

Ethics instructor's work helps free innocent man

Long before she went to law school, long before she worked as an assistant district attorney in New York, and long before she taught ethics at St. Petersburg College, Maureen Mahoney thought Marty Tankleff was innocent of the murder charges that sent him to prison.

Back in those days, Mahoney had no way of knowing that, nearly two decades later, she would play a significant role in an effort that would lead to Tankleff's freedom.

Mahoney was just 21 in the 1980s when she first read about Tankleff, about how he had allegedly killed his parents at their spacious Long Island home, and had been sent to prison for 50 years to life.

To Mahoney, the facts didn't add up.

"Way back then, I knew something wasn't right," said Mahoney, who teaches at the Tarpon Springs Campus. "He



Maureen Mahoney

was convicted through crazy circumstances. All those years went by, he appealed here and there but nothing happened."

Here's what happened on Sept. 8, 1988:

Marty Tankleff, a 17-year-old high school student, woke up one morning to find his parents, Seymour and Arlene Tankleff, bludgeoned and stabbed. His mother was

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VATICAN SPLENDORS

FROM SAINT PETER'S BASILICA,
THE VATICAN MUSEUMS AND THE SWISS GUARD

Vatican treasures open at FIM Saturday

The Florida International Museum is the first of three stops in North America for about 200 pieces of art, documents and historically significant objects. "Vatican Splendors" opens to the public Saturday and continues through May 11. The exhibit commemorates the 500th anniversary of St. Peter's Basilica, the founding of the Vatican Museums, Michelangelo's painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling and the establishment of the Swiss Guard.

The objects include paintings, sculptures, papal rings and jewels, gifts to the popes from notables such as Napoleon and the Dalai Lama, and items relating to the election of Pope Benedict XVI, such as election ballots and ceremonial vestments.

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Class of '31 a winner

Ruth Childs Lefter, class of '31, receives a bouquet of roses Jan. 30 at the annual Alumni Association luncheon. Flowers are given each year to the person in attendance who represents the earliest graduating class. Presenting the roses is Ken Burke, former Alumni Association president and current Board of Trustees member. More than 100 people attended the luncheon and heard President Carl M. Kuttler Jr. give an update on the college.

Former board member Ann Hines dies at 83, Page 2.

Men's basketball team loses thriller to Polk CC 79-78

With a little more than two weeks remaining in the season, the basketball teams at St. Petersburg College are still battling to gain some momentum for the stretch run.

The men are 3-4 in the Suncoast Conference after a heartbreaking 79-78 loss to unbeaten Polk Community College (8-0) Saturday night. The conference winner automatically qualifies and the remaining teams meet in a postseason tournament for the second berth. The men are third in the conference behind Polk (8-0) and Hillsborough CC (4-3)

The next conference home game is Feb. 16 against Manatee CC. The postseason conference playoffs begin Feb. 25.

The women are tied for third in the Southern Conference with Broward CC at 4-3. Hillsborough CC leads at 6-1 and Miami Dade College is second at 4-1. SPC lost to Brevard CC 64-57 Saturday and is on the road until Feb. 23.

The top two teams automatically qualify for the state tournament and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth-place finishers meet in a postseason

tournament to determine the third state qualifier.

The men's and women's tournaments are again in Marianna at Chipola College. The tournaments begin March 6.

The baseball and softball teams are playing non-conference games and tournaments in preparation for their conference seasons.

The baseball team is 6-2 after losing its first game of the season Saturday afternoon to Palm Beach Community College 3-2. The team came back to blast Indian River CC 13-0 after the loss, and then lost to Santa Fe CC Monday 16-15.

This weekend will be a big test for the team as it travels to Chipola for a three-day tournament. Chipola is the defending national champion and a perennial state power.

The softball team is 6-3 as it prepares for the annual St. Petersburg College tournament this weekend at Eddie C. Moore Complex in Clearwater. Games begin Friday and continue through Sunday.

The team was 4-1 in the Indian River tournament last weekend.

Graduation ceremonies were special for former board member

Ann G. Hines, 83, of St. Petersburg, a former member of the college Board of Trustees (1993-99), died Sunday at her home.

She was born in Valdosta, Ga., and grew up in Jacksonville, where she attended Jacksonville Junior College. She was married to Andrew H. Hines Jr. for 60 years. The couple settled in St. Petersburg in 1951 and raised four children.

"Ann was a very gracious and soft-spoken woman whose advice and counsel were deeply valued by the other members of the board," SPC President Carl M. Kuttler Jr. said. "She was a consistent advocate for high academic standards and I know she particularly enjoyed the college's graduation ceremonies."

Mrs. Hines was very active in the community and at her church, Trinity United Methodist Church, where she

taught Sunday School, was a member of the Church Council, and was chairman of the Women's Society for Christian Service.

She volunteered with St. Petersburg's Christmas Toy Shop and was a member of the board of trustees of All Children's Hospital.

She once accompanied a medical missionary group to Uganda to help inoculate children.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her name to the St. Petersburg College Foundation, All Children's Hospital Foundation, First Alliance Church of St. Petersburg or to the charity of your choice.

Mrs. Hines is survived by her husband, three sons, a daughter and 14 grandchildren.



Ann G. Hines

Vatican from Page 1.

Highlights include a reliquary containing fragments of bones of St. Peter; the *Mandylion of Edessa*, a 3rd to 5th Century image on linen considered one of the oldest representations of Jesus; and the pastoral staff of Pope John Paul II.

SPC faculty, staff and students may buy discounted tickets. With an SPC ID, students can buy one \$6 ticket, and faculty and staff can buy one \$15 ticket. Regular admission is \$20 adults, \$17 seniors, \$15 military and \$13 ages 6 to 12. The museum is at 244 Second Ave. N, in the SPC Downtown Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The last admission is at 5 p.m.

Three SPC nights at the museum are planned. The dates will be announced later.

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 EAVEO 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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St. Petersburg College

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

Wellness update

by Cathleen Shears



Diabetes risk a concern for employees

It's time for the final update on the results of the 2007 health screenings of more than 500 SPC employees. The top two health concerns, high cholesterol and osteoporosis, were addressed in an earlier column. Today's focus is the next most-frequent health concern: abnormal blood glucose levels.

During the wellness screenings, 96 employees — or 17 percent of 573 tests performed — revealed abnormal blood glucose levels.

Here are some of the most common questions:

Q: What is blood glucose and what are the normal ranges?

A: Glucose (blood sugar) is the body's primary fuel. Normal ranges are between 70 and 100 mg/dL (milligram per deciliter of blood).

Q: Why is high blood glucose a concern?

A: According to the National Institute of Health's Diabetes Prevention Program, high blood glucose levels can lead to many health concerns including heart disease, stroke, vision loss, kidney failure and nerve damage. People with high blood glucose levels are more likely to develop diabetes.

Q: What is diabetes?

A: Diabetes is a serious metabolic disorder in which the body's systems for using glucose (blood sugar) no longer function properly so that glucose builds up in the blood and is unable to fuel the body.

Q: How do Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes differ?

A: In Type 1, the pancreas produces little or no insulin. A person with Type 1 must take daily insulin. This type accounts for 5 to 10 percent of diabetes in the United States and most often develops in children and young adults. In Type 2 (or adult onset), the pancreas usually produces insulin, but the body is unable to use it. This is the most common form and accounts for 90 to 95 percent of diagnosed diabetes.

Q: What are the risk factors for Type 2?

A: Older age, obesity, family history, lack of exercise and some ethnic backgrounds.

Q: What if I have or am at risk for diabetes?

A: The Diabetes Prevention Program recommends small steps to prevent or delay the development of diabetes. These include 30 minutes of physical activity on most days, maintaining a healthy weight and diet, and working with your health care provider if you have multiple risk factors.

New or recent hire? Read on for retirement information

This is a reminder for all new budgeted employees: If you have been employed at St. Petersburg College for five months or less, please read further.

All budgeted employees are eligible for enrollment in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). As a new employee, you have until the end of the fifth month of employment to make your decision as to whether you want your retirement funds invested in the one-year vesting, or the six-year vesting plan.

The state sends a FRS information kit to your home by the third month of employment. It contains paperwork to help you make your decision. You also can go to the FRS Web site to see what is available for new employees. The Web site can be accessed via this link: myfrs.com. Near the top of

the page select the "Basics" button and you'll find several items to review. If you want to review the video from your new hire orientation class, select the "New Hire Roadmap" link under the "Basics" button, along with several other important items for new employees.

Feel free to contact the Ernst & Young Financial Advisors at FRS if you have questions. They are very knowledgeable and helpful: 1-(866) 446-9377.

Important reminder: If you do not elect your choice of either the one-year vesting or the six-year vesting plan, you will automatically be placed in the six-year vesting plan. Employees have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to change their plan, but you might not want to use it, just because you missed the deadline by a few days.



44 employees make quit smoking deadline

The deadline has passed to submit the Health Insurance Certification of Discount Rate form, acknowledging that you quit smoking.

Congratulations to the 44 successful employees.

For those that did not submit paperwork, your rate will be adjusted to the regular rate as of Feb. 1.

More health screenings available March 5

Comprehensive health screenings are now available for budgeted* employees who did not get the screenings in 2007. Because of high demand, the first two screenings will be at the EpiCenter.

To schedule a time to screen, call 1-(888) 822-3247.

Place: EpiCenter Services building (south side of the building)

Date: Wednesday, March 5

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

* Budgeted employees are those who qualify for SPC health benefits.



SPC, in conjunction with the Florida School Plant Management Association, hosted a workshop on Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as MRSA, on Tuesday at the EpiCenter. SPC is one of five locations around the state hosting workshops about this potential bacterial outbreak.

SAT prep classes begin Feb. 23

SAT prep classes are offered again at the college.

Classes are on Saturday mornings at the Seminole, Tarpon Springs, Clearwater and Downtown campuses beginning Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. Students from high schools, both public and private, and home-schooled students are encouraged to sign up. The cost, which includes the textbook, is \$195.

The class features a curriculum that combines the math and verbal portions, and includes new essay writing tips and practice. Students

will take official retired practice tests, do remedial exercises and review questions, and receive important test-taking strategies.

The college also offers a SAT Prep course at Palm Harbor University High School beginning March 4, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m.

The classes target the May 3 SAT test, and are taught by experienced SPC English and math adjunct instructors. For information or to enroll with a Visa/MasterCard, call Lifelong Learning at Ext. 3184. Class sizes are limited.

Onward & Upward

Bill Klein, SP/G government instructor, was recently appointed by St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker a commissioner on St. Petersburg's Planning and Vision Commission. Klein's appointment has been approved by the City Council. His term is through 2010. The Planning and Vision Commission approves all major development in the city. Klein previously served as a commissioner on the Environmental and Development Commission.

Sue Hickok, SP/G library, has been researching Nathan Richardson, a prominent 19th century Boston musician. Richardson knew most of the important musicians of his day and wrote several important piano teaching books. Recently, Hickok made a contribution to a catalog record at Harvard University that resulted in her name being added to the record as an additional source. Harvard owns significant artifacts that reflect on the importance of Richardson's musical contributions.

The latest issue of *Community & Junior College Libraries: The Journal for Learning Resource Centers*, contains contributions by three SPC librarians. **Jorge Perez** (CL) and **Chad Mairn** (SP/G) each contributed book reviews, and **Pat Barbier** (CL) published a research article entitled "Where Do Electronic Books Fit in the College Research Arsenal of Resources?"

Upcoming graduation dates

May 3, 10 a.m.

Tropicana Field

July 19, 10 a.m.

Ruth Eckerd Hall

Critical Thinking Institute brings two speakers here

SPC's Critical Thinking Institute, formed to support implementation of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), will present programs Feb. 15 and Feb. 22.

Gerald Nosich will speak on "Critical Thinking" at 8 a.m. Feb. 15 at the Seminole Campus' Digitorium, and then at 10 a.m. the same day on "Teaching for Critical Thinking" in the campus Hospitality Room. Nosich has worked in the critical thinking field for more than 30 years and has

written books on the subject.

L. Dee Fink will speak on "Creating Significant Learning Experiences" Feb. 22 at 9 a.m. in the Collaborative Labs at the EpiCenter. Fink is a nationally recognized expert on college teaching and faculty development. He has devised a method for restructuring courses to encourage critical thinking in students.

Gail Lancaster, QEC faculty chairperson, said formation of the

Critical Thinking Institute will help SPC faculty and staff learn more about critical thinking and how to incorporate it into their daily routines.

"The institute is designed to bring professional experts in critical thinking here to help us learn about critical thinking, and how to teach for it," she said.

Space is limited for both speakers, so faculty and staff are encouraged to enroll soon. To enroll, visit www.spcollege.edu/sacs/qep.

Innocent from Page 1.

dead; his father was unconscious but still alive. The boy called 911 and then attempted to give his father CPR.

When the police arrived, Marty told them about his father's business partner. The man owed his father a half-million dollars, Marty said, and had just recently threatened his parents. In spite of that, the lead detective immediately focused on Marty as the killer. After a brutal interrogation that lasted for many hours, Marty "confessed" to the crimes. He was found guilty and sent to prison.

He spent the next 19 years in prison. But as he sat there, people on the outside were working on his behalf.

One of them was Mahoney, who had finished college and law school and, by a strange coincidence, had gone to work as an assistant district attorney in the same office that had prosecuted Marty Tankleff nearly two decades earlier. Another was Barry Sheck, a well-known defense attorney and co-director of the Innocence Project, an organization that works to clear those who have been wrongfully accused and convicted.

Mahoney did some quiet research on the Marty Tankleff case when she worked in the District Attorney's office. Later, after she had stopped practicing law and had moved to Florida, her interest in the case continued.

"About five years ago, I started corresponding with one of Marty's attorneys to see if there was anything

I could do to help," Mahoney said. "I didn't write the legal brief, but I wrote some ethical pieces, including an article about the ethics of the investigation. The lawyers included it in an early brief that they filed.

"Later, Sheck contacted me and asked me to contribute to a brief they were going to file in January 2007. On the basis of that effort, the court vacated the convictions and ordered a new trial. Marty was released on \$1-million bail, and then later Suffolk County decided not to re-try him."

After Marty Tankleff was freed, New York named a special prosecutor to look into the murders, the investigation and the lead detective, who was a personal friend of the elder Tankleff's business partner and who had perjured himself in an earlier, unrelated murder trial.

"I was so excited that after all that time a terrible injustice had been righted," Mahoney said. "It makes me feel good that I was able to help even a little bit."

Mahoney uses the Marty Tankleff case in her ethics classes, and she recognizes that it is a living example of the role ethics plays in a free society.

"I talk about Marty's case, and how it went wrong," Mahoney said. "So much went wrong in that case, and it was investigated and handled unethically in a number of ways. Now we can show how so many people came together to right that wrong, and how efforts like that can truly help."

Registration under way For Relay for Life

Registration has begun for the Fourth Annual Relay for Life at the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus March 28 at the physical education facilities and track.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and concludes at 8 a.m. March 29.

The goal this year is \$45,000 and 22 teams already are registered. Last year, \$38,000 was raised.

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

Rogers to appear at Seminole Campus

Singer-songwriter James Rogers will perform at 7 p.m. March 1 in the Digitorium at St. Petersburg College's Seminole Campus.

Rogers has been voted Best Entertainer in the Smokies three years running, and audiences respond enthusiastically to his multi-media performances. A composer of patriotic music, his "Fly Eagle Fly" was selected as the Bicentennial song for the state of Tennessee, and is now one of the state's official songs.

Another of his songs, "I Guard America," has been selected as the theme song for the Air and Army National Guard.

Tickets are \$15, and are available in the provost's office at the Seminole Campus.