

# University of South Florida gears up for

By ANNE KLOCKENKEMPER

STAFF WRITER

There's a lot going on at the University of South Florida's North Port campus.

Lora Kosten, an instructor and faculty coordinator at USF, 5920 Pan American Blvd., has an entire list of things coming up in the early part of the fall semester, which begins Aug. 22.

"We had a great first year (last year), and enrollment is about the same, which is fine, although we would like it, naturally, to be more," she said, adding that enrollment at the satellite campus of USF Sarasota-Manatee is holding strong in the mid-500s. "That means we have 313 bodies coming here more than once a week for classes."

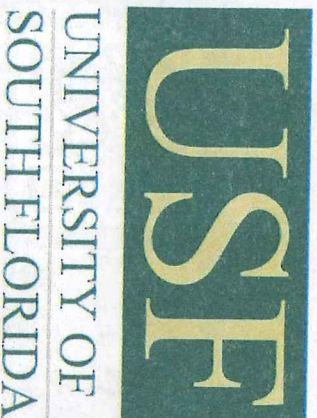
The most popular courses at the North Port campus — 36 total are offered, including four online, four are a web-blend and five offered via video conferences — are psychology and criminology. No "significant new" courses or programs will be added this year.

"Eventually the university hopes to become a four-year institution, so then we would offer some general education courses once that gets approved," Kosten said.

One technological advance for the campus is a Promethean ACTIVBoard, an interactive multimedia whiteboard, like those used in all classrooms throughout Sarasota County. Students, especially education majors, will have the opportunity to acquire training and experience using the ACTIVBoard before beginning internships in the local schools.

Another goal for the campus is to involve more students in the university's Student Government Association, mirroring the level of involvement at USF's four-year campuses.

"We presently have two students as senators and one as an ambassador," Kosten said. "These three students live in this area and they have taken most of their courses at our instructional site. The students who serve, it gives them



the opportunity to experience leadership."

During the first week of class, SGA will sponsor a Week of Welcome Aug. 23-25 featuring food, including subs on Tuesday, pizza on Wednesday and chicken wings on Thursday. SGA members will also work to recruit students to become involved in the organization.

Other university clubs will also begin meeting on the North Port campus on a more regular basis, including the Sarasota-Manatee Inspiring Lifelong Learners, or SMILE, a club for education majors, that will sponsor three guest speakers, and the Psychology Club, which will hold one meeting at the North Port campus this semester.

Kosten said USF North Port has also begun to expand into Charlotte County, with students coming from both Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. To continue this trend, the university is developing a schedule for an academic adviser or recruiter to be present on specific dates at the university advising offices of Edison State College, just as they do at State College of Florida's South Venice campus, to give prospective students an opportunity to inquire about programs face-to-face. Dates for these sessions will be announced. USF will also hold a transfer day at Edison on Nov. 1, so students can apply for admission.

For more information, call USF North Port at 941-426-7330, visit [www.sarasota.usf.edu/south](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/south) or stop by to inquire about programs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT USF SARASOTA-MANATEE

- USF will sponsor a Lunch & Learn Workshop on campus from 11:30-12:30 p.m. on Aug. 18.
- "Media Relations 101," is free.
- Sept. 15, a Junior Achievement Unit on "More than Money" will be Lamarque Elementary. Staff members from USF, along with students from other schools, will volunteer to teach.
- The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce Business and Economic Development Committee will host a meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the North Port Young Professionals will hold one meeting here this month.
- Sept. 28, USF at NP will host a Bulls networking event coordinated by the Bulls Career Services. At this event, students will be able to meet with Bulls Career Services representatives in the area of business. This event has been credentialled to teach in the area of business. This event is a management course for the College of Business.
- USF will hold a luncheon information session for prospective students on Sept. 22. Registration is required.
- Watch for upcoming information about USF football watch parties in the future.

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