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Peck discusses university funding during annual budget forum

For Noah Kennedy, it was more than the books, the authors and the fellow writers.

For this 7-year-old, it was all about the cookies and the signature on his shirt.

"Sam signed my shirt," Noah said.

"But I forget who he is.

I got free cookies though," the Aberdeen Preparatory School student said, offering up the bag with McDonald's characters shaped into sugary treats as proof. And then there was the free book, just one of many offerings of the day.

Noah was among nearly 1,000 children in kindergartner through fifth grade who converged on the Tampa campus' Special Events Center for the 15th Annual Suncoast Young Authors Celebration on April 7.

Tampa Bay area children were selected by their schools to attend the event after writing stories, said Jennifer Schneider, a USF Childhood Language Arts and Reading professor who organized the event.

Authors and illustrators Floyd Cooper, Judith Casey; Pat Cummings; Alice Schertle; Roy Conley, a Disney animator; and apparently someone named "Sam" were all on hand to talk to the children and sign conference T-shirts in permanent ink.

The authors also entertained the children with interactive story telling and also reading from their works.

They explained how they got their ideas and developed them into a finished project.

The elementary school students also shared their books with their peers, although their words were sometimes lost in the din of excited children heading from booth to booth, getting autographs on T-shirts and looking over books and other wares.

Baycrest Elementary teacher Lance Otto had about 15 students "all around here somewhere" in the crowd of children getting faces painted, coloring papers on the floor and looking for trinkets to put in their plastic yellow bags.

At his school, more than 350 children vied to attend the authors celebration by writing short stories.

The best stories were then picked by the teachers and their young authors came to the event.

"A lot of kids got into it," Otto said.

"The event shows our students that there are many others like them who like to read, who like to write. That's the best influence.

Allison Spivey, a 10-year-old student from Twin Lakes Elementary School, said she liked her free shirt, but brought home other assets from the conference as well.

"We learn how to write, listen to authors and give opinions," she said.

The Young Authors Celebration was sponsored by GTE, Scholastic Books, Casper/McDonald Company, the USF Bookstore and Especially for You Inc.

GTE's sponsorship includes $40,000 for the next four years.

"With our focus on literacy, it's an absolutely great program for the community," said Ron Drew, public affairs director for GTE. "We know that low levels of literacy affect the economy of the area, and encouraging our young people to write is important. We're doing all kinds of things to promote reading, writing and computer literacy.

Thirty College of Education students, many of them majoring in elementary education and early childhood education, volunteered for the event.

by Lisa Cunningham and Daniela Arturkle

Shelley Fritz (right) was one Tampa Bay area student who was chosen by her school to attend the 15th Annual Suncoast Young Authors Celebration on the Tampa campus on April 7.

photo by Greg Fischer

Points of Pride


Take the tour: New College won the www.camputours.com's four-star award for April for its virtual tour on the USF Web site.

USF Interim President Richard Peck recently announced that Vicki Mitchell, associate vice president for development, is the interim vice president for University Advancement while a national search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

Mitchell will take over for Kathy Stafford, who resigned as vice president last month to accept a similar position at the University of Houston.

Mitchell has served as USF's associate vice president for development since 1995.

The Florida State University graduate, who also worked for Florida's Board of Regents, came to USF in 1986 as part of the management team for the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign. Since 1996, she has provided day-to-day management for the university's current capital campaign, Great Achievements — Great Expectations: The Campaign for USF, which runs until June 2001.

Under her leadership, the campaign recently reached $210 million toward its $250-million goal.

"Vicki Mitchell has been a central force in advancing USF in the community and among its many constituents," Peck said. "She has achieved tremendous success in our comprehensive capital campaign.

Peck also announced that several departments will report to USF's associate vice president for public affairs, Harry Batton.

University Relations, Community Advancement and USF's public broadcasting stations, WUSF-FM 89.7 and WUSF-TV Ch. 16, will all report to Batton.

These departments previously reported directly to the vice president for University Advancement. This will enable Mitchell to maintain his focus on its campaigns, Peck said.

Peck also announced that a search committee of university faculty and community representatives will soon be put together to help select a permanent vice president.

Vice presidential candidates should begin interviewing by September.

by Todd Martinez-Padilla Simmons

Professor of History

April 21 - May 4, 2000

Reynolds, Barbara J

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Send address changes to Human Resources, SVC 2172

The University of South Florida's faculty/staff newsletter

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The University of South Florida's faculty/staff newsletter
Appointments, Awards and Honors

Lawrence R. Broer, English, was recently elected to the board of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society.

Greg W. Marshall, Marketing, was named co-chair of the 2001 American Marketing Association Summer Educators’ Conference, which will take place in Washington, D.C., in August.

Gerry Meisels, Chemistry and Coalition for Science Balance Literacy, was appointed to the state Department of Education Planning Group to develop the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in science.

William Murray, History, was appointed the executive director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies for USF’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Arthur L. Schwartz Jr., Finance — St. Petersburg, was elected to a five-year term on the Associated Real Estate Authority board of directors during the ARES annual meeting in Santa Barbara, Calif., in March.

Presentations

Meredith Ault and Rachel Viggianno, Florida Distance Learning Reference and Referral Center, presented “Virtual Research Services for Distance Learners” at the Information Strategies for the Next Century in Fort Myers on March 17.

Ruth Banes, American Studies, and David A. Bealmear, American Studies and English, participated in the panel discussion “Remnants of the ‘60s: Did the Counter-cultural Revolution Change American Society?” at the Gulf Coast Museum of Art in Largo on Feb. 20.

Denys Biehl, Diversity Initiatives, presented “Building Diverse Communities of Commitment and Learning” and “Building Diverse Teams That Do Great Work” at the University of West Florida on Feb. 28-29.

Nicole Gale, Florida Center for Community Design and Research, presented “Automated Bathymetric Mapping and Modeling of Florida’s Lakes” at the state chapter of Urban and Regional Information Systems Association conference at USF on Feb. 24.

Sandra Garcia, Ethics Center, presented “Reproduction, Law and Black America” at Tuskegee University’s National Center for Bioethics in Alabama on Feb. 15.

Abdelwahab Hechiche, Government and International Affairs, participated in a panel on “Fundamentalism in Latin America” at the Center for Social Concern in Jerusalem on Feb. 17. Hechiche also participated in the international conference “Sacred Space” at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem on Feb. 13-17.

Kathleen de la Pena McCook, Library and Information Science, delivered the keynote speech “Diversity Now!” at the Big Twelve Consortium Conference, which took place at the University of Texas in Austin on April 14.


Edward J. Neugra, Languages and Linguistics, presented “The Cangaceiros in Brazilian Cinema” at the Louisiana State University Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures in Baton Rouge, La., on March 15.

Darryl Paulson, Government and International Affairs — St. Petersburg, was a featured speaker at the Leadership Pinellas Candidate Training Seminar on Jan. 29; and at the Political Campaigns, Media and Ethics Conference at USF on Feb. 21. Paulson also spoke on Pinellas County redistricting with County Administrator Fred Marquis on Jan. 6. He also moderated in the Campaigns and Elections Political Campaign Training Seminar in Tampa on Dec. 10-11.

Noreen Poor, Environmental and Occupational Health, presented “Atmospheric Deposition of Particulate Matter in the Surface of Tampa Bay” in the geological and hydrological sciences session for the 64th annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne on April 9-11.

Stephanie Rice, Florida Distance Learning Reference and Referral Center, presented “Issues and Services to Students at a Distance” at the Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference in Alexandria, La., on March 15.

Dean elected president of education group

JoAnn McCarthy, USF dean of International Affairs, was recently named president-elect of the Association of International Education Administrators at its annual meeting.

The organization is comprised of chief international education administrators from 200 major universities across the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Asia. McCarthy’s appointment is for two years, beginning in 2001.

McCarthy also was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the American Council on Education’s International Commission, which serves as the advisory and strategic planning body for ACE in the field of international and global education. It develops national policy positions on international education as well as strategies of good practice to help colleges and universities become more internationalized.

Since her arrival in August, McCarthy has taken responsibility for several USF programs, including the Office of Overseas Studies and Exchange, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

McCarthy, who was an assistant professor at the Florida State University, was hired away from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., where she was executive director of international programs. Before that, she was director of the international studies program at Illinois State University.

by Teresa D. Brion

WUSF-FM reporter wins Associated Press awards

Longtime WUSF-FM 89.7 news reporter Bobbie O’Brien was recently named the winner of two awards from the Associated Press in Florida, including the group’s prestigious investigative reporting award for the second consecutive year.

O’Brien earned the latter prize for a story on school uniform policies that was part of a WUSF education series in 1999. Her other first-place award was for Best Use of Sound in a story on a crash training program for firefighters in Pinellas County.

Those two prizes complement O’Brien’s 1999 first-place award in investigative reporting for a story on school violence that also was part of a WUSF series on education.

O’Brien didn’t find out about the awards until she returned from vacation April 10 — one week after they were announced.

She said she produces stories “without any consideration of what it will take to get them published,” in order to get them into the hands of listeners. However, she is proud of her Best Use of Sound Award.

“As someone who came to this field from TV news, it’s a big compliment. It says you’ve mastered the skills of radio reporting,” she said.

O’Brien is a senior at WUSF for nine years. Prior to that, she was a producer/researcher for the WFTV-TV Ch. 13 news department.

The AP awards will be presented formally at a banquet later this spring.

by Tod Martinez-Padilla Simmons

Dean William H. Scheuerle, English, presented “Possessions, Obsessions and Manifestations” at the 19th Century Studies Association in Arlington, Va., in March.

Arthur L. Schwartz Jr., Finance — St. Petersburg, presented “Applying the New Rules for Management Decision and Analysis in the Real Estate Industry,” co-authored by Jerry Lander, Accounting — St. Petersburg; and “Environmental Determinants of Housing Prices: The Impact of Flood Zone Status,” co-authored by Greg Smersh, Finance — St. Petersburg; at the American Real Estate Society’s annual meeting in Santa Barbara, Calif., in March.

Publications


Gaetan Brulote, Languages and Linguistics, published “La Fautuile Roulant” in the spring issue of XYZ 61, Canada.


Wendel


Kevin A. Yelvington, Anthropology, recently published “Caribbean Crucible History, Culture and Globalization” in “Social Education, Vol. 64.”