Claudia Johnson, screenwriter-in-residence at Florida State University, on writing memoirs.

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Free Silver Springs passes available

USF faculty and staff can receive a free “TwoPass” to Silver Springs and Wild Waters. The pass is good for one year of unlimited visits to Silver Springs, and unlimited visits to the Wild Waters water park from March through September. The pass is also good for Silver Springs’ country concert series, which features entertainers such as George Jones, Vince Gill and the Kinleys.

Silver Springs is a 350-acre nature theme park, located in Ocala, famous for its glass-bottom boat rides and other attractions. For more information on the theme park, visit the Web site www.silversprings.com.

Employees can pick up the TwoPass at the Phyllis P. Marshall Center Information Desk through Feb. 26, or by filling out the on-line application at www.silversprings.com/usf.

The pass is also available at the Silver Springs Guest Relations Booth; a USF identification card is required.

USF faculty and staff can also purchase TwoPasses for friends and family (limit six) for a special price of $29.95, plus tax, for each. Regular price of the TwoPass is $79.95.

Regular admission to the park is $29.95 for adults, and $20.95 for children ages 3 through 10.

Police Department names outstanding employees

Three USF Police Department employees were recently singled out for performing beyond the call of duty.

• Kathy Patterson, an administrative assistant, was named Employee of the Year. Patterson has been with the department since 1987. “Kathy’s interpersonal skills, combined with her can-do attitude, earned the nomination from the sworn and non-sworn personnel of the agency,” said Chief Paul Uravich.

• Officer Elwood “Woody” Furnas, on the force since 1987, received the Community Interaction Award. Furnas has been an active member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving since 1991, and was named vice president of Hillsborough County’s chapter of MADD in 1997. A residence hall officer, Furnas was also named to USFPD’s Special Unit in the summer of 1998. “Being a member of this team allows him to incorporate his many talents with patrolling campus on a bike,” Uravich said.

• Corporal David Millhah was named Police Officer of the Year. Millhah, a member of the force since 1994, is a defensive tactics instructor responsible for the bi-annual defensive tactics training of all sworn personnel. “Dave played an instrumental role in the development of the police department’s Special Deployment Unit, which required specialized training from the International Police Mountain Biking Association,” Uravich said.

Library Honor Society hosts induction ceremony

USF’s chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society, will have an induction ceremony Feb. 25 at the Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center.

USF will honor Kathleen de la Pena McCook, professor and program director of the university’s school of Library and Information Science, as chapter recipient of the BPM Golden Anniversary Award.

The initiation begins at 3:30 p.m. in the board room, and will be followed by a reception honoring the inductees.

Founded in 1948 by leading librarians and library educators, BPM honors graduates of library and information sciences programs who demonstrate scholarship, leadership and a professional dedication of service to others.

Human studies conference in its second year at USF

The Second Annual Qualitative Inquiry Conference takes place Feb. 26.

The conference, which focuses on understanding human behavior through interviews and participatory observation, will be located in the Communication and Information Sciences building, room 1045. Speakers and topics include:

• Jim King: Potential (and Problems) in Using Queer Standpoint Theory in Postmodern Ethnographies;

• Elizabeth Bird: Chatting on Cyndia’s Porch: Ethnography in an Internet Fan Community;

• Lisa Tillmann-Health: Between Gay and Straight: Ethnographic Dilemmas and Possibilities for Friendship;


Roughly 125 people attended the first conference. Everyone is invited to attend any part, or all, of the conference. For more information, call ext. 4-2241.

Inside USF

Vision statement:

Inside USF enhances the sense of community and promotes the institutional mission, vision and values among USF faculty and staff. Publication in InsideUSF of university policies and procedures constitutes official notice to employees. InsideUSF is produced by the Office of Public Affairs.

Darlene Arancek, Editor
Heather Heinz, Assistant Editor
David Funk, Contributing Graphic Designer

The issue dates and deadlines to submit items for Inside USF are:

- Issue Date: Deadline: March 9; March 16; March 23
- Information to be included in Inside USF:
  - Address correspondence to Darlene Arancek. Because of space limitations, articles might not appear in the issue immediately following submission. All house style notes, calendar items and announcements must be submitted in writing. Story ideas are accepted over the phone.
  - Events, workshops, programs and activities for the University of South Florida are available at all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, handicap, or veteran status provided as defined under applicable provisions of federal and state laws.
  - Contact the Equal Opportunity Affairs Office at ext. 4-2241 at least two weeks prior to an event date to make USF a reasonable accommodation if a disability is needed.

Social Security changes made for new year

As of Jan. 1, the maximum earning base for contributions and benefits increased to $72,600, from $68,400, for the 6.2-percent Social Security tax.

There is no limit for the earnings on which the 14.5-percent Medicare Hospital Insurance tax is paid. Social Security and Medicare’s combined tax rate will remain at 7.65 percent.

The earnings required for credit (for example, quarter of coverage) increases to $740 ($2,960 for the maximum of four credits per year). The annual earning limit for beneficiaries under age 65 increases to $9,600 from $9,120 in 1998; the monthly amount increases to $800. For beneficiaries ages 65 to 69, the annual amount increases to $15,500 from $14,500; the monthly amount increases to $1,292.

Sam’s Club offers savings on membership

Sam’s Club advantage membership applications are available in Human Resources, Student Services building, room 2172.

Present your USF identification card to the receptionist in SVC 2172 to receive your Sam’s Club advantage membership application.

You may sign up as an advantage member and receive three cards — primary, spouse and secondary card — for $38 (a savings of $15).

Take the completed application to a Sam’s location to sign up for the advantage membership.