

Award-winning student attended classes online from her daughter's hospital room

A St. Petersburg College student was honored two weeks ago as the Instructional Technology Council's Outstanding e-Learning Student for 2008.

The national award to Pamela Himmel was especially poignant because of the circumstances:

Himmel completed much of her online coursework from Shands at the University of Florida, where her 19-year-old daughter Shara awaited her second heart transplant.

Even before Shara got sick, Himmel knew returning to college would be a challenge. She is a single mother and works

an overnight shift as a drugstore manager.

But as her older daughter Tricia went to the University of Central Florida, and Shara graduated from the International Baccalaureate program at St. Petersburg High and enrolled at the University of Florida, they convinced their mother she could do it.

Himmel started taking courses in the fall of 2006. It wasn't easy, but she enjoyed the class work.

Then, things got tougher.

Shara, who was born with heart problems and had undergone a heart transplant at 4, started having cardiac problems

again. Doctors said another transplant would be necessary, and Shara was admitted to Shands in February 2007 to wait.

Her mother switched from on-campus to online classes and went to the hospital.

"Pamela told me that she would be going up



Jennifer Lechner

to Gainesville to be with her daughter," said Jennifer Lechner, Project Eagle director/education professor. "She didn't ask for

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Pamela Himmel



College Goal Sunday draws 420

Students receive help with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is mandatory for all financial assistance. Above, Patrick Booth, a cyber recruiter in Enrollment Management, helps Kenssy Quezada, a senior at Pinellas Park High, and his mother, Silvia Quezada. In the background, Loree Studevan, a financial assistance counselor from the Tarpon Springs Campus, assists Blair Gruitterrez, a Clearwater High senior, and his mother, Sherette Craig. College Goal Sunday is a statewide initiative. St. Petersburg College was the Pinellas County host at the EpiCenter.

Norton new Blue & White editor

After 24 years at the *St. Petersburg Times*, Wilma Norton has joined the college as assistant director of Institutional Advancement. Among her duties will be editing the *Blue & White*. To submit information to be considered for publication, please e-mail norton.wilma@spcollege.edu.



Wilma Norton

Catch up with the latest college happenings on the SPC Web site.

www.spcollege.edu

Basketball teams fail to qualify for state tournament

For the first time in many years, the college will not be represented in the state tournament this year.

After beating Pasco-Hernando Community College Monday night in overtime 89-87, the team fell at home Tuesday night to Manatee CC 112-87. A victory would have sent the team to the state tournament next week in Marianna.

"Manatee was really hitting the three-pointers early," Athletic Director Mark Strickland said. "We fell behind by 20 and really couldn't get back into it after that."

The men finished 8-6 in the Suncoast Conference and 16-16 overall.

The women's season ended Monday night at Palm Beach when it lost to 61-49. The team finished 5-8 in the conference and 12-27 overall.

Attention now focuses on the baseball, softball and tennis teams.

The softball team began Suncoast Conference play Tuesday with a 11-2 victory against Hillsborough CC before the second game was rained out.

Thursday, the team traveled to Leesburg to take on Lake Sumter. Doubleheaders are played against all conference opponents. The softball team traveled to Panama City over the weekend and went 4-0 in the rain-shortened Gulf Coast Community College tournament. The team entered conference play 13-7-1 and is now 1-0 in the conference.

The baseball team is 15-8 after winning two games earlier week. A four-game series with defending state champion Chipola College begins tonight at Carpenter Complex in Clearwater. The Saturday double-header starts at 1 as does the finale in the series Sunday.

The tennis team is 0-3 but that is not a concern because records are basically thrown out for the conference tournament in April, which will decide the teams that will qualify for the national tournament in Tucson, Ariz., in May.

To keep up on all of the sports teams, visit www.spcollege.edu/athletics.

Music programs at SPC venues this weekend

The college's Heissler Pipe Organ Concert Series presents Isabelle Demers at 7:30 tonight at the Music Center on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus. Admission is free.

The Rudresh Mahanthappa Quartet Codebook Project performs at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Music Center with a pre-concert chat at 7 p.m. The \$10 donation admission (cash) benefits music scholarships at the college.

Singer-songwriter James Rogers performs at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Digitorium at the Seminole Campus. Tickets are \$15.

Programs at the Palladium include "The Magic of Ireland," with music and dancing, at 7:30 tonight (\$24.50-\$36); singer-guitarist Dan Penn, 8 p.m. Saturday (\$20); and the Suzuki Talent Concert, with Suzuki students on five pianos, 4 p.m. Sunday (\$12).

Register now for a developmental education workshop

Come join your colleagues as they share strategies for students' successes at a workshop about the best practices in developmental education at St. Petersburg College, sponsored by SPC's Title III program. All SPC full-time faculty, adjuncts, advisors/counselors, program directors and administrators are invited.

When: Friday, March 14, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Where: Clearwater Campus Lecture Hall, LA-151

To register go to it.spcollege.edu/cfsurveys/survey.cfm?su_id=2147.

Study abroad opportunities available

Eligible employees will have their SPC study abroad tuition waived for programs this summer in Belize, Ecuador, England and Japan. Those interested can attend an information meeting Monday, March 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 303 of the UP building, Seminole Campus. For more details, visit the Web site at www.spcollege.edu/central/internationalprograms/study_abroad/.

Employment Opportunities

For job openings at the college, visit the Human Resources Web site at www.spcollege.edu/central/hr/.

St. Petersburg College is dedicated to the concept of equal opportunity. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or marital status, or against any qualified individual with disabilities, in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students. Recognizing that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex and violates this rule, the college will not tolerate such conduct. Should you experience such behavior, please contact the director of EA/EO at (727) 341-3261; by mail at P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3489; or by e-mail at eaeo_director@spcollege.edu.

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Blue & White is produced weekly by the St. Petersburg College Office of Institutional Advancement to communicate administrative and staff information to college employees. Submissions should be received no later than Friday noon for publication the following Friday. Send by e-mail to norton.wilma@spcollege.edu or send by campus mail to Institutional Advancement, EpiCenter – Services.

St. Petersburg College

SPC

Excellence in education since 1927

College Wellness Coordinator
Cathleen Shears' wellness column
appears weekly in the Blue & White.

Wellness update

by Cathleen Shears

Relay for Life goal \$45,000

Relay for Life is more than a fund raiser. It is the American Cancer Society's celebration of hope, with a commitment to cancer awareness and prevention. During relays, teams gather overnight, with one member of each team walking at all times during the night.

Relays take place at sites all around the area. The goal of the Relay at the college is to raise \$45,000, up from last year's \$38,000.

Fitness is the focus of the college's fourth annual event, which takes place on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus on March 28. It's a great opportunity for students, faculty, and staff, along with community members, to join in on the fun.

According to the cancer society, regular exercise can help lower the risk of cancer.

Fitness events at the Relay include walking teams, yoga, Zumba (cardio dance), volleyball, dodge ball and much more. Each team will receive a pedometer at registration on Relay night as part of a contest for tracking the most "Steps to a Cure."

Focusing on cancer risk factors and prevention is a vital key to this event, says Marse Walsh, an SPC employee and a five-year breast cancer survivor. Marse, along with SPC Librarian Gail Lancaster, are co-advisers for Colleges against Cancer.

Unfortunately, there are no guarantees when it comes to cancer prevention; some cancer risks are inherited, but healthy lifestyle practices can reduce overall cancer risks. Ways to reduce your lifetime cancer risk include:

- Not smoking.
- Eating fruits and vegetable daily.
- Maintaining a healthy body weight.
- Exercising daily.
- Limiting sun exposure.
- Getting early detection screenings, as recommended for your age and gender.

To view the complete list of the American Cancer Society Guidelines for the Early Detection of Cancer, go to FightCancer.org. Login: SPC.

Relay for Life takes place March 28 at the PE facility and track at the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus. Opening ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. The Relay ends at 8 a.m. March 29.

For more information, contact Marse Walsh at Ext.3297, Gail Lancaster at Ext. 7180 or Barbara Weaver at Ext. 3496.

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anything, she simply let me know that she would be out of town. Pamela is a very good student, and she always had had lots to add to the course discussions."

Himmel spent her days in Shara's hospital room where they studied together and entertained Shara's friends. Shara got her new heart in May.

Himmel stayed in touch with Lechner.

"In the fall I heard from Pamela, who e-mailed me to let me know her daughter had received her new heart and was doing well," Lechner said. "She thanked me for my support it's funny, but with online courses you often never meet one another, and I realized at the time that I had actually never met Pamela."

The next e-mail from Himmel brought much sadder news. Shara had experienced complications from her transplant. She died on Nov. 18, two weeks from her 20th birthday.

"I got up early one Sunday morning to do some work, and I turned on my computer and there was the e-mail," Lechner said. "Pamela said Shara had passed away the day before, and said she might not be able to get her assignments in on time."

Himmel finished her coursework last term. As a tribute to Shara, she continues working toward her

degree with top grades.

"I have a couple more classes to take to finish up my associate degree," she said. "Then I'll go on into the middle grades science education program."

Himmel received her award at the Instructional Technology Council's eLearning 2008 Conference hosted by SPC at the Tradewinds Resorts at St. Pete Beach earlier this month. She received a standing ovation.

Instead of describing her difficult circumstances, Himmel thanked the attendees for helping to make e-learning possible.

"She finished my course and finished three other courses in spite of the crisis in her life," Lechner said. "I told her she's my hero. She's done amazing things in spite of what has happened to her."



Shara Himmel arrives home after her heart transplant.

Onward & Upward

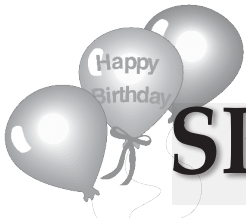
Communications instructor **Barbara Bird** read French and English text as part of two Florida Orchestra performances on Jan. 19 at Mahaffey Theater and on Jan. 20 at Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Barbara Bird, Joseph Fenley and Linda Yakle, all instructors on the Clearwater Campus, were awarded certificates of appreciation for their work in encouraging high academic performance, leadership, service learning and academic research during SPC's First Honors College on Feb. 11.



SPC *employee anniversaries* March

Years	Name	Hire Date	Years	Name	Hire Date
34	Houston, David E.	3/25/74	8	Strickland, Mark F.	3/27/00
32	Bell, Shirley D.	3/22/76	7	Hufford, Ruth A.	3/12/01
31	O'Dell, Vivian M.	3/28/77	6	Vo, Thach N.	3/13/02
27	Derussy, Vivian C.	3/23/81	6	Varela, Jorge L.	3/14/02
27	Jefferis, Michael J.	3/30/81	6	Pedicone, James A.	3/22/02
26	Otiniano, Gloria J.	3/1/82	5	Cole, Frank T.	3/3/03
24	Anthony, Elaine M.	3/15/84	5	Ford, Kadell	3/10/03
23	Meece, Donald L.	3/25/85	5	Merry, Scott	3/12/03
19	Burton, Larry E.	3/6/89	4	Fowler, Thomas	3/8/04
19	Golley, Mary J.	3/6/89	4	Seay, Marianne	3/22/04
18	Morey Jr, Robert W.	3/12/90	4	Kok, Tara B.	3/29/04
18	Russell, Nancy L.	3/19/90	3	Radcliff, Deborah K.	3/7/05
17	Hendricks, Donald J.	3/11/91	3	Damianova, Marina T.	3/14/05
17	Kindavong, Paul	3/25/91	3	Gonyea, James C.	3/14/05
16	Carter, Margaret A.	3/11/92	3	Rawley, Morgan L.	3/14/05
15	Davis, Ruth D.	3/15/93	3	Rocco, Jan	3/14/05
15	Sterner, Ann M.	3/29/93	3	Fowler Jr, Charles E.	3/21/05
14	Rogers, Roxann J.	3/7/94	3	Brighton, Lee A.	3/28/05
14	Stubos, Alexandria M.	3/7/94	2	Terry, Paul L.	3/6/06
13	McKanna, Thomas F.	3/13/95	2	Drooger, Jennifer L.	3/13/06
13	Rivera, Edgardo R.	3/27/95	2	Nguyen, Long V.	3/13/06
12	Villamarzo, Josephine B.	3/25/96	2	Tolman, Larry D.	3/13/06
11	Cao, Hien V.	3/3/97	2	Benkert, Walter J.	3/20/06
11	Pendharkar, Dayaghan T.	3/4/97	2	Castle, Marcia Ann	3/20/06
11	Henningsen, Stephanie	3/10/97	2	Miglino, Rosanne	3/20/06
11	Wisniewski, Janislaw	3/24/97	2	Misiura, Tadeusz J.	3/20/06
11	Gillman, Anna G.	3/31/97	2	Fritch, Karen L.	3/23/06
10	Butler, Scott E.	3/2/98	2	Steullet, Moira J.	3/28/06
10	Johnson, Edward B.	3/2/98	1	Alejandro, Daniel	3/5/07
10	Connell, Margaret A.	3/9/98	1	Dugas, Rebecca H.	3/5/07
10	Myers, Marilyn R.	3/16/98	1	Pham, The C.	3/5/07
9	Gala, Jose A.	3/3/99	1	Porter, Jennifer	3/5/07
9	Prescott, Danny R.	3/5/99	1	Courtney, Max B.	3/12/07
9	Starr, Brenda K.	3/15/99	1	Frederick, Arthur W.	3/12/07
9	White, Richard P.	3/22/99	1	Huehn-Brown, Wende J.	3/12/07
9	Kachelriess, Billie J.	3/29/99	1	Tran, Maryann A.	3/15/07
8	Thompson, William	3/6/00	1	Acosta, Yonny	3/19/07
8	Showers, Denotra L.	3/20/00	1	Avren, Beverly	3/22/07
8	Fowler, Johanna	3/21/00	1	Forbes, Wayne	3/26/07
8	Krupp, Jason	3/27/00	1	May, Diane G.	3/26/07
8	Schultz, Linda	3/27/00			



SPC *employee birthdays*

March

Birth Date	Name	Birth Date	Name	Birth Date	Name
3-01	Klotz, Christopher A.	03-10	Loveland, Thomas R.	03-22	Dvoracsek, Joseph D.
03-01	Allen, David J.	03-10	Gannon, John T.	03-23	Byrne, Diane F.
03-01	Moran-Awe, Cheri J.	03-10	Galvagni, Ronald B.	03-24	Cronauer, Suzanne L.
03-01	Pignato, Kathleen	03-10	Rajaram, Lakshminarayan	03-24	Theocharakis, Wendy L.
03-02	Morgan, Kevin R.	03-10	Carney, Conferlete	03-24	Dumire, Nancy
03-02	Soumpholphackdy, Lun D.	03-10	Oliver, Danny R.	03-24	Federico, Katherine B.
03-03	Smith, Steven L.	03-10	Tuccio, Lorraine D.	03-24	Davis, Glenn E.
03-03	Boyette, Linda M.	03-12	Rioux, Janis D.	03-25	Furnas, Theresa K.
03-03	Mairn, Chad P.	03-13	Hill, Benjamin C.	03-25	Smiley, Joseph
03-03	Pemberton, Maria	03-14	Weingart, Mary	03-25	Leopold, Joseph S.
03-03	Porter, Jennifer	03-14	Halverstadt, Jan A.	03-26	Holm, Linda J.
03-03	Novak, Alexis M.	03-14	Nunamaker, Gladys	03-27	Krall, Thomas A.
03-03	Johnson, Edward B.	03-14	Kincade, Barbara J.	03-27	Courtney, Max B.
03-03	Ettinger, Hang T.	03-15	Lichtenfels, David D.	03-27	Harris, Don S.
03-04	Williams, Trudy A.	03-15	Gillman, Anna G.	03-27	Monroe, Alice J.
03-04	Baker, Glenn O.	03-15	Petro, Troy Daniel	03-28	Waechter, Dawn D.
03-04	Goldsmith, Larry	03-16	Callihan, Lillian D.	03-28	Corter, Suzanne
03-04	Lewis, Gregory A.	03-16	Elser, Sammie H.	03-28	Mohr III, Robert R.
03-04	Setala, Linda	03-16	Mackey, Rose M.	03-28	Plescia, Lisa M.
03-04	Kramer, Rebecca J.	03-17	Parker, George	03-28	Ramos-Polanco, Iris D.
03-05	Craddock, Daniel C.	03-17	Drysdale, Brett L.	03-28	McCormack, Cristina D.
03-05	Elliott, Tracy A.	03-17	Keller, Rosemary	03-28	Hoyos, Rodrigo
03-05	Braccio, Jenny K.	03-17	Wyllie, William P.	03-28	Hausdorf, Anna M.
03-06	Hall Jr, Charles	03-18	Nadeau, Karen L.	03-28	Meier, J.S.
03-06	Sherman, Tiffani L.	03-18	Grass, Kevin L.	03-29	Byrd, Gregory L.
03-07	Smith, Junetta	03-18	Herr, Judith L.	03-29	Fell, Susan P.
03-07	Radcliff, Deborah K.	03-19	Kelly, Donna R.	03-29	Kok, John R.
03-08	Teter Jr, John H.	03-19	Booth, Patrick D.	03-29	Hesting, John P.
03-08	Boyle, Constance M.	03-19	Kuhn, Damon M.	03-29	Grivizas, Zaharoula
03-08	Beck, Michelle	03-19	Perez, Jose J.	03-30	Bergamini, Donald
03-08	Johnston, Linda B.	03-19	Smith, Martin	03-30	Alvarez, Patricia M.
03-08	Hoover, Mary C.	03-20	Cox, Marilyn M.	03-30	Hemme, William A.
03-09	Holte, Betty C.	03-20	Brown, Sara L.	03-30	Conlin, Mindy K.
03-09	Palmer, Daniel J.	03-20	Smith, Joan B.	03-30	Wilborn, Paul L.
03-09	Varela, Jorge L.	03-20	Hopkins, Joanne V.	03-30	Robey, Kathy A.
03-09	Henning, Andrea A.	03-21	Billiris, Mark N.	03-31	Arthur, Joanne D.
03-09	Bush-Williams, Donna L.	03-21	Lane, Kathleen A.	03-31	Henry, Michael A.
03-10	Kennedy, Wallace W.	03-21	Branam, Ronald K.	03-31	Tittle, Mary
03-10	Sanford, Scott A.	03-21	Moutsatsos, Basil A.		
03-10	Grey, Cynthia A.	03-21	Brightman, Ross I.		

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF WORKSHOP AND
CHANGE IN REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE**

The St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees' workshop, entitled "Report on the SPC Foundation, Inc.," to be held at 8 a.m. on March 18, 2008 prior to the regular Board meeting is cancelled. The Board meeting will be held at the EpiCenter, 13805 – 58th Street N., Largo, in Conference Room 1-451 and will now commence at 8 a.m., although all rule-making matters previously noticed on February 22, 2008 for public hearing at 8:30 a.m. will begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m., which was the regularly-scheduled time for this meeting.

A copy of the Agenda may be obtained by writing to the Board of Trustees in care of the Board Clerk, P.O. Box 13489, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33733, or calling the Board Clerk at (727) 341-3260.

If any person wishes to appeal a decision made with respect to any matter considered by the Board, he or she will need a record of the proceedings. It is the obligation of such person to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes.

Those planning to attend who have a disability and are in need of an auxiliary aid or other accommodation are requested to telephone (727) 341-3260 at least seven days before the meeting date so that their needs can be accommodated.