Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan became the third top executive at USF St. Petersburg within a decade to vacate or be removed from the position earlier than expected and earlier than any of the leaders had wanted.

Sullivan announced her resignation in a letter addressed to the USF St. Petersburg campus community on June 23. "This was not an easy decision," she wrote. "I have enjoyed my three years and a half years leading this fine institution and we have accomplished much together. But I feel in my heart that the timing is right."

Her last day is August 2.

The resignation came soon after a decision by USF President Judy Genshaft to convene the search for a new chancellor in the fall, as prescribed in Sullivan’s contract and supported by the Faculty Senate. Sullivan had hoped to continue as chief executive, said sources close to the chancellor, but made the decision earlier in the year that she would not finish her term with the USF system and the faculty, that is, if an extension to her contract had been offered.

The potential search had been a standing issue in the Faculty Senate throughout the spring semester. On May 4, the senate sent a letter to Genshaft requesting the search begin.

"The Senate has given an opportunity for all faculty constituents to provide their input on the progression of leadership at USF St. Petersburg beyond June 2013. Based on that input, we have no conclusive information that would lead us to recommend any delay or deferment of the initiation of a search," said a letter signed by then-Faculty Senate President Christopher J. Davis.

The letter continues: “The Senate appreciates both the significance of and sensitivity to any change at this level. However, we feel that the process presents a unique opportunity not only to provide a strong mandate for our leader but also to articulate the next steps.”

By MIKE HOAG JR.
Contributing Writer

Though the effects of Tropical Storm Debby were minimal on campus, its week-long soaking of the west coast of Florida underscores the real dangers of hurricane season.

USF St. Petersburg’s waterfront location, though picturesque, puts the campus particularly at risk.

“[Tampa] has a shallow bay. A hurricane coming in that direction will force a lot of water over land due to winds literally pushing the water over it,” said Tom Scherberger, the current USFSF Director of Communications and former hurricane editor at the Tampa Bay Times. “Everyone would have to evacuate, it would be too dangerous to have everyone stay here. The dorms are not sturdy enough, the whole campus and area would be underwater anyway.”

Every year an average of eight hurricanes develop in the waters off the southeastern United States during hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 through Nov. 30. And even though St. Petersburg hasn’t been hit by a hurricane since 1921, Scherberger said students should be aware of evacuation procedures and stock up on essential items, such as water, non-perishable foods, batteries, flashlights and a first aid kit.

The last hurricane to make landfall in the area—known as the 1921 Tampa Bay Hurricane as it pre-dated the A to Z naming convention—peaked as a category 4 storm with sustained winds up to 140 mph. When it hit Tarpon Springs, it brought with it 75 mph winds and a 7-foot storm surge, killing three to eight and causing $128 million in damage (adjusted for inflation).

The resultant storm surge from a category 4 landing at Indian Rocks Beach would split Pinellas County in half, according to researchers at the USF College of Marine Sciences. Much of Largo, Pinellas Park, downtown St. Petersburg and the barrier islands would be underwater, turning the middle of St. Petersburg and south Pinellas into an island.

By WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
and CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Staff Reporters

Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan became the third top executive at USF St. Petersburg within a decade to vacate or be removed from the position earlier than expected and earlier than any of the leaders had wanted.

Sullivan announced her resignation in a letter addressed to the USF St. Petersburg campus community on June 23. "This was not an easy decision," she wrote. "I have enjoyed my three years and a half years leading this fine institution and we have accomplished much together. But I feel in my heart that the timing is right."

Her last day is August 2.

The resignation came soon after a decision by USF President Judy Genshaft to convene the search for a new chancellor in the fall, as prescribed in Sullivan’s contract and supported by the Faculty Senate. Sullivan had hoped to continue as chief executive, said sources close to the chancellor, but made the decision earlier in the year that she would not finish her term with the USF system and the faculty, that is, if an extension to her contract had been offered.

The potential search had been a standing issue in the Faculty Senate throughout the spring semester. On May 4, the senate sent a letter to Genshaft requesting the search begin.

“[Tampa] has a shallow bay. A hurricane coming in that direction will force a lot of water over land due to winds literally pushing the water over it,” said Tom Scherberger, the current USFSF Director of Communications and former hurricane editor at the Tampa Bay Times. “Everyone would have to evacuate, it would be too dangerous to have everyone stay here. The dorms are not sturdy enough, the whole campus and area would be underwater anyway.”

Every year an average of eight hurricanes develop in the waters off the southeastern United States during hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 through Nov. 30. And even though St. Petersburg hasn’t been hit by a hurricane since 1921, Scherberger said students should be aware of evacuation procedures and stock up on essential items, such as water, non-perishable foods, batteries, flashlights and a first aid kit.

The last hurricane to make landfall in the area—known as the 1921 Tampa Bay Hurricane as it pre-dated the A to Z naming convention—peaked as a category 4 storm with sustained winds up to 140 mph. When it hit Tarpon Springs, it brought with it 75 mph winds and a 7-foot storm surge, killing three to eight and causing $128 million in damage (adjusted for inflation).

The resultant storm surge from a category 4 landing at Indian Rocks Beach would split Pinellas County in half, according to researchers at the USF College of Marine Sciences. Much of Largo, Pinellas Park, downtown St. Petersburg and the barrier islands would be underwater, turning the middle of St. Petersburg and south Pinellas into an island.

By MIKE HOAG JR.
Contributing Writer

Though the effects of Tropical Storm Debby were minimal on campus, its week-long soaking of the west coast of Florida under-scores the real dangers of hurricane season.

USF St. Petersburg’s waterfront location, though picturesque, puts the campus particularly at risk.

“[Tampa] has a shallow bay. A hurricane coming in that direction will force a lot of water over land due to winds literally pushing the water over it,” said Tom Scherberger, the current USFSF Director of Communications and former hurricane editor at the Tampa Bay Times. “Everyone would have to evacuate, it would be too dangerous to have everyone stay here. The dorms are not sturdy enough, the whole campus and area would be underwater anyway.”

Every year an average of eight hurricanes develop in the waters off the southeastern United States during hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 through Nov. 30. And even though St. Petersburg hasn’t been hit by a hurricane since 1921, Scherberger said students should be aware of evacuation procedures and stock up on essential items, such as water, non-perishable foods, batteries, flashlights and a first aid kit.

The last hurricane to make landfall in the area—known as the 1921 Tampa Bay Hurricane as it pre-dated the A to Z naming convention—peaked as a category 4 storm with sustained winds up to 140 mph. When it hit Tarpon Springs, it brought with it 75 mph winds and a 7-foot storm surge, killing three to eight and causing $128 million in damage (adjusted for inflation).

The resultant storm surge from a category 4 landing at Indian Rocks Beach would split Pinellas County in half, according to researchers at the USF College of Marine Sciences. Much of Largo, Pinellas Park, downtown St. Petersburg and the barrier islands would be underwater, turning the middle of St. Petersburg and south Pinellas into an island.
Storm evac: You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here

HURRICANES, continued from front page

Even a Category 2 storm could be catastrophic, sinking coastal and low-lying areas in the west county. Even the relatively mild Debby made it possible for canoists and dead manatees to float down Bayshore Boulevard in Tampa.

Schuberger recommends students arrange to evacuate to a friend or family member’s home outside the evacuation zone, and only use emergency shelters as a “last resort.”

“I know you should stock up on water and batteries for flashlights, and tape windows and glass doors,” said Ev Malcolm, a graduate journalism student. “But no, I’m probably not prepared. I don’t have any of that stuff right now.”

If severe weather does hit, USF St. Petersburg officials will post emergency notices at usfsp.edu and notify the campus community by email and text message alerts. Once an evacuation is ordered, all campus buildings—including residence halls—will close.

“I’ve heard that a hurricane could be in the area. I don’t think the college should close because of hurricanes,” said Tim Mayer, a former engineering student. “I’m probably not prepared. I don’t have any of that stuff right now.”

Even with the state’s focus on hurricane preparedness, the College of Marine Sciences was able to get a budget increase by making a case for its work, he said.

The college gained national prominence for its research immediately following the Deepwater Horizon incident in April 2010 while Hogarth was serving as both college dean and institute director.

Immediately after the rig explosion, Hogarth made the decision to maintain control of college’s marine research vessels, giving the college more flexibility to continue independent research while also assisting government and BP efforts.

Hogarth will continue his role as director of the oceanography institute. About 60 percent of his time will go toward leading USFSP, he said. It was also announced by USF that Dean Frank Bialora of the College of Arts and Sciences will lead the search for the next chancellor. Hogarth said there is no chance he will pursue the permanent position.

Frank Kurz contributed additional research to this article.

William Hogarth

STORM SAFETY
TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING A HURRICANE

- Have a plan, and make sure your friends and family know it. Cell phone networks could be inoperable.
- Keep essential documents, textbooks and any other must-haves, like medications, portable and ready to go.
- Develop an evacuation plan and build your hurricane kit early.
- Plan for your pets. Most shelters cannot accommodate them.
- Sign up for Mo-Bull alerts at mobull.usf.edu.

Director of FIO named interim chancellor

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN  Staff Reporter

William Hogarth, a former dean of the College of Marine Science, has been named interim regional chancellor by USF President Judy Genshaft.

Hogarth, 73, said his job will be to hold down the fort while a permanent replacement for Margaret Sullivan, who resigned a year earlier than expected on June 25. He will begin at USFSP on August 6.

With the close proximity of USFSP and the Tampa-operated College of Marine Science, he said he has had a chance to see the university grow, and said “there are great opportunities to build on what has become the intellectual and scientific center of our community,” in a university press release.

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg is moving in the right direction,” Hogarth said, and has been for the last few years. He said he doesn’t plan to make any big changes, and will keep communications between his office and faculty, staff and students open.

“I’m not a person that does things by myself,” he said, describing himself as a team player.

One of the university’s biggest challenges in the coming year is locating funding for the planned College of Business building. Hogarth is convinced the university can put together a plan and a message that will resonate with legislators.

“We have to operate efficiently, cost wise,” he said. “Are we doing the best we can with the money we’ve already got?”

Even with the state’s focus on austerity, the College of Marine Sciences was able to get a budget increase by making a case for its

TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING A STORM

- Sign up for Mo-Bull alerts at mobull.usf.edu.
- Develop an evacuation plan and build your hurricane kit early.
- Plan for your pets. Most shelters cannot accommodate them.
- Have a plan, and make sure your friends and family know it. Cell phone networks could be inoperable.
- Keep essential documents, textbooks and any other must-haves, like medications, portable and ready to go.

Architect hired for new College of Business building

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN  Staff Reporter

A home for the College of Business came one step closer to realization on July 5 with the selection of local architecture firm Harvard Jolly to design the building.

The proposed $27.5 million project has been designated the top construction priority of the USF system. If everything goes to plan, the building could be occupied as soon as June 2014.

Along with providing a home for the College of Business, the building will provide the campus with its first large lecture halls. Each of the concept sketches provided in the Harvard Jolly proposal feature a 200- and a 100-seat auditorium. The absence of large lecture halls has made scheduling of on-site, lower division classes difficult.

Little is certain at this stage of development, but the college’s new digs likely will feature some of the tech included in the proposal document. Integration with digital devices and iTunes U—Apple’s education distribution platform—interactive signage, and a large digital display similar to the nine-panel “wow wall” soon to be installed in the University Student Center can be expected.

Through the years, Harvard Jolly has left its mark on downtown St. Petersburg, having designed Sundeen Gardens, The Pier, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Williams Park band shell, among others. Harvard Jolly was also hired to design the renovation of the Campus Activities Center, which will be renamed the Student Life Center when it re-opens in October.

Harvard Jolly has partnered with Ikon 5 Architects of Princeton, N.J., a firm that has designed the Ousro College of Business at Louisiana State University, the Cornell School of Management, and the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University.

Completion of the project may require support from the state legislature, where higher education capital projects for all but the newly formed Florida Polytechnic have proven a tough sell. Despite this, university staff members who oversee campus construction are confident the project will proceed.

Funding for the project will likely come from a combination of public expenditures and private donations.

A benefit for the College of Business on September 20 honoring Gas A. Stavros, a long-time champion of business education and a major donor to the university, has already attracted some interest from the local business community.

Two years ago, Stavros and his family led the charge with a $125,000 donation toward the building, sponsoring one of the proposed conference rooms, and donating an additional $150,000 to endow entrepreneurship scholarships.

The university has also secured at least four “platinum” corporate donors—Raymond James, the Tampa Bay Times, Creative Contractors and Ajax Building Corporation—at $25,000 or more each.

news@crownsnestpete.com

Ikon 5 Architects of Princeton, N.J., is one of the architects selected to design the new College of Business building.

William Hogarth
New mandatory meal plans bring angst, excitement

As resident students prepare to pay up to $1,600 per semester, The Crow’s Nest examines the ripple effects of the new dining hall

by Christopher Guinn
Staff Reporter

For the first time since the university was founded in 1965, USF St. Petersburg will have a dining hall. The university signed a five-year, once-renegotiable contract with Sodexo in April, and has been making the pitch to incoming and returning students and their parents over the summer.

The most controversial aspect of the new dining service is students living on campus, regardless of year, are required to participate. “It shouldn’t be mandatory, especially when we have our own kitchens,” said Linda Sanchez, a freshman pre-med student living in RHO. Students need to learn to be self-sufficient in college, she said.

Having a kitchen in RHO was a primary reason she chose to live there instead of in the new building. “I won’t use [the meal plan] every day,” she said.

Entrepreneurship major Zack Taylor said he was “ecstatic” about the possibility of hot food every day. Taylor said he’s not much of a cook, and he’s been living off cold cuts since starting at USF during the Summer B session. “I can’t wait. I can’t cook for myself right now,” he said.

Ultimately he says the gold plan will be a money saver when compared to the cost of groceries. Prior to the announcement of the service, mandatory on-campus dining was parents’ most common concern during freshmen orientations, said Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Julie Wong. The requirement to purchase a meal plan may be controversial at first, she said, but due to the relatively small size of the campus and resident population, some concessions had to be made.

Those deal sweeteners have ranked some parents, according to orientation leaders who assisted with the parent orientation sessions.

Several orientation leaders told The Crow’s Nest that parents were upset about mandatory participation in the meal plan, especially when combined with mandatory (with exceptions) on-campus living for first-year students.

“People do not feel it is fair to be charged the full price while living in Residence Hall One,” said orientation leader and Student Government President Mark Lombardi-Nelson. RHO is unique among campus housing options as it includes shared kitchen space.

The primary goal of the negotiations with Sodexo was to keep prices as low as possible, Wong said. As a result, the meal plans are slightly less expensive than similar plans offered at USF Tampa, but with fewer flexible spending dollars, fewer meal plan options and the requirement that all campus residents purchase a meal plan.

In Tampa, participation in the meal plan is only mandatory for first-year students.

During an orientationattend-
ed by reporters from The Crow’s Nest, parents took the information in stride. One asked if gluten-free meals were available. Louis Duran, the manager for Sodexo who will be running the dining service, said gluten-free foods will be plentiful, including a daily salad bar, among other items.

Tom Scherberger, the school’s director of communications, clarified the situation when asked if students with special dietary needs would be stuck with rabbit food three times a day. No, he said, students can submit a letter from a physician and accommodations for special meals can be made at no extra cost.

Two plans are available for students living on campus. One option, the “gold” plan, provides 21 meals per week and $100 in flexible spending dollars for $1,600 per semester, plus tax. The “green” plan comes with 110 total meals per semester for $1,000, with $50 in flexible spending dollars. The university is calling “Shark Bites accounts will be linked with student IDs and used like a debit card at a Sodexo-managed Red Mango frozen yogurt franchise in the University Student Center or for a la carte options like premade sandwiches, salads and wraps available from “The Reef,” the name of the cafeteria. Shark Bites dollars will also be sold at a slight discount and balances will transfer from the fall to spring semester.

Summer meal prices have not been determined, but will be lower, Scherberger said, to account for fewer serving days and multiple summer sessions.

The meal plans are available for non-resident students, but Sodexo, the food service company operating the dining hall, expects such sales to be rare. Faculty, commuter students and other guests can purchase meals at the retail rates of $6.50 for breakfast, $7.50 for lunch and $8.50 for dinner, less expensive than the pre-meal prices on the green plan, which amounts to $9.09 per meal (excluding Shark Bites).

In his dining halls, the utilization rate is about 75 percent, said Duran, the Sodexo manager. This is achieved by focusing on sourcing local produce through Sodexo’s established distribution network; food events, for example, a contest where students compete for the title of best chef; and theme nights focusing on cultural cuisines, late night dining to facilitate pre-exam cramming or the environment and sustainability.

The university ceded the ability to contract outside caterers for special events. For the length of the five-year, once-renewable contract, Sodexo has the right of first refusal to cater all campus events, including those hosted by Student Government, clubs and organizations. A “shoostring” catering menu will keep costs low for student organizations.

During the exploratory stages of the purchasing process, USFSP estimated the value of all campus catering at $60,000 per year. Sodexo expects to sell $100,000 of catering services per year, according to its proposal.

Sodexo may allow special events not specifically mentioned in the contract, like the food truck rally hosted earlier in the summer. “I welcome competition,” Duran said. He wants to have a good relationship with the established local restaurant, he added.

Lombardi-Nelson, as student president, said he is exploring options regarding any student organization’s obligation to the catering clause. Solely working with Sodexo to cater student events could hurt the bottom line, as clubs and organizations will no longer be able to receive free or greatly discounted food for events from third parties.

see DINING

news briefs

Student Government Vice President Quincy Lopez resigned from office in late June, four months after he and President Mark Lombardi-Nelson were elected with 70 percent of the vote.

Lombardi-Nelson said Lopez gave no indication he was going to resign. “One thing set him off and this is how it rolls,” Lombardi-Nelson said, declining further comment.

The SG Senate confirmed James "Jimmy" Richards as Lopez’s replacement in July upon the recommendation of Lombardi-Nelson. Richards previously served as Lombardi-Nelson’s chief of staff.

Construction workers affixed a shiny chrome name and address to the side of the new University Student Center in late June, a week after the school announced the building was 90 percent complete.

The USC will house around 200 residents this fall, in addition to a ballroom, other office spaces and meeting rooms.

Students will move into the new building in mid-August, but a formal opening ceremony will take place on Sept. 6 at the end of Welcome Week.

Meanwhile, the Student Life Center—formerly the Campus Activities Center—is still under construction in a fall opening. Campus leaders view the SLC as a “one stop shop” for student life activities.

The building will be home to the school’s wellness center, as well as Student Government, Harborside Activities Board, Multicultural Affairs, Disabilities Services and The Crow’s Nest.

TRIO Student Support Services has found a home amidst a sea of cardboard boxes and temporary walls.

TRIO moved from Terrace 302 to Coquina Hall 101 in mid-June. It shares the space with Student Government, Harborside Activities Board and The Crow’s Nest. TRIO will take over the entire room when the three organizations move into the renovated Student Life Center later this year.

TRIO’s academic and personal support services include tutoring, career exploration, test preparation and student leadership training.

Up to 200 undergraduate students use TRIO’s academic and personal support services to pursue success at USF St. Petersburg each year.

The University launched a colorful new website on July 5, in part to differentiate itself from the USF Tampa campus.

The site was slated for an April launch, but “design revisions” held it back, according to Michel Fougeres, USFSP’s Strategic Web Developer & Project Leader.

Most of the main pages—including academics, admission information and community connections—have been updated. Department pages, student organizations and other deep content pages will see a redesign in coming months.
Williams Park set to become music destination

By JANE MCINNIS
Staff Reporter

Eight concerts were planned for Williams Park this year, but event coordinators are now funneling their energy into a long-term vision for the park to host events, ensuring continued use of the 4.3 acres.

The Williams Park Music Initiative, which is seeking a non-profit entity through the St. Petersburg Chambers of Commerce, is set to sign the last week of June. The Backline Music Group of Tampa organized two events at the park earlier this year, but is now focusing on leading the businesses in the community to make Williams Park a music destination.

“I had people tell me concerts won’t work in that park, but 6,000 people proved otherwise,” said Kevin Lilly, operations manager for Backline Music Group, referring to the attendance at the two concerts held earlier this spring.

The initiative coordinators are asking 30 to 40 companies to donate $1,000 each. The money would go to revamping electricity in the park, granting stimulus funds for events coming through and in the park, granting stimulus funds to revamp electricity in the park. An ordinance against sidewalk sleeping reinforced in 2011 has recently shrunk the presence of the homeless downtown. The change was glaring at Williams Park. In a plan to reduce homelessness for Pinellas County report, the number of homeless “hanging out” in the park dropped from 85 people in 2010 to less than 12 in July 2011.

The park is also the hub for the PTSA bus transit, but the city’s Community and Redevelopment Agency is searching for a new facility to house it.

Festivals, outdoor concerts and productions are frequent in St. Petersburg, filling Vinoy Park, Demens Landing and Straub Park, Lilly said.

“None of them are at the one that has a stage,” he said, referring to Williams Park. The stage available there could save coordinators upwards of $5,000 in lieu of having one built at the other locations.

Will Erickson, a local alternative country music artist, played at Williams Park in March. Headlining was Grammy-nominated rock band Tonic. “I think Williams Park definitely has a music initiative. It’s the best he’s ever worked with.” Erickson noted the sound system was one built at the other locations.

Lilly said. “Most people’s perception is that it’s the homeless people’s park, and don’t want to go there.”

Eggeman, who worked downtown for years, said she always loved the park. Similar to Lilly, she’s quick to address the stigma it carries. Lilly says that could change this year, if downtown works to make a music initiative.

“While the initiative plans to launch next month, the park is now home to the Williams Park Summer Market. The market focuses on lunch, but was canceled because people who hang out at the park were “drinking, falling and throwing up in the grass,” Eggeman said.

“Drinking, falling and throwing up in the grass,” Eggeman said. "The squeaky wheel hits the grease," he said.

Festivals, outdoor concerts and productions are frequent in St. Petersburg, filling Vinoy Park, Demens Landing and Straub Park, Lilly said. “None of them are at the one that has a stage,” he said, referring to Williams Park. The stage available there could save coordinators upwards of $5,000 in lieu of having one built at the other locations.

The stage available there could save coordinators upwards of $5,000 in lieu of having one built at the other locations.

While the initiative plans to launch next month, the park is now home to the Williams Park Summer Market. The market focuses on lunch, but was canceled because people who hang out at the park were “drinking, falling and throwing up in the grass,” Eggeman said. 

“Drinking, falling and throwing up in the grass,” Eggeman said. "The squeaky wheel hits the grease," he said.

Next morning. The market used to have a small-scale Wednesday market focused on lunch, but was canceled because people who hang out at the park were “drinking, falling and throwing up in the grass,” Eggeman said.

Eggeman, who worked downtown for years, said she always loved the park. Similar to Lilly, she’s quick to address the stigma it carries. Lilly says that could change this year, if downtown works to make a music initiative.

“The squeaky wheel hits the grease," he said.

Founded in 1888, for most of its history Williams Park was a popular gathering place for workers and shoppers in the city center.

Student input sought for Mahaffey lineup

By RYAN BALLOGG
Arts & Life Editor

The Mahaffey Theater aims to co-host acts with USF St. Petersburg, breathing youthfulness into the arts and establishing a beneficial relationship. At least one “big-name comedy act” suggested by students has been tentatively scheduled for December.

Representatives from Student Government polled students and compiled a list of favorable acts, which included actors Neil Patrick Harris and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and comedians Zach Galifianakis, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Daniel Tosh.

On May 22, representatives from SG and Student Affairs met with the theater’s management to discuss the ideas. Some of the requests were out of the price range or capacity of the venue, but others were taken into consideration by Mahaffey’s management.

“There were a lot of good ideas, and a lot of positive energy circulating,” said Joe Santiago, Mahaffey’s management.

Student input sought for Mahaffey lineup

By RYAN BALLOGG
Arts & Life Editor

The Mahaffey Theater aims to co-host acts with USF St. Petersburg, breathing youthfulness into the arts and establishing a beneficial relationship. At least one “big-name comedy act” suggested by students has been tentatively scheduled for December.

Representatives from Student Government polled students and compiled a list of favorable acts, which included actors Neil Patrick Harris and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and comedians Zach Galifianakis, Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Daniel Tosh.

On May 22, representatives from SG and Student Affairs met with the theater’s management to discuss the ideas. Some of the requests were out of the price range or capacity of the venue, but others were taken into consideration by Mahaffey’s management.

“There were a lot of good ideas, and a lot of positive energy circulating,” said Joe Santiago, Mahaffey’s management.

“big-name comedy act” suggested by students has been tentatively scheduled for December.
Recent grads sowed own opportunities

By CHELSEA TATHAM  
Staff Reporter

Finding a job is no easy task for most graduates—especially given the current economic climate. However, Brittany Lyp was able to land a job at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home of the dolphin movie star Winter. Lyp’s job consists of supervising Winter’s Dolphin Tale Aquarium.

For Lyp, her job at the UPS store may not have been ideal, but it allowed her to work as a UPS Store Associate and gain valuable work experience. Despite this setback, Hebert was removed from the Senate presidency by his peers at the start of the fall 2011 semester, a move several senators later regretted.

Now as a field director for West’s 2012 campaign, Hebert coordinates local efforts and is involved with voter outreach. He job involves overseeing volunteers who make phone calls and knock on doors to get the word out about his candidate.

“At the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Brittany Lyp teaches guests about marine biology.”

Graduates of technical, professional or skills-based programs are more likely to find gainful employment on the strength of their degree. For students of the liberal arts and social sciences, earning relevant experience while in college seems to be the key to avoiding a long-term layover in the service industry.

Cory Hebert entered college with a plan for his eventual political science degree. “My goals were to get the best grades and learn the most I can so I will be able to apply those experiences and knowledge in the real world,” he said.

While in college, Hebert experienced firsthand the highs and lows of political life. His passion for politics developed in high school and continued his involvement as a member of Student Government and the Residence Hall Association.

Hebert’s term as a student politician ended suddenly when he was removed from the Senate presidency by his peers at the start of the fall 2011 semester, a move several senators later regretted.

Despite this setback, Hebert continued to foster the experiences and relationships that would ultimately lead to a job with a political campaign. In 2010, he worked as an intern for the Allen West (R-Fla. 22) campaign, gaining crucial experience for his current job. His connections in college organizations and internships at other campaigns led to his success, Hebert said.

“Heart felt to have the networking contacts I have today and grateful for the volunteers and staff that spent time to get to know me.”

While working at the aquarium, Lyp also interacts with guests and teaches them about marine biology. With the aquarium continuing to expand, there are more opportunities for Lyp to expand her knowledge of marine life and ecosystems, she said. She also plans to attend graduate school next year.

“I enjoy interacting with the public and having the ability to use my science knowledge, speaking abilities and leadership skills to educate guests about the aquarium, the organization’s mission and marine life. It makes me feel very accomplished,” Lyp said.

Unlike some graduates before them, students now are finding out that a degree doesn’t necessarily mean a golden ticket for a good job. An analysis of U.S. Census and the Department of Labor data by the Associated Press in April showed that 53.6 percent of degree-holders under 25 are unemployed or underemployed.

Best Laid Plans: A series about lives after USF St. Petersburg
From recent graduates to retirees, follow The Crow’s Nest as we explore the personal stories that intersected with the campus on Baybororo Harbor. If you know a former student with a tale worth telling, email us at life@crowsneststpete.com.
The young and the reckless

Boomer claims of youth entitlement are pot and kettle accusations

It’s an easy insult to throw. Politicians, pundits and parents of anybody born after the first woman accepted a serpent’s gift have said it. Kids these days. They’re entitled.

The proof is right there in black and white. There’s a study from the University of California at Irvine that found that 30 percent of students expected B’s for simply going to lectures. Forty percent felt the same just for completing required readings. Trying hard counts, too, agreed 66 percent of those surveyed, who decided their effort should be tied to their grades.

Another study, published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, found that college students value self-esteem boosts over all other enjoyable activities, including sex, eating a favorite food, consuming alcohol, meeting with friends or receiving a paycheck. The study identified a link between those who almost addictively seek out self-esteem and those with a strong sense of entitlement, many of whom agreed with the statement that the world would be a better place if they were running it.

The entitlement of youth has seeped its sappy goo into pop culture, too. Many critics would have you believe that HBO’s “Girls” is the sign of end times and Lena Dunham and her narcissistic group of Brooklynite friends are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Dunham’s character is a 20-something Michigan native trying to make it big in the city two years after earning a bachelor’s in English—a decidedly selfish degree—when her parents decide to cut her off financially. “How could they?” she asks, much to her Baby Boomer critics’ laments.

Dunham’s nogoodnik kind have been protesting in the streets of Montreal since February, when the government announced plans to increase tuition rates. The proposed increase would almost double the cost to attend public universities in Quebec, from $2,168 to $3,793. As many as 310,000 Quebecois students have gone on strike, blocking teachers and other students from holding classes and marching through the streets.

And the people of Montreal supported them. On May 22, almost a quarter of Montreal’s population marched downtown in support of the students in what many have called the “single biggest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history.” The Quebecois seem to understand something about contemporary students that others have overlooked.

Maybe young people are not the entitled ones.

Consider the numbers. The grumpy Quebecois minority that hasn’t supported the students paid for college at much lower rates—they paid only $540 per year from 1968 to 1990. In the U.S., adjusted for inflation, a year of college cost an average of $7,685 in 1980, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Today, it’s more than double at $17,464.

Americans born in 1937 or earlier had earlier access to full Social Security benefits, allowing them to retire at age 65. Those born after 1959 cannot receive full benefits until age 67.

Older generations also paid less toward Social Security, as rates have nearly doubled since 1964. Unemployment was better—hovering between five and 10 weeks on average until the late 2000s, when it skyrocketed to nearly 25.

The studies might show that young Americans act like they’re deserved certain things. But the numbers reveal those who are actually entitled.
Column: The Weekly Windbag

Commuter schools are not as bad as some say

Commuter school, commuter campus.

The phrases are uttered in disdain. Criticisms leveled at universities that do not have “history.” The University of South Florida System is talked about in response to desegregation, or violence over the same issue (University of Mississippi). I want to have no part of that “history.” Besides if you are in Gainesville, you can only go to the Salty Dog Saloon so many times.

I am sorry, but if having “history” means attending a university where a state’s governor stood in “the schoolhouse door” (University of Alabama) in response to “the schoolhouse door” (University of Virginia) and then reiterated, or altered, or made an exception to the same scenario, I want to have no part of it.

Salty Dog Saloon so many times. Gainesville, you can only go to the pictures of the Bayboro Campus are not featured in the History Channel’s (or anyone else’s) commentary on the Civil Rights era. Using USFSP as an example, what is wrong with being a “commuter school”? Though I am in the minority of those who attend this campus due to the fact that I live in RHO, I am able to recognize the vast benefits and opportunities that accompany going to such a school.

Let us examine the resources available to us “commuter students” in Pinellas County.

• There is the oft revered and dotted on “600 Block” on Central Avenue where one can find a number of various thrift shops (excuse me, I meant “vintage boutiques”) that offer a more homespun feel and charm than your typical run-of-the-mill thrift shop.

• The Pier and its superb view of downtown and the bay is just a short walk away.

• Central Avenue on First Friday, enough said.

• How many schools have an independent, virtually on-campus bar like The Tavern?

• How many schools in this grand country can say that they have an on campus beach at low tide, an airport (and bar), and a Coast Guard station within a three minute walk?

• Tropicana Field is a free seven minute trolley ride away.

• A wide variety of museums and world class beaches are a short walk or drive away.

• I might also suggest a moonless, romantic night at Pass-A-Grille, where one can actually see the Gulf of Mexico.

And as for that lies just beyond a bridge? The absolute best freshly squeezed orange juice in the great state of Florida, and therefore Earth, is a short drive over the Suncoast Parkway Bridge at The Citrus Place in Terra Ciera. There’s also the downtown Tampa library, Ybor City, the Vuengtaking brewery and first iPhone was released. It ended other side of the Howard Frankland.

Don’t be bummered that the Special Collections Library at the University of Georgia is larger than Davis and Bayboro Halls combined. Just pour yourself a glass of orange juice and plant your lawn chair on the campus beach and work on your tan.

kurtz@mail.usf.edu

Column: So It Goes

How do you measure an iLife?

Your iPhone’s lifespan might be linked closely to yours

I learned to use the Nintendo’s boxy controller like it was a second language at the same time I was learning my first. My first android and the guy from “Reading Rainbow.” Picard began his long and prosperous syndication the very month I was born; September of 1987.

It was a fitting beginning for a young man who quickly embraced—and was embraced by—the growing world of technology around him.

How do you measure a life?

For many of us students, born into an age of amassed gadgets, gizmos and thingamajigs, our time is defined by the sprockets in our pockets and the brands in our hands.

I used to learn about the Nintendo by bracing—and was embraced by—a young man who quickly emulated his teacher. It didn’t work.

I set my ringtone to the Mexican Spanish class at least once a week. I learned to use the Nintendo’s boxy controller like it was a second language at the same time I was learning my first.

By FRANK KURTZ
Staff columnist

“How do you measure a life?”

For me, it all started with Captain Jean-Luc Picard.

Together with a Klingon, an

By REN LaFORME
Staff columnist

Column: Earth Matters

The view through blue waters

By LAUREN REILLY
Guest columnist

I remember laying at the bow of the boat and being completely enchanted with the ocean and the creatures that live in it.

During those hot sunny days I never imagined myself needing to protect the ocean. I thought it was something precious that everyone should care about and always be able to enjoy. For 17 days in June, I was aboard the research vessel Bellows. Stan Lackler, a researcher from the College of Marine Science, received a federal grant to make a map of the uncharted sea floor. Our goal was to use side scan sonar to make a bathymetric map of a place just south of Key West called Hawk Channel and discover where certain corals are located.

I was excited to be out to sea for two weeks; nothing like being on the water and falling to sleep by the rocking of the boat.

The reason for the bathymetric map is part of the reason why I work so hard toward sustainability.

Aside from being a magnificently colored habitat for many species of fish and plankton, corals are important to the ocean’s health. A collection of coral can be known as a “carbon sink,” meaning it balances the chemistry of the ocean by trapping carbon dioxide.

But corals are dying, primarily due to human-caused pollution. Overfishing is also a factor. When algae-eating fish disappear, the algae flourishes and can out-compete the coral, causing it to die off.

The map we made will be entered into a federal database and scientists will utilize it in their research discussing topics such as coral health, single-celled marine phytoplankton and climate change.

Last year, a friend new to my environment for the environment asked why I care so much. All I could do was smile politely as everything, good and bad, flashed through my head. About what it looked like in West Virginia where they blow up mountaintops for coal. But in response to the devastation, people all over America are coming together to demand renewable energy such as solar and wind.

I care because I have hope. Environmental degradation will cause shortages and decrease the quality of life as we know it. It’s not too late. I care because I don’t want to have to worry about destruction and how it will affect our lives and the lives of future generations.

Lauren Reilly is a senior majoring in environmental science and policy and director of Student Sustainability Initiatives.

lmreilly@mail.usf.edu
Dining hall will advertise jobs for students soon

As a mea culpa, the university has offered The Campus Grind and The Tavern an opportunity to participate in the Bulls Bucks program, but the numbers have yet to be finalized. At the moment, both restaurants said the price and expected participation do not justify the initial investment. Bulls Bucks, a USF-system wide program, will be usable in the dining hall, but Shark Bites will not work in place of Bulls Bucks.

The new dining service will create job opportunities for students, with a target of 25 percent of employees drawn from the student population. This is spelled out in the contract, but if the target is not reached, it is not considered a breach of the contract. Ultimately, it will be up to Duran, he said, and that number could be anywhere from 15 percent to 35 percent.

“Sodexo expects that students will actually make up more than 25 percent of their employee base,” Schererberg wrote in an email. “USFSP is interested in this as well so we will monitor their progress.”

A job fair is planned for the end of July or the beginning of August. Information will be available through the university’s typical communications channels or through the dining service’s Facebook page.

Fund is 'game changer'

INITIATIVE FUND, continued from page 5

Bardi-Nelson said. But the SG president said that it’s a great idea from the student perspective, since the money cannot be caught up in the “micro-management” and “lack of execution” that he said has prevented SG from operating efficiently in the past.

Lombardi-Nelson said he got the idea working as a student orientation leader when incoming freshmen—many of whom will live in the new residence hall—shared their interest in starting new things around campus.

“This is a game changer and our university is going to change,” he said. “We don’t know what’s going to happen with the new students living on campus.”

life@crowsneststpete.com

Mahaffey optimistic about continuing partnership

MAHAFFEY, continued from page 4

Mahaffey’s planners left the meeting with ideas for acts they could realistically host.

“This is a good start, and the beginning of a productive relationship. Who knows where it will be five years down the road?” Santiago said.

None of the proposed events have been confirmed, but the big-name comedy act may become part of a planned dinner event that the university is having at the Mahaffey in December.

“It was a perfect opportunity to get the students to co-promote a show,” Santiago said.

He said the meeting was optimistic and showed promise for a budding relationship that will benefit both USFSP and the Mahaffey. The theater has shown interest in reaching out to a younger demographic in the past. The Mahaffey has participated in USFSP’s Get On Board Day twice within the last year. The icebreaking expo allowed them to get to know some of the many faces and interests of students. Now, they are seeking to turn friendship into partnership with the acts specifically requested by and targeted at the student body.

arts@crowsneststpete.com

Nice degree.

What else you got?

Extra-curricular involvement is a top indicator of success while in college and when looking for a job.

The Crow’s Nest is seeking writers, photographers, and artists.

Help tell the story of USFSP while showing future employers how you’re different.

Contact Ren LaForme at rlaforme@mail.usf.edu