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Dedication : 2006 : 02 : 23 : Derby Lane Library [in Williams House]

Karen A. White

Louise Weaver

James Anthony Schnur

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USF St. Petersburg

USF St. Petersburg is a rapidly growing, urban campus of University of South Florida, a Carnegie-designated Doctoral/Research University. Over 4,600 students enroll in 26 undergraduate and 12 graduate degree programs through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education. USF St. Petersburg is the only public university in Pinellas County, in an area of 1 million people. The 40-year-old campus is USF's largest regional campus and was the state university system's prototype for such campuses.

USF St. Petersburg is committed to excellence in research and teaching, and it values faculty-student research collaboration, interdisciplinary perspectives, university-community partnerships, and a student-centered environment supportive of diversity. Located on Bayboro Harbor in downtown St. Petersburg, this waterfront campus is home to the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education; a 204,839-volume library; a full-service computer center and computer store; a fitness center; and other student recreational activities.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG

Derby Lane Library Dedication

Thursday
February 23, 2006
5:00 pm

Williams House
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Program

Welcome

Karen A. White
Regional Chancellor



The Williams House

Jim Schnur
Special Collections Librarian



History of Derby Lane

Louise Weaver



Dedication

Derby Lane

Lumber provided the fuel for the Florida land boom of the 1920s. Sawmills appeared along the Pinellas Peninsula to provide building supplies. Members of the pioneer families who started the Pinellas Lumber Company also saw other opportunities in the early 1920s along a tract of land near the site of the recently-opened Gandy Bridge.

The St. Petersburg Kennel Club celebrated its first races in January 1925. Later known as Derby Lane, this facility has attracted visitors for more than eighty years. The facility has also expanded, with the wooden seats replaced by concrete and steel grandstands in the late 1940s, the addition of fine dining and clubhouse seating, and later enhancements including new kennel compounds. A popular destination for locals and tourists alike, Derby Lane celebrates a long history of continuous operation.

The Williams House

When built in 1890-1891, this Victorian home was the most spectacular residence along the lower Pinellas Peninsula. During the summer of 1888, John and Sarah Williams brought the Orange Belt Railway to lands that they owned. Soon, the small village of St. Petersburg took shape along Tampa Bay.

Once located along Fifth Avenue South near Fifth Street, a wooden annex was added to this house in the early 1900s and it became part of the Manhattan Hotel. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. With the support of community partners, USF St. Petersburg secured state historic preservation grants to move the original Williams House to campus in 1995 and restore the home to its present splendor.

USF

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG

*Regional Chancellor Karen A. White
requests the pleasure of your company
at the dedication of the
Derby Lane Library
on Thursday afternoon
the twenty-third day of February
at five o'clock
in the historic Williams House
511 Second Street South*

*The Derby Lane Room honors the generosity of the
St. Petersburg Kennel Club
to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus.*

R.s.v.p. 873-4735