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Community

With a little help from their friends, some disabled athletes received devices from USF engineering students that help them compete. Page 6.

USF employee Amy Fletcher stopped to help a bicyclist who was hit by a car recently. The bicyclist was Steve Schreiber, director of USF's School of Architecture and Community Design. Page 4.

Faculty

USF's Center for Aging and Brain Repair has earned a $1.3 million federal grant to study whether stem cells from human umbilical cord blood can save the brain from age-related decline. Page 3.

Staff

Recent Quiet Quality Award winners, selected by the USPS Senate, are briefly profiled. Page 7.

Architecture school shows off plans to redesign downtown

Imagine downtown Tampa as a vibrant place where people can live, work and play after 5 p.m.

Now imagine an integrated transportation system that will get you to any part of downtown in a matter of minutes, street improvements that allow for convenient pedestrian movement and enhanced vehicular access and parking. These ideas were the result of a semester-long project for 11 graduate students in USF's School of Architecture and Community Design.

On May 2, the graduate students presented their urban design vision to a panel that included representatives from the Tampa Downtown Partnership and the city of Tampa, as well as local architects and others who have an interest in the city's redevelopment.

The proposal will be on display until May 17 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at The Cubes, 600 N. Ashley Drive. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The redesign plan comes from graduate students in USF's School of Architecture and Community Design, which was recently ranked the top architecture school in Florida by the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design.

"We hope this makes people more aware of the issues and opportunities that lie ahead as Tampa's downtown evolves and illustrates the value of implementing a plan," said Trent Green, professor of architecture and community design and adviser to the graduate students.

The students suggest revamping the area with a variety of new development, including:

- Residential options ranging from luxury high rises to more affordable housing.
- Commercial development and redevelopment, including the possibility of relocating the Tampa Convention Center, which can't be expanded at its current site, and building a larger facility near Union Station.
- Well-integrated and different modes of transit and a more-efficient boulevard system for moving traffic in and out of downtown.
- Expanded cultural offerings, such as new entertainment venues.
- Lively waterfront shopping, dining and leisure spots.
- Enhanced open spaces, such as expanding Gaslight Park into a downtown square.

The downtown Tampa redevelopment proposal is one of a number of projects the School of Architecture and Community Design has undertaken to engage with the community and support better urban design. Student and faculty projects span the greater Tampa Bay area, such as redesigning the Clearwater roundabout, revitalizing the neighborhoods west of USF in Tampa, developing bus shelters in Venice and designing a new Oldsmar Cultural Arts Center — a design that won several awards for the school.

The Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design selected USF's school as the top architecture school in the state after reviewing student work submitted in five competitions in 2001 and 2002. The work included a poster competition, the building design competition for the Oldsmar Cultural Arts Center, selection as the best hands-drawn and digital renderings of the Oldsmar project and an academic program fostering leadership skills.

According to the organizers, hundreds of students from all six Florida architecture schools participated in the competitions. Three awards and prize money were made for each contest. USF students won 10 of the 15 awards, including the first places. The students also won the People's Choice award and Mayor's Choice award for the Oldsmar competition.

by Michelle Carlyon
Student drinking more harmful than researchers thought

Distinguished USF Psychology Professor Mark Goldman was at the forefront of research released in April on college student drinking. "That drinking is more dangerous than many researchers thought and the consequences are more destructive," according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's Task Force on College Drinking.

Task force co-chairs Malcolm and Father Edward C. Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame, announced the findings at a press conference in Washington, D.C., on April 9.

"The consequences of excessive drinking are far too common on many college campuses, and the efforts to reduce high-risk drinking and its related problems have largely failed," said Goldman.

The task force commissioned more than two dozen studies and conducted a comprehensive review of research on college drinking. Among the studies was one conducted by Boston University professor Ralph W. Hingson, who found that drinking by college students, ages 18-24, contributed to:

- an estimated 1,400 deaths and 500,000 injuries
- 70,000 cases of sexual assault or date rape
- 400,000 students who had unprotected sex
- 2.1 million students who drove a car last year while under the influence of alcohol.

"But we need not accept high-risk drinking on our campuses as inevitable," said USF's Goldman. "If colleges and communities work together, they can change these harmful drinking patterns. We hope this report will help them do that, by providing tools to help them make more informed decisions."

The task force is calling for research-based prevention programs they recommend that to succeed, schools must intervene with the individual student, the entire student body and the surrounding community.

For details, go to the Web site www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov.

by Marsha Strickhouse


Chiles Center grant to assist children lacking health insurance

The Chiles Center for Healthy Children at USF has received a $1 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to connect Florida's estimated 370,000 eligible, uninsured children with low-cost health care coverage offered through the State Child Health Insurance Program, also known as the Florida KidCare. The grant will be used to find and enroll eligible families, simplify enrollment and renewal processes, and coordinate health-care coverage programs.

"Thousands of Florida's uninsured families do not realize they qualify for the state's child health insurance program," said Mary Figg, the Chiles Center's Covering Kids program director. "With generous funding and support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we are better equipped to identify and enroll eligible children for coverage."

The Chiles Center is a research center at USF Directed by the Health Sciences Center, the facility is dedicated to determining the most effective strategies and programs to promote healthy mothers, infants and young children.

The grant is part of Covering Kids & Families, the Johnson Foundation's four-year, $55 million national initiative. The program offers grants to statewide and local coalitions throughout the country to increase the number of eligible children and adults benefiting from federal and state health-care coverage programs. Working through these coalitions, the initiative will build on the work and experience of Covering Kids, a three-year foundation initiative that has worked to enroll uninsured children in public-health coverage programs.

As with Covering Kids, the Covering Kids & Families effort will work to involve private and volunteer organizations, including churches, businesses, health plans, providers and foundations, in partnership with traditional child advocacy organizations and state officials.

"Covering Kids & Families will build on the success of Covering Kids and ensure that even more eligible children get the health-care coverage they need and deserve," said Judith Whang, the foundation's senior program officer.

"Our experience has shown that informing working families about these programs and simplifying the enrollment process are critical components in getting eligible children enrolled," Whang said. "Through Covering Kids & Families, we plan to keep our efforts to see that the low-cost and free health-care coverage programs offered in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are fully utilized."

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, based in Princeton, N.J., is the nation's largest philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grant making in four goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable costs; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; to promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse from tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

For more information about Florida KidCare, call toll-free: (888) 540-5437, or visit the Web site at www.floridakidcare.org. Information about the Covering Kids & Families initiative can be found at www.coveringkids.org.

USF Lakeland's Senior Academy seeks volunteers

USF Lakeland needs volunteers for the Senior Academy, an affiliate of the Elderhostel Institute Network.

The Senior Academy is a continuing education program for mature adults who are retired or nearing retirement. It is administered in a collegial environment by members and for members by USF Lakeland's Division of Senior Programs. The program is designed for those interested in seeking and/or sharing knowledge and expertise with their peers. Operating on the premise that "education is a journey, not a destination," Senior Academy members select their own topics and lead study and interest groups throughout the year.

Volunteers are sought for the two committees in the program: the advisory committee and the curriculum committee. The advisory committee has eight volunteers. Members meet once a month to discuss the direction and progress of the Senior Academy, and serve as the leaders and primary communication link to the surrounding communities.

The curriculum committee has five members selected from the voting membership of the Senior Academy program. Before the beginning of the fall term, the committee chair appoints four of the members for one-year terms. The curriculum committee will assess the community's instructional needs.

The registration deadline is July 5. For more information, contact Toni Moon at ext. 7-7029.