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USF researchers once again logged a record year in sponsored research with more than $171.4 million in contracts and grants. The number is an increase of more than $10 million over last year, university officials recently announced.

The announcement came just weeks after the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching indicated it will place USF among the nation’s top research institutions in the Doctoral/Research Universities — Extensive category.

The sponsored research total, which includes more than $53 million in federal awards, maintains USF’s position as the second largest research program in the state university system. USF also ranks among the top 60 public research universities nationally in grants and sponsored research funding.

“The greater Tampa Bay area is home to a great research university — one that will play a central role in the development of our economic base over the next century,” said USF President Judy Genshaft. “Our faculty’s high-caliber research, which fuels graduate and undergraduate education, distinguishes USF as one of the top nationally competitive universities.”

College of Medicine researchers again conducted the highest amount of research this year at $63 million, up from nearly $60 million last year.

The largest increase was in the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, whose total research awards increased by $4 million to more than $38 million.

Other projects include:
• H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center’s $5.7 million Molecular Oncology Program. Project is exploring new ways to target cancers on the molecular level. The National Cancer Institute is funding the research.
• The Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance received $2.9 million from the U.S. Navy for programs to aid Latin American and Caribbean countries.
• Researchers in the Florida Center for Community Design and Research are creating a stormwater atlas for Hillsborough County with a $545,400 grant from the county, and developing a watershed atlas for Seminole County with a $225,000 grant from that county.

“As once again, we are seeing the comprehensive nature of this university’s research programs,” said George Newkome, USF’s vice president of research, who oversees USF’s research growth. “Health care, water resources, transportation, social services, education — USF research covers the waterfront.”

USF’s research program has grown dramatically during the last decade — up from just $54 million in 1989-1990. Yet its growth is expected to slow down for now, until additional funding is available for laboratories and equipment.

“USF research is near capacity at the present time,” Newkome said. “Without additional facilities, particularly for some of the sciences, we can’t expand to continue double digit growth in sponsored research.”

“The new Carnegie ranking shows that USF is quickly meeting its goals,” said interim Provost David Stamps. “We’ve not only grown fast in terms of numbers, we’ve also attained a high degree of quality.”

The added prestige means faculty will have a better chance of recruiting students from top universities such as University of California — Berkeley, added Education Professor Dana Zeidler.

by Michael Reich

Betzer appointed acting dean at College of Marine Science

Interim Provost David Stamps recently announced the appointment of Peter Betzer as the acting dean of the College of Marine Science.

“As an advocate of marine science and a scholar that has been able to develop a vision and see it through, Dr. Betzer’s experience, skills and commitment to educational excellence will provide continued strong leadership for the college in the year ahead,” Stamps said.

Betzer has been at USF for nearly 29 years and has served as chairman of the former Marine Science department in the College of Arts and Sciences since 1982.

During his tenure as chairman, Betzer has assisted in establishing the Interdisciplinary Science Journalism Center.

He helped lead the way for the College of Marine Science to receive funding for large program initiatives from the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army.

In addition to Betzer’s administrative responsibilities, he continues to have an active role with students.

The College of Marine Science offers M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. Students may specialize in biological, chemical, geological or physical oceanography, or develop an interdisciplinary program in oceanography through coursework, the dissertation research.

USF’s Marine Science program was upgraded from a department within USF’s College of Arts and Sciences into its own college this year, pending Board of Regents approval.

It is USF’s 10th college, counting New College at USF-Sarasota/Manatee.

Marine Science undertakes more than $16 million each year in federally sponsored research.

The Marine Science college is exclusive to USF’s St. Petersburg campus.

by Terri D. Breen

$5 million earmarked for education

Many urban children who have or are suspected of having disabilities in the nation’s public schools have difficulty getting the help they need. There are few national research initiatives that focus on their representation in special education and remedial classes.

USF’s Special Education department, sparked by Professor Brenda Townsend, hopes to change that. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs gave the department a $5-million grant, or $1 million each year for five years, for LASER (Linking Academic Scholars to Educational Resources), a program to develop and implement a definitive research agenda in urban special education.

“The ultimate goal is to improve schooling for urban children with or suspected of having disabilities,” Townsend said. “We will develop a national, strength-based model that documents strategies for enhancing individual and institutional research capacities. This program will provide technical assistance and professional development for minority doctoral and master students and faculty in the form of paid internships, technical assistance, research mentorship and more time and support to do their research.”

In addition to these goals, the Special Education department will recruit cohorts of minority doctoral students, who will conduct urban special ed research studies, Townsend said. The doctoral students will spend their first two years at USF and their third year at a historically black college or university, a Hispanic-serving institution or another minority institution.

“We’ll be recruiting USF students from across the country, but we’ll be specifically targeting minority institutions like FAMU, A&M and UIU,” she said.

Already, FAMU and 18 other minority institutions across the nation have indicated they want to participate in LASER, creating a collaborative research network, Townsend said.

The program will begin in August 2001 with four students for the academic year. One will be for four years thereafter, four doctoral students will participate.

by Lisa Cunningham
This fall, the program that examines the experiences and contributions of African and African-Americans will officially become the Africana Studies Department in the USF College of Arts and Sciences.

Interim Provost David Stamps recently announced that Navita Cummings James, director of the Africana Studies program, said it is gratifying to see the program receive this recognition and support.

Despite the exciting changes taking place, she remains committed to the mission of the program. As a faculty member, she feels it is important to continue to foster a community that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

She added, "As African Studies moves ahead, we should continue to look at the experiences and contributions of African and African-Americans will officially become the Africana Institute of the fall semester."

The Africana Institute is an umbrella organization that brings together faculty, students, and community members to promote African and African-American studies.

For more information, contact Africana Studies at ext. 4-2237.
New advancement director named at USF St. Petersburg

Alexandra Jupin was named interim director of advancement at USF St. Petersburg in mid-July by campus acting vice president Bill Hepler. She replaces Carol Russell, who has accepted a position as vice president of All American Mortgage Company. Jupin has 18 years of experience in higher education, working in senior management positions at Florida State University of Arizona at Tuscan.

Now a consultant in arts administration for the University of Massachussetts in Amherst, she says she is looking forward to working with students and the community in her new role.

Lorraine Mayfield-Brown, Interdisciplinary Studies, organized the sessions “Race, C and Gender: Diminished Dreams”, “Race, Class and Gender: Family De
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and Liberation: Challenges for the 21st C
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