

A weekly summary of top news coverage of the University of South Florida, covering February 7, 2009 to February 13, 2009.

## Story of the Week

### USF launches the WeatherBird II

The College of Marine Science will debut the state's newest ocean-going research tool on February 25 with the presentation of the R/V WeatherBird II. The \$2.1 million vessel, which is equipped with advanced research technology, was purchased by USF for use through the Florida Institute of Oceanography. The institute is a consortium of the state's public universities, private higher education institutions and state agencies involved in marine research. The 115-foot R/V WeatherBird II is equipped with oceanographic devices and sensor technology related to studying marine biological, chemical, geological and physical characteristics. Its first voyage will be in March. The story was covered by the **Tampa Bay Business Journal** and over 39 other outlets including the **Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal**, **Dayton Business Journal**, **Baltimore Business Journal**, **San Antonio Business Journal**, **San Jose Silicon Valley Business Journal**, **Denver Business Journal**, **The Business Review**, **South Florida Business Journal**, **Boston Business Journal**, **Sacramento Business Journal**, **Seattle Business Journal**, **St. Louis Business Journal**, **Wichita Business Journal**, **Houston Business Journal**, **Louisville Business Journal**, **Philadelphia Business Journal** and the **Milwaukee Business Journal**.



USF photo/Joseph Gamble

## Top Stories



Rajiv Dubey and student/USF photo

### Robotic arm converts brain signals to action

Psychology professor Emanuel Donchin; Redwan Alqasemi, a researcher in the Department of Mechanical Engineering's Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and Technology; and Rajiv Dubey, professor and chair of the USF Department of Mechanical Engineering, and director of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering & Technology are collaborating on a wheelchair that uses a mechanical/robotic arm. The researchers are using a system called the BCI that reads brainwaves and sends the translated signals to the robotic arm, directing it to move accordingly. The BCI system captures P-300 brain wave responses and converts them to actions. This story was picked up locally and around the world from media outlets such as the Discovery Channel, Reportero Interfase

in Mexico, London outlet Don't Panic, FOX 13, Channel 10/CBS, **Medgadget**, **Gizmodo**, **Gizmag** and **Congoo**. Other media outlets are still scheduling interviews/photo shoots to cover this story.

### USF takes first step toward campus hospital

USF recently submitted a letter to Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, seeking a certificate of need to build a freestanding, 100-bed, general acute-care hospital on the Tampa campus. The proposed hospital would be adjacent to the Carol & Frank Morsani Center for Advanced Healthcare, the newly opened outpatient center on campus, and also near the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. The hospital would have a focus on diabetes treatment and also offer general care. The hospital would build in part on work led by Jeff Krischer, a USF epidemiologist whose team has attracted \$389 million in research funding to USF. The story was picked up by **MSN Money**, **Triangle Business Journal**, **Tampa Bay Business Journal**, **Atlanta Business Chronicle**, **Dallas Business Journal**, **Nashville Business Journal**, **San Antonio Business Journal**, **Wichita Business Journal**, **Washington Business Journal**, **New Mexico Business Weekly**, **South Florida Business Journal**, **Philadelphia Business Journal** and several other outlets.

### USF alumnus tapped for Drug Czar

President Obama will appoint a 36-year law enforcement veteran and USF alumnus to be the country's next drug czar. An administration official said that R. Gil Kerlikowske, Seattle's police chief, has been tapped to lead the nation's drug control program. As drug czar, Kerlikowske will head the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which is responsible for reducing illegal drug use and trafficking, drug-related crime, and drug-related health problems in coordination with federal, state, and local entities. Kerlikowske holds both undergraduate and master's degrees in criminal justice from the University of South Florida. The **CBS national news** picked up the story with various outlets to follow.

### Engineering Expo draws future scientists

USF engineering students and professional engineers worked their magic – and showed off some of their serious science – during a week-end of hands-on activities at the 36th annual Engineering. EXPO 2009, one of the largest events of its kind in the southeast, brought together science, math and engineering enthusiasts and some unusual applications for savvy technical know-how. The EXPO draws more than 700 students, encouraging students' interest in engineering, science, math and technology careers. The story was picked up by the **Times Herald Record**, the **St. Petersburg Times** (**blog** and **print** version) and **Channel 10/CBS**.