The 2004-05 academic year just began and USF St. Petersburg’s campus community already has a lot to be excited about.

The year begins with a focus on new faculty and staff, new facilities, including those outlined in the Revised Campus Master Plan, and a new academic program in the College of Business.

**New Faculty and Staff**

**James Gore**, PhD, joins USF St. Petersburg as Senior Scientist and Professor of Environmental Science, Policy and Geography, a Program of Distinction. His doctorate is in zoology from the University of Montana and he most recently taught at Columbus State University. Gore specializes in the relationships between stream-flow and stream-ecology.

**Hugh LaFollette**, PhD, joins USF St. Petersburg as the Marie and Leslie E. Cole Endowed Chair in Ethics. LaFollette received his PhD in philosophy from Vanderbilt University and previously taught for 15 years at East Tennessee State University. In addition to teaching, LaFollette will work to develop a curriculum in ethics to attract eminent scholars and outstanding students. The Cole Endowed Chair was a gift from long-time campus advocate Edward Cole as a tribute to his parents.

**Christopher F. D’Elia, PhD**, associate regional vice chancellor for Research and Community Partnerships, joins USF St. Petersburg Sept. 1. The first research leader in the campus’ 39-year history, D’Elia will be responsible for identifying new research priorities for the campus. He will develop and promote internal competitive awards, and oversee quality assurance for research activities. Known for his research on coastal, tropical and subtropical ecology, D’Elia joins USF St. Petersburg from the University at Albany, SUNY.

**New Facilities**

USF St. Petersburg’s **first research laboratories** opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony May 24, 2004. Eight researchers from the Environmental Science, Policy and Geography Program of Distinction have moved in to the facilities, located next to the Piano Man Building.

The Revised Campus Master Plan has been presented and proposes the campus’ first **residential housing** and a **950-space parking garage**. A second hearing is scheduled on campus in November for public comment, with groundbreaking forecasted for late Spring ’05.

**New Academic Program**

**MBA Essentials** is a new program that prepares students for MBA study by offering an accelerated curriculum of core course work. Instead of granting credits, the intensive semester allows a waiver for 21 credit hours. MBA Essentials, which already has 36 students registered for spring 2005, covers eight content areas: Accounting, Economics, Finance, Information Systems, Management, Marketing, Productions/Operations management and Statistics. The program consists of seven two-week modules and one 16-week module that combine weekend class time and online assignments to give students enough knowledge to select their areas of concentration for their MBA.

USF St. Petersburg offers students four new concentrations – Corporate Social Responsibility, Forensic Accounting, Managing Knowledge Resources and Taxation. The concentrations are based on the College of Business’ Program of Distinction, Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting.