



ST. PETERSBURG  
DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

## Historical Perspective

For forty years, the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership has played an important role in the growth of the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg and in the emergence of a first-class marine research complex in the city.

In 1974, the Partnership bought ten acres of waterfront land on Bayboro Harbor and gave it to the State of Florida with the understanding that it would be used to build a home for the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg.

Today, that property hosts Coquina Hall, Davis Hall, Bayboro Hall, the Poynter Library and the Science & Technology Building that USFSP shares with USF's College of Marine Science. With the Downtown Partnership's dedicated participation, this important educational center now calls St. Petersburg its home.

In addition to providing the University with property that allowed it to grow and expand, the Partnership has also played a critical role in helping to build a major marine science complex at Bayboro Harbor. Working for the past three decades to establish endowments for fellowships and programs, the Partnership has helped to fulfill this important shared vision for our city, our community and beyond.

### Fellowships & Programs

The Partnership created an endowed chair for the College of Marine Science in 1982 and has also endowed, or helped to endow, eight graduate fellowships:

- **The Garrels Fellowship** (1991)
- **The Sanibel-Captiva Fellowship** (1991)
- **The St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership Fellowship in Coastal Science** (1992)
- **The Carl Riggs Fellowship in Marine Science** (1992)
- **The Paul Getting Endowed Memorial Fellowship** (1992)
- **The Young Fellowship Program** (2000)
- **The Tampa Bay Parrot Head Fellowship** (2004)
- **The Bridge to the Doctorate Endowed Graduate Fellowship** (2005, 06, 08)

In 1995, the Partnership helped to establish an endowment for the Oceanography Camp for Girls — an outstanding program that has operated continuously since 1991. And, recently, in 2013, the Partnership donated substantial funds to establish a fellowship in honor of the eminent United States Geological Survey scientist, Asbury Sallenger.

Since 1965, the Partnership has led the way in building endowments for marine science at USF by investing over \$1 million. This sum was matched by the State of Florida with an endowed chair and fellowships.

In all, endowments for the College of Marine Science established by the Downtown Partnership total over \$1,700,000, and earnings from those endowments help attract and support the talented young scientists who routinely join USF's graduate program today.

Significantly, since the first endowed fellowship was established, 135 graduate students in marine science have been supported by endowments that the Partnership has created for University of South Florida programs.

Over the years, the Partnership also participated in three key projects critical to the emergence of Bayboro Harbor as a respected center for important marine research:

- **Awarding of the Ph.D. Program for USF's Department of Marine Science by Florida's Board of Regents in 1981**
- **Selection by the United States Geological Survey as home for their new Center for Coastal Geology in 1988**
- **Passing the legislative initiative that provided state funding to construct the capacious USF/FWC Joint Use Facility in 1991**

These three initiatives helped to propel the marine research complex forward and raised the profile of St. Petersburg as a dominant center for marine research.

The St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership will continue to offer leadership, investment and vision in the fields of science and education that will yield not only success, but outstanding science, far into the future.