

1-1-2011

## Students Lead Efforts to Build USFSP Student Center

Robert Baynard

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### Scholar Commons Citation

Baynard, Robert, "Students Lead Efforts to Build USFSP Student Center" (2011). *USF Magazine Articles about USF St. Petersburg campus*. 65.

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## New USF Trustees Named

Two USF alumni, **Stephanie Goforth** and **Dr. Louis Saco**, have been named to the USF Board of Trustees.



**Goforth**, a senior vice president and wealth strategists manager for Northern Trust, is a member of the USF St. Petersburg Regional Campus Board.

A 24-year veteran of the trust, investment and banking industries, she joined Northern Trust in 2005, and today manages all aspects of trust sales activities for the West Coast of Florida. Goforth earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from USF with a major in business management. She is a current board member and treasurer of All Children's Hospital Foundation, the CASA Board of Trustees, the Heroes of St. Petersburg Board and the St. Petersburg YMCA.



**Dr. Saco** is CEO and chairman of Watson Clinic, a Lakeland-

based physicians group with more than 200 physicians. Board-certified in gastroenterology and internal medicine, Dr. Saco is medical director of Lakeland Surgical & Diagnostic Center and has been the team physician for the Detroit Tigers and the Lakeland Tigers baseball team since 1985. Dr. Saco earned his Master of Business Administration degree from USF, and is a member of the board of directors of numerous organizations including Volunteers in Service to the Elderly, the Learning Resource Center and Florida Southern College.

- Barbara Melendez | USF News

## Students Lead Effort to Build USFSP Student Center

When **Jon Ellington** first began lobbying on behalf of USF St. Petersburg, he wasn't sure what to expect from his meeting with state lawmakers about the prospect of a new student center.

"Everyone was really supportive," Ellington says. "And saw that this is essential to have for a college experience."

Ellington, along with fellow student leaders **James Scott**, **Sarah Henry** and **Reuben Pressman**, lobbied in Tallahassee six times before the university received approval for a student activity fee increase needed to fund the building.

"Up until a few years ago, our student government had not raised fees like most student governments would," says Pressman, former SG vice president. "So we had some catching up to do."

The 81,000-square-foot student center will have indoor and outdoor dining facilities, meeting rooms, a 196-bed residence hall and a ballroom. Construction begins in March, and the building is expected to open by the Fall 2012 semester.

Situated along the Harborwalk promenade, the building is designed to become the focal point of student culture.

"It's geographically the center of the campus," says project architect Rick Rowe. "Which is right where a student center should be."

- Rob Baynard '12 | USFSP

