

SA Students Study AIDS In Florida

Stephanie Riggs

Special to the Lance

Seven students, along with Dr. W.D. White, met in Sarasota, Florida for three weeks of intensive winter term study. The course entitled "AIDS in the mind of America" involved reading material that dealt with prejudices society holds toward those people with AIDS.

Students also spoke with the coordinator of Sarasota AIDS Support, Buzz Larson, who said, "Although I have AIDS, I don't feel like a victim." Buzz said he feels that AIDS is as much a psychological disease as a physical one. He was diagnosed as testing positive to the HIV antibodies test nearly seven years ago. Buzz is healthy and has only been in the hospital once. When he feels down, he removes the stress in his life.

Students also engaged in critically reading James F. Childress' book entitled *Priorities in Biomedical Ethics*. This book covers moral and ethical issues such as doctor/patient relationships, to live or let die, human subjects in research, and other sensitive issues.

Joining the St. Andrews students in the class were two University of South Florida students, Eric Schickler and Tracy



Todd Tyner, Dale Riddell, Stephanie Riggs, Alex Debnun, and friends

Lutz. Eric is a junior from Massachusetts majoring in politics, and Tracy is a junior from Florida majoring in psychology.

The St. Andrews students stayed in a hotel purchased by New College, a branch of U.S.F. After class was dismissed at noon, students headed out into the sun. It was just a short drive to Siesta Beach, on Siesta Key, located on the gulf of Mexico. Students also visited the Ringling Museum, affiliated with Ringling

Brothers Circus. Busch Gardens, in nearby Tampa, was a fun-filled day of roller coaster riding and animal watching.

Senior Richard Sneed thought that the best part of the trip was talking with someone who had been diagnosed with AIDS. "Learning about how they react and feel makes the disease itself more real. Buzz lost count of all the friends who died of the disease, and I didn't know anyone. Now I do." Sneed stated

that knowing more about a gay lifestyle makes one less afraid. He also stated that he loved the beaches, and the escape they provided from the serious topic.

Senior Todd Tyner expressed his feelings by saying, "As far as what I learned, the most was how important the topic was. The issues we discussed and discovered are universal, and work into other social problems. AIDS shows us a great deal about social morality. I also got to know my peers under closer circumstances. The four weeks was a great time. Plus, being so close to Tampa enabled me to tour the Salvador Dali Art Gallery just three days before they announced his death."

When asked to comment on the trip, Dr. White said, "It's remarkable how much students learn if they are in a comfortable and interesting setting. Students teach and learn from each other if they are living in a stimulating environment and engaged in creative relationships with each other. The students felt that winter term in Florida was a wonderful break away from the consistency of the campus. Dr. White said that it is likely that he will take another group of students there in the future."

Herbert Presents Paper

Nancy Often

Staff Writer

Brian Herbert, Vice-President of Tri-Beta, presented a paper on Thermogenesis to the Association of Southeastern Biologists in Charlotte, on April 6. The paper was the result of many months of research completed by the Tau Rho Chapter of Tri-Beta.

The paper, entitled "Energetics: A Preliminary Study on the Total Energy Dissipation for Thermogenesis in Warm Acclimated Wister Rats," characterized the components of the total amount

of energy that is required to maintain normal functioning in Wister rats. "It was a preliminary study of thermogenesis (the production of body heat) as a function of fat metabolism. No one has characterized the energy produced by shivering," ex-

plained Herbert. "Further down the line, we should be able to come to grips with what is going on in thermogenesis."

Tri-Beta President Warren Williams said, "The project was an extreme success. We were pleased with the results because it exceeded all of our expecta-

tions." Herbert added, "We got to present our findings to a diverse audience who knew what we were talking about."

Williams commented that if research continues on this project, it will have the potential of being published in journals.

The purpose of Tri-Beta is to encourage undergraduate research. Most of the Tri-Beta members played some role in this research project, while the professors acted as consultants and advisors. "All of this could not have been done without the help of Tri-Beta members," said Herbert.



Brian Herbert