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# Bill Hogarth: These are exciting times at USF St. Petersburg

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Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth

Welcome back!

It has been anything but a quiet summer at USF St. Petersburg and the fall term promises to be more exhilarating than ever.

As the new interim regional chancellor, I am struck by the energy and enthusiasm around campus.

I am proud to take the helm during one of the most exciting times in the history of this great university.

Consider:

- Our freshman class of 2016 is the largest in USFSP history and we've never had more students in university housing.
- The gleaming new [University Student Center](#) is a game-changer as the central gathering place for the entire campus.
- The new Student Life Center will offer comprehensive health services to students for the first time in our history as well as needed space for student organizations.
- We continue to attract professors who are leaders in their fields, such as J. Michael Francis, Ph.D., who holds the new Hough Family Endowed Chair in Florida Studies, and two professors in the College of Business, Carl Pacini, Ph.D., an expert in fraud and forensic accounting, and Hermant Merchant, an expert in global business and entrepreneurship.
- We are planning [three events at Harbor Hall](#) the week of the Republican National Convention: Author Michael Grunwald will discuss his latest book Aug 28; Grover Norquist, founder and president of Americans for Tax Reform, will discuss the U.S. political process Aug. 29; and a watch party for the last night of the convention Aug 30 will include a conversation moderated by Judithanne Scourfield, Ph.D., an associate professor of political science.

Finally, please join me for the launch of the University Student Center at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 6. I look forward to a lively ceremony followed by tours of the building. If you can't make it then, please stop by any time. The Reef dining hall in the USC is open to the public seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I hope to see you there.

*Bill Hogarth, Ph.D.*  
Interim Regional Chancellor  
USF St. Petersburg