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Community responds to terrorist attacks

The university community has responded to the tragedies in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania by giving blood, donating money to the Red Cross and other organizations, hosting candlelight vigils and counseling each other.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks caused all state universities to close on the afternoon of Sept. 11, counselors in USF’s Counseling Center, Employee Assistance Program and the Victims Advocacy program began working with students and others.

That was only the beginning. Student Government President Mike Griffin, the USF Students of India Association and the Muslim Student Association issued letters of grief and outrage about the attacks.

Both President Judy Genshaft and Provost S. David Stamps issued statements on behalf of USF expressing sorrow for the victims and their families.

Genshaft wrote to the Tribune: “Here at the University of South Florida, we too grieve for the innocent who have died or been injured. We grieve with their loved ones. We grieve for our wounded trust. And, we hope for a world in which good faith and rationality prevail over hate and disorder.”

In an e-mail, Student Affairs Vice President Harold Nixon reassured the campus that the well-being of students is “foremost in our minds.”

He listed a number of services that are on 24-hour alert for students, including Residence Services, the Counseling Center and the PhyslS P. Marshall Center.

In addition, Nixon wrote, Muslim students have been asked to report any confrontations and acts of incivility, either real or rumored, to his office.

Student Government officials took people to a blood drive on the day of the attacks, and Volunteer USF worked with them on the candlelight vigil held Sept. 12, said Amy Simon, who coordinates Volunteer USF.

Her program also worked with the Student Activities office to create the “USF Cares” buttons, which are available for a donation to the Red Cross, throughout the Marshall Center, Simon said. The group also placed student volunteers at Florida Blood Services on Sept. 12-14, to assist with all the people lined up to donate blood.

John Connaughton, an office assistant in the Chemistry department, drives past the blood bank every day. When he left the university at noon Sept. 11, he noticed “so long a line of donors waiting, the entire area was tied up with traffic.”

“When I stopped there myself Wednesday morning at nine o’clock, they suggested I come back at two o’clock,” he said. “When I came back at two, they considered it as having an appointment, so I got in in less than an hour — but the people just arriving were getting appointments for Saturday. That was the soonest FBS could take them.”

In addition to donating blood, some offices such as the Small Business Development Center and the Florida Institute of Phosphate Development Center and the Florida Institute of Phosphate Development Center are collecting money to send to New York or Washington, D.C.

“We’re seeing an outpouring of people wanting to know what they can do to help their country,” said Robert Friedman, chairman of the Child and Family Studies department at USF’s Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

“I’ve had to deal with the tragedy from two different levels,” said Catherine Best, a Public Health doctoral student. “Personally, my nine-year-old son doesn’t... (Continued on Page 2)
USF St. Petersburg hires government relations specialist

Devon Gibbons has been named special assistant to Bill Heller, campus executive officer of USF St. Petersburg. Gibbons, 28, will focus on minority and governmental affairs.

No stranger to politics, Gibbons has worked closely with powerful public officials in the last several years. He was director of legislative and public affairs at the Florida Department of Community Affairs under Secretary Steve Seibert, and was special assistant to former St. Petersburg Mayor Buck Roth.

As a co-chair of Gov. Jeb Bush’s campaign, Gibbons helped get out the vote to elect the governor. Gibbons also was an intern in the office of the St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker’s campaign. At one point, he was a welfare reform and education lobbyist for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Services and also worked for U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, Florida Sen. George Kirkpatrick and former Florida Secretary of Education Doug Jasmer.

Gibbons will work with USF’s overall government affairs office to advocate for the campus’ budget requests along with the other campuses. USF St. Petersburg needs someone to champion our funding requests up in Tallahassee now,” Heller said. “I’ve seen Devon in action in several years and he knows his way around. I’m impressed with his political savvy.”

While much of Gibbons’ new duties are political, he also will serve as a minority student recruiter — another first for the campus. “Since we’re now able to openly enroll freshmen at USF St. Petersburg, we needed a second student recruiter to tap new markets,” Heller said. “Building our minority enrollment is a priority for us, and Devon is a great role model to potential students.”

Gibbons is a St. Petersburg native who graduated from Northeast High School and played football at the University of Florida, where he graduated in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. Now finishing his graduate degree in public administration at USF St. Petersburg, he plans to pursue a doctorate in urban anthropology.

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CALENDAR
September 24 - October 7, 2001

Your guide to all that's happening on campus—sporting events, lectures, seminars, workshops, arts events and more—for faculty, staff and their families. Send items for the calendar to Lisa Cunningham at lcunning@helios.acomp.usf.edu.

Monday 9/24
Changes at work:
The Employee Assistance Program will host a free workshop for faculty and staff on "Surviving the Changing Workplace" from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Services building, Room 2126. Participants will learn how changes in the workplace may cause stress and discuss methods to cope with these changes. Registration is required; to register, visit the Web site usfweb.usf.edu/eap.

Liquid jazz:
Jovino Santos Neto, a pianist, flutist, composer and arranger from Brazil, will perform with the USF Faculty Jazz Ensemble at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall, or Room 101 in the Fine Arts building. Cost is $10 for general admission, $5 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at the Fine Arts box office, ext. 4-2323, or in the lobby of Theatre 2, on weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. For more concerts, check out the Web site at musicarts.usf.edu/calendar.

Tuesday 9/25
Coping with customers:
Lisa Costas of the Employee Assistance Program will conduct a free workshop for faculty and staff on "Coping with Customer-related Conflict: from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Services building, Room 2126. Participants will learn to identify sources of conflict and apply conflict resolution skills.

To register, visit the Web site usfweb.usf.edu/eap.

Wednesday 9/26
Senate meeting:
The Faculty Senate will meet from 5:05 to 5:05 p.m. in the Westside Conference Center, Room A, B, C of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. For more information, call ext. 4-2889.

Delve into Freud's mind:
USF Professor Mark Neumann will discuss "Freud's Home Movies" at 3:30 p.m. in the Communication and Information Sciences building, Room 3020, USF Tampa. For details, call Kenneth Clasna at ext. 4-8820.

Friday 9/28
Tiny chips:
USF St. Petersburg and the City of St. Petersburg's Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Microelectro-mechanical Systems (MEMS) Conference from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Speakers include the Hon. C. W. "Bill" Young, a Congressman; and Steven Welsh, director of the Technological Entrepreneurship Program at the University of New Mexico. For details, contact Lisa Crowell at (813) 228-0652, or by e-mail at Lcrowell@tuckerhall.com. To register, call (727) 821-4069.

Wear green and gold:
Friday's are mostly casual Fridays on campus, they are Green and Gold Spirit Days. The USF Spirit Team reminds all faculty and staff to show their support of USF by wearing green and gold every Friday.

Technology's impact on seniors:
Janan Smither, the director of the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology at the University of Central Florida, will discuss "From Walkers to Walkmen: Technolyogy's Impact on Older Americans" from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the College of Public Health's Auditorium B. For details, call ext. 4-9908.

Comedy on tap:
The USF Theatre Department will put on the John Patrick Shanley ("Moonstruck") play "The Italian-American Reconciliation" today, Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 in Theatre 2. Times are 8 p.m. today and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. The comedy is about Huey, a confused and passionate man, who enlists the help of his best friend Aldo, a confirmed bachelor, to win back his cold-hearted ex-wifies in an attempt to regain his manhood. Cost is $10 for general admission and $5 for students and senior citizens. For details, call ext. 4-2701.

Saturday 9/29
Old, old Florida:
The Latin American and Caribbean Studies program will host a discusion on "Conquistadores in the Land of Flowers: Florida in the 16th Century" at 2 p.m. in the Grace Allen Room on the fourth floor of the Tampa campus library, Paul Camp of the Library's Special Collections department will discuss the founding of St. Augustine in 1565 and show maps and rare books from the USF collection. Other items on display include period military equipment, such as chain mail armor, a matchlock musket and a crossbow. For details, call Camp at ext. 4-2731.

Sunday 9/30
He's the Dogg:
"Gangsta' rapper Snoop Dogg will appear in concert at the Sun Dome at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $30 and $25, plus a service charge, and are available at the Sun Dome ticket office, all TicketMaster outlets, by phone at (813) 287-8844 and on line at www.ticketmaster.com.

For details, call ext. 4-3902.

Listen to the showcase: "Gulf Coast Showcase," a weekly broadcast of music-making along Florida's West coast, will be aired from 8 to 11 p.m. on Sundays on WUSF-FM 88.7. Mary Diana, WUSF's music director, will host. Tonight, Paul Wolf will lead the Sarasota Music Festival Orchestra and soloists during opening night from this year's Sarasota Music Festival. Selections include Beethoven's "Triple Concerto in C."

Monday 10/1
Learn about depression:
The Employee Assistance Program will host "Understanding Depression." a free workshop for faculty and staff, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Services building, Room 2126. Registration is required. To register on-line, visit the Web site at usfweb.usf.edu/eap.

Remembering Riordan:
The USF community is invited to participate in a memorial service for Patrick Riordan, a USF history professor and director of the Resource Center for History and Politics, based in the Tampa campus library. Riordan died after a battle with cancer in June. The event will begin at 2 p.m. in Theatre 1.

Tuesday 10/2
Be a positive parent:
The USF's Employee Assistance Program will host "Positive Parenting," a free, six-week educational series for faculty and staff, through Nov. 6. The class will be on Mondays, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Student Services building, Room 2126. Registration is required. To register, go to the Web site usfweb.usf.edu/eap.

Get certified:
USF's Educational Outreach office will offer a free information seminar on the A+, MCSE, MCSD, Oracle Developer and Oracle Database Administrator programs at 6:30 p.m. in the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute's Westside Conference Center on the Tampa campus. For details, call Les Butts at 1-800-282-0225. To register for the seminar, go to the Web site www.outreach.usf.edu and click on "Computer Programs."

Check out a foreign film:
The Centre Gallery in the Phyllis P. Marshall Center will host a foreign film series this fall on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Center. Room 204. Admission is free, along with soft drinks, coffee and popcorn. Tonight's movie is "The Oak." Call the gallery at ext. 4-5284.

For more information, visit the Web site at usfweb.usf.edu.