

New Horizons for a New Millennium (1998-2005)

Moving Forward and Building upon a Strong Academic Tradition

The expanded faculty called for short- and long-term office shuffling: During the summer of 2003, each college moved into its own building, with Arts and Sciences taking possession of Davis Hall, Education in Coquina Hall, and Business in a sublease arrangement with Progress Energy Florida at 1200 Bayboro Station, on the south end of the harbor.

Interim VP/CEO Ralph Wilcox also shuffled resources in an important way. Shortly after arriving on campus, he encouraged faculty throughout the campus to examine new collaborations within the University and with outside entities that would foster scholarship and create "Programs of Distinction." After reviewing proposals, Wilcox and senior administrators selected four unique programs: Environmental Science and Policy, Florida Studies, Journalism and Media Studies, and Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting.

"It is my expectation that the programs will, collectively, help to create a distinctive regional and national identity to which the campus, our immediate community, and the state of Florida can look with immense pride." –Ralph Wilcox in a December 2002 interview.

Since her arrival in the summer of 2003, Karen White has championed the new role for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. An accomplished musician, she now conducts the largest "orchestra" that has ever assembled along Bayboro Harbor. Working in symphony, members of the ever-growing USF St. Petersburg family look forward with enthusiasm while recognizing the important contributions of those who came before them.



Karen White delivering remarks at first-ever Freshman Convocation, August 2004.



Opening of Research Labs in Piano Man, May 2004.

"I have enjoyed my stay here. There is an essential freedom to teach the courses you like and do the research you like." –Gerald Whittaker, an accounting professor in April 2003, reflecting on his twenty-five years at USF St. Petersburg.

"This was a quaint little village where we all knew and recognized each other. Throughout the campus, a sense of community and caring has always been evident." –Renee Hoffman, program assistant, reflecting on her retirement in 2003.



Students discussing research projects, April 2004.

Harborside Happenings: A Chronology

Fall 1998: YWCA/USF Family Village opened.

Fall 1998: St. Petersburg Junior College began offering courses and academic support services in the Piano Man Building. Approximately 300 students were there in the first semester.

Fall 1998: The innovative "Learning Community" began as a way to emphasize "inquiry, investigation, and discovery" among new lower-level undergraduates.

October 26, 1998: Groundbreaking for the pediatrics research building (jointly run by All Childrens Hospital and USF) now known as CRI.

January 29, 1999: Groundbreaking for the Florida Center for Teachers (FCT) building. Construction started in February.

November 1999: The Program for Ethics in Education and Community (PEEC) was developed as a new ethics initiative on campus, replacing the Ethics Center after its move to the Tampa campus.

Winter 2000: Town & Gown organized as a support organization for USF St. Petersburg.

Spring 2000: Entrance feature at Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue South was completed.

July 1, 2000: USF's Department of Marine Science became a stand-alone College of Marine Science with Peter Betzer as interim (and later permanent) college dean.

February 17, 2001: Dedication of Florida Center for Teachers building.

May 2001: Legislature voted to provide campus fiscal autonomy and to require USF St. Petersburg to apply for separate accreditation and to have a separate campus board of trustees.

Summer 2001: Four customized buildings made up the "Terrace" complex east of Davis Hall near the airport. College of Education staff and faculty occupied the buildings at the time.

May 2002: Some members of USF St. Petersburg's first freshman class graduated, a campus milestone.

August 2002: Ralph Wilcox replaced H. William "Bill" Heller as Vice President/Campus Executive Office (VP/CEO) on an interim basis.

August 2002: Increased autonomy due to a revised Memorandum of Agreement between USF and USF St. Petersburg.

Fall 2002: Four academic Programs of Distinction selected in a competitive process.

Spring 2003: Interim VP/CEO Ralph Wilcox established a series of task forces to examine every aspect of campus life.

July 2003: Karen A. White began as new VP/CEO of campus.

July 10, 2003: Gary Olson, interim VP for Academic Affairs, convened first deans meeting, with four brand-new deans in attendance.

Summer 2003: "Great office shuffle," with nearly fifty new professors moving to temporary quarters and taking over many study rooms in Poynter Library. By fall, each college had its own "space."

Fall 2003: Green and Gold assigned parking spaces brought to campus.

August 15, 2003: Welcome Center just north of the Snell House opened.

August 21, 2003: Fountain Inn property, an assisted living facility, purchased for \$2.25 million.

October 2003: After five years, St. Petersburg College moved its downtown center from the Piano Man building to a location across from Williams Park. Some SPC classes continued on site through the end of the fall semester.

January 2004: Demolition began on the Fountain Inn; site becomes a temporary parking lot.

February 2004: VP/CEO title changed to Regional Chancellor by USF President Judy Genshaft.

Spring 2004: Last semester of the Learning Community program for freshman and sophomores at USF St. Petersburg.

Spring 2004: Conversion of the Piano Man building for research labs and addition to the south end of the building.

March 1, 2005: Demolition began on former public safety (University Police) building, SPA building, SPN building (formerly used by Oasis), and an open-air garage and Schaleman lab.

March 30, 2005: Groundbreaking for residence hall.

May 3, 2005: Groundbreaking for Parking Center One.