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THE PART-TIMERS
Adjuncts have full-time workloads with part-time benefits

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Contributing Writer

Adjuncts taught nearly one-third of all course sections at USFSP during the fall 2010 semester—the result of austerity measures, a decades-long shift in employment and an increased demand for college degrees.

They are classified as part-time, non-contractual employees; have no access to the state health care plan and are paid significantly less than their full-time counterparts. However, their numbers are growing as the university seeks to protect itself from future budget cuts, the uncertain future of financial aid.

“I work seven days a week,” said Margarita Altuna, an adjunct who teaches eight Spanish language courses across three different colleges. At USFSP she teaches two of the four-credit hour classes online, two one-credit labs and a section of Spanish III in person. Her online sections are almost filled to the 75-student capacity.

“Nobody wants to do online classes because it’s challenging for us,” said Sophie Champigny, an adjunct who teaches 20 credit hours of French language at USFSP. “The number of students is outrageously high,” she said. “When you have 60 students per class, that’s crazy, you have to be available all the time. All we do is work.”

Despite the workload, both said they are fortunate.

When Altuna moved from Maryland to Florida, “it was kind of hard to find a job in my field,” she said. “I really love to teach and USF has given me an opportunity. The school is growing and I’m looking to be a part of that growing.”

“I was lucky because I was given so many classes,” said Champigny, who also taught 15 courses during the 2010-2011 academic year and organized a study abroad program to France over the summer, “but you never know” how many you will be assigned next semester. “There is no security.”

Pay for adjuncts at USFSP is determined by the colleges, but the typical pay rate for teaching lower division courses within the College of Arts and Sciences is $700 per credit hour.

The University of Tampa and St. Petersburg College offer similar rates, but St. Petersburg College pays a slight premium for adjuncts with a doctoral degree.

Adjunct pay is driven by market forces, said Human Resources Director Sandi Conway. There is “a fairly high unemployment rate and we’re still getting ample pools of qualified people.”

“It’s better to hire a temp than a full-time employee,” Conway said. Despite budget cuts, the university has not had to lay off any employees, despite the uncertain future of financial aid.

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Health services planned for new student center

Uninsured students will have access to on-campus care

By ARIELLE STEVENSON
News Editor

Students will have access to health services on campus when the new student center is complete. USFSP offers up to 12 free counseling sessions. General medicine health services are only available on the USF Tampa campus, and students often have to pay an additional fee to access those services.

“A recent study of the student population found that 30 percent of students at USFSP are uninsured,” said Diane McKinstry, director of the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness. USF’s Lakeland campus recently partnered with the local health department to offer services to students. New College partnered with the USF Sarasota campus. USFSP has a referral process for general medicine, but nothing on campus.

“We were up there with best practices as far as psychological services were concerned,” McKinstry said. “But it was unusual that we didn’t have health services on campus.”

Students pay $2.64 per credit hour in fees to fund the new health services plans. “We needed to raise fees in order to build funds to start and run the facility,” McKinstry said. “We were approved to raise the health fees two years ago.”

McKinstry said that would only be enough to get the facility started. “The student health fees now are only half of what we need to maintain it,” McKinstry said. No formal contracts have been setup for the actual services.

“We are at the exploration stages and looking at possibilities at the current time,” said Julie C. Wong, regional vice chancellor of Student Affairs.

They hope to have a nurse’s station, nurse practitioner, several exam rooms and a diagnostic lab. Basic health services and prescriptions will be available to students with or without health insurance.

“My hope is that we treat not just cold or flu patients, but all ailments and wellness needs, like birth control and well women exams,” McKinstry said. Once the program takes off, provided fees increase to cover cost, they hope to expand to two physicians and more exam rooms. Counseling services will be part of the health center.

WHAT ELSE?

The facility will also include the following:

On the First Floor...
• Food court with seating for 175 to 200
• Multi-function atrium with programming and display space
• Information desk
• Meeting room
• Game room

On the Ballroom Level...
• Ballroom with views to the south of Bayboro Harbor, capable of being subdivided into three equal spaces
• Pre-function terrace
• University dining room with private terrace
• Meeting room

In the Student Housing Component...
• 150 double occupancy rooms with private baths

And Included in the CAC Renovations...
• Student involvement office space: Student Government, Student Life, Multicultural Education, Leadership, and Harborside
• Counseling and Wellness
• Career Services
Students urged to take action to save financial aid

BY ARIELLE STEVENSON
News Editor

Students are seeing spikes in tuition and fees at state and federal governments are facing major budget shortfalls. Financial aid will most likely be sent to the state and federal chopping block.

The National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators launched an online campaign to urge students and financial aid administrators to contact lawmakers before Labor Day. Since many senators and representatives are home for the Labor Day weekend, NASFAA says now is the time to connect with local representatives.

“Lawmakers are looking for ways to cut down on the national debt,” said Haley Chitty, NAS-FAA Director of Communications. “Federal student aid is targeted as one of the areas for spending cuts.”

On August 2, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011. The bipartisan legislation raised the debt ceiling and gave lawmakers more time to figure out budget cuts without defaulting on the national debt. Additional mandatory funding for the Pell Grant program was included for 2012 and 2013 fiscal years.

Graduate and professional students lost access to subsidized loans. Direct Loan repayment incentives were also eliminated. But Pell Grants still face a $1.3 billion shortfall for 2012-2013 and lawmakers anticipate having to make a lot of cuts in the coming months.

For a while, it looked like Pell Grants may take the brunt of the education spending cuts, because the Pell Grant program is considered one of the larger discretionary domestic programs, Chitty said.

“In the large scheme, it’s only a small sliver of the budget,” Chitty said. “But it’s not the only program being targeted. Anytime there is an economic downturn, we see an increase of people returning to school which increases the cost of programs like Pell.”

Still, the Congressional Super Committee is aiming to find an additional $1.5 trillion in cuts over the next 10 years. The money could very well come from student financial aid. There will be automatic across-the-board cuts should the Super Committee fail to come up with the cuts. Either situation could have a negative impact for students if they don’t voice their concerns to lawmakers, Chitty said.

NASFAA’s Save Student Aid Facebook campaign is currently 13,441 strong and growing. Chitty hopes more students will join and voice the importance of strong student financial aid.

“Don’t lay down and let this happen,” Chitty said. “Stand up and fight for the money. We are investing in the future of us, in our ability to compete. Future jobs and the innovation driving our country is directly related to how educated our workforce is. Cutting Pell Grants is only a good short-term solution.”

news@crowsneststpete.com

For more information, visit the Save Student Aid Facebook page at www.facebook.com/savestudentaid.


‘Resources are limited’

“No kitchens in Hilton rooms

HILTON, continued from front page

long,” said Maria Almeida, freshman criminology major and Hilton resident.

Two students live in each double-occupancy room and receive more services for the higher price tag, including access to the outdoor heated pool, 24-hour fitness facility and lower prices at Tangerine, the hotel’s restaurant. They also receive weekly linen service, in-room trash removal and a “flat panel television with all of the channels received in all other rooms in the facility,” Taylor said.

Even with the extra amenities, Almeida would rather live in RHO. “I feel I am being a bit cheated out of the traditional college experience with the multi-level living facilities,” Almeida said.

She is disappointed in the lack of a full kitchen, which she would have if she lived in RHO. “I either have to purchase food or just eat snacks,” she said. “The additional distance is not ideal when I intend to be on campus until the late evening for a few days week.”

Increased student interest in living on campus is “an indicator that more students want to become a part of the fabric of the growing residential community within a young residential education and housing program,” Taylor said.

She said there is a sense of community for students living at the Hilton, equivalent to the students living in RHO.

“They were able to create a successful community and get involved with programming and the community building that was occurring in residence hall as well,” Taylor said. Some students who lived in the Hilton last fall semester returned to live in student housing again this year.

The current partnership will continue through the end of the academic year.
Students can start new clubs

Officials suggest not waiting until last minute

BY AMANDA PRETULAC
Arts Editor

Students interested in meeting new people and engaging in student life can join a campus club—or start their own.

There are three basic steps to create a recognized club, said Student Government Vice President Mark Lombardi-Nelson.

Step one requires five friends who share the same interest for the organization, and a staff or faculty advisor to guide the club. After the five beginning members have delegated executive positions, they must enter their student ID numbers and role information into Blackboard.

“This is so certain executive offices can make sure the club sustains,” Lombardi-Nelson said.

Students that need help finding an advisor for can go to the Leadership Department for help, said Ralph Reid, graduate assistant in the Department of Student Life & Engagement.

The club members then meet with Reid, go over club regulations and provide students with the tools they need to help the club progress. The meeting also requires officers to map out a constitution for their upcoming club.

Reid and Lombardi-Nelson both said that writing the constitution is usually the hardest part of the process, but students should not be intimidated by the requirements.

“Request to view other clubs’ constitutions to get a better idea of what is required in the document,” said Lombardi-Nelson.

While not every constitution passes on the first review, the Leadership Department is trying to ensure that the organization is successful, said Arienne Milkles, president and founder of the No-Bull Dance Troupe.

“Be open to hearing that you may need to change some things before the constitution can be approved,” she said.

Copies of other club’s constitutions are available through Student Life & Engagement on the USFSP website. Officers have 60 days to complete the constitution.

“Even though there is plenty of time, don’t wait until the last minute to complete the constitution, since there are a lot of rules that must be included,” Reid said. He encourages students to have club meetings and plan events during those 60 days.

Once the constitution is approved, the club will be official and open to students across campus.

Lombardi-Nelson said completing budget requests through Student Life & Engagement on the USFSP website. Officers have 60 days to complete the constitution.

A student reviews paperwork with Ralph Reid, graduate assistant in Leadership Development and Programming, organization, officers must re-register the club by Friday, Sept. 30 to remain active.

“Communication is key” for a club to continue to be successful on campus, Lombardi-Nelson said.

USFSP Waterfront shows off free activities for students

BY JOE CASTAGNA
Contributing Writer

The USFSP Waterfront held its annual open house Thursday, Aug. 25 to showcase its activities available to students.

Students tried scuba diving, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding. Instructors were on hand to answer questions about Waterfront activities.

“We just want to get the word out about the Waterfront and let everyone know what we have to offer here,” said Jon Cleary, a Waterfront employee.

Kim Simpson, an education major, and Mike Fulmore, an entrepreneurship major, heard about the open house through word of mouth and decided to attend.

“We’re having a great time today,” Fulmore said.

The Waterfront loans out the equipment needed to participate in kayaking, sailing, stand up paddle boarding, kite surfing and wind surfing, for free to current students. More advanced equipment such as sailboats or kite boards require students to pass a skills test or pay to take an introductory course.

The Waterfront wants to make sure students know how to use the equipment and stay safe before they go out on the water, said Zac Oppenheim, Waterfront boating director.

For those interested in scuba diving, the Waterfront has a partnership with Aquatic Obsession’s dive shop. Students may enroll in scuba classes ranging from entry level through advanced. AO Dive Shop offers a student discount on equipment and scuba classes.

Students who want to become more involved in a certain water activity can join one of the Waterfront clubs. Students can sign up via the Waterfront website, Facebook, or at the Waterfront office.

“We are going to have a lot of fun this year,” said Chris Tosi, president of the Kite Surfing Club.

“It’s a shame to go to USFSP and not take advantage of what the Waterfront has to offer.”

For more information, visit the waterfront website at www.usfsp.edu/waterfront.

Weather permitting, the waterfront is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. everyday. It will be closed Sept. 5 for Labor Day.

A student reviews paperwork with Ralph Reid, graduate assistant in Leadership Development and Programming, officers have 60 days to complete the constitution.
The new semester brings new ideas, and new student clubs on the verge of approval. Members from four of the new clubs explain their goals for the semester. For a complete list of campus clubs and organizations, visit the Student Organization Directory through the Campus Life section of the USFSP website.

Juggling Club
President: Lena Wray

The Juggling Club is for students with juggling skills, those who want to learn how to juggle and those who simply think juggling is cool. Juggling is a fun activity, but it also "stimulates your brain because you’re crossing left and right. It increases your cerebral cortex," said President Lena Wray, who has juggled since second grade. Her father coaches the juggling team in her hometown of Key West.

Wray wants to share the fun with everyone. The officer positions are filled, the constitution is submitted and Wray is patiently anticipating approval. Her goal is for the club to be official by the middle of September.

Club meetings will consist of practicing, teaching members how to juggle, watching juggling videos and making friends. She hopes to take advantage of the high ceilings in the CAC and hold meetings on Mondays at 5 p.m. Once the CAC is closed, meetings will probably take place outside.

"I don’t want people to be intimidated when they see [the vice president] juggle nine clubs," Wray said.

Cackle Task Force
Co-President: Andrea Inman
Co-President: Alex Portee

The Cackle Task Force is all about improv, but is still in the process of becoming an official club. Before the constitution is submitted, they need more people interested and willing to join the club.

The activities and meetings will model the show “Whose Line is it Anyway.” The co-presidents, Andrea Inman and Alex Portee, will take on the role of Drew Carey and club members will be the performers.

“Each meeting will be its own small performance,” Inman said. Once the club gets approval for a play, the meetings will be more structured to practice for the performance.

And the eye-stopping club name? “We hope we will make people laugh, so we decided to go with that [name],” Inman said. She wants the club to perform evening shows in the Coquina Club or have performances on an outside stage.

The club’s focus is to help members become comfortable on stage, perform in front of people and have a fun, stress-free time. Inman anticipates that the club will become official by the end of October.

Harry Potter Club
President: Eric Romine
Member: Jennipher Tucy

Even though the Harry Potter books and films have wrapped up, students can still celebrate the series with the Harry Potter Club. “This club is a great opportunity for students to meet new people and appreciate the world of Harry Potter,” said President Eric Romine.

The inspiration for the new organization came from a recent visit to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal in Orlando. The club recently submitted its constitution, and they have several ideas in the works for the semester. “The club is more about having fun than a serious discussion about the series,” Romine said.

Keeping with the easy-going theme, club officers plan to serve Harry Potter themed food and beverages at meetings, like butter beer and butter beer cupcakes.

“The books have been an escape from reality for years and in a way we hope the club can provide a similar escape for students,” said member Jennipher Tucy.

Meeting times and event ideas are still to be determined, so in the meantime students can request to join the USFSP Harry Potter Club on Facebook.

Poker Club
President: Joey Catalano
Founder: Mark Lombardi-Nelson

Put on your game face for the new Poker Club. Students will be able to learn how to play the game, or bump up their skills for pro-level competition.

The club was founded by Student Government Vice President Mark Lombardi-Nelson, and will be led by Joey Catalano, president of the club. Meetings will be held bi-weekly and they plan to hold poker tournaments, with prizes.
opinion

Sting Ray Current full of opportunities

By CATHERINE RUDNISKI
Contributing Writer

The Sting Ray Current program is for students with disabilities, to give them the opportunity to go to college just like every other regular student here at USFSP. I am the editor-in-chief for The Sting Ray Current, which is similar to The Crow’s Nest. It’s about information and activities that we Sting Ray students do on campus and on a daily basis.

As editor-in-chief of The Current, I make sure that every student writes two to three articles for every issue. There is one issue every semester. Every student has a deadline to submit his or her articles to me, from the first meeting to the final one. It is about a two-week deadline at the maximum. I look over everyone’s articles and edit them. I try to re-word anyone’s articles; I just try to rephrase them so that the article sounds better, and to make it more understandable for the reader.

The students do a wonderful job of writing their articles and getting back to me if they have any questions. They may also ask the other editor Danielle Roberts-Dahm if they may not be available at that particular moment.

When Roberts-Dahm handed The Current over to me last fall semester I was not sure of what I was getting myself into. For the first issue I edited, I wrote four articles and no one submitted their articles to me on time, so the deadline got pushed back further and further. No one felt the need to ask me if they needed help; they always went to Roberts-Dahm because I was new to the job.

The issue finally was printed in January 2011 but we all put our hard work into it. The next paper came out in June 2011. It was much easier the second time around. Deadlines were not made, but it was still published with everyone’s articles intact. You can see the most recent issue of The Current in the Davis Hall student lounge and the CAC.

Rudniski is editor-in-chief of The Sting Ray Current. For more information on Project 10 Sting Ray Current, visit www.project10.info.

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Make a statement, says Rep. Castor

By KEELEY SHEEHAN
Editor in Chief

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-11) asked students for their ideas on how to make progress on cleaning up the political mess from the April 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill that devastated the Gulf of Mexico and miles of coastline.

But don’t call it a spill, she said. “I hate it when they call it a spill. This was not a spill,” she said. “This was a major catastrophe. You’ll never hear me call it a spill.”

Castor spoke to a crowd of students and faculty on Thursday, Aug. 25 as the first in this semester’s LeaderSpeak series.

“We want students to have the opportunity to hear from leaders in different capacities,” said Charlie Justice, assistant director of leadership programs. Though Castor’s talk was more issue-based, focusing on the Deepwater Horizon spill, “it’s good to hear from someone in a leadership role,” Justice said.

When BP sat before Congress last year to answer questions about its safety and business practices, Castor addressed BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward. Castor showed a video clip from C-SPAN of the meeting. She was “expressing the anger and frustration of the hard-working people of my home state,” she said in the video, telling Hayward that after the economic recession, “this is like a sucker punch to the gut.”

Castor gave the audience some leadership advice while the video played. “When someone gives you the opportunity to ask a question, never be afraid to make a statement at the same time,” she said.

She asked those in attendance for suggestions on what could be done to continue to address the aftermath of the spill, and took note of the answers. Several students suggested things like contacting their representatives, forming grassroots organizations with other colleges and universities, using social media or creating websites to keep people informed via the Internet, or going to the capital in Tallahassee in person to demand answers and action from representatives.

She praised scientists in the USF College of Marine Sciences for their work in studying the oil found in the water, and pushing forward with its findings when the federal government tried to keep their findings about the water’s toxicity levels quiet.

“It was USF scientists who were bringing this information to the government,” she said. Castor encouraged students to get involved and pay attention to the decisions made by policymakers. “In addition to being Notre Dame and getting ‘As’ in your classes,” she said, “we need your help.”

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FC Tampa Bay fails to cash in opportunities, falls 2-1 to Puerto Rico

By ROB SMITH
Contributing Writer

FC Tampa Bay entered the game on Saturday, Aug. 20, at Al Lang Stadium against Puerto Rico, trailing the Islanders by seven points for the coveted second seed in the NASL standings. That position carries with it a first-round playoff bye. A win would have pulled the Rowdies within four points of that second seed with six games (including another matchup with Puerto Rico) to play.

The night didn’t unfold as the home team had hoped. Despite controlling the pace of play throughout the game and creating numerous scoring opportunities, FC Tampa Bay fell 2-1 to the second place Islanders,dimming their already unlikely odds of catching the Islanders in the playoff chase.

The Rowdies extended their streak of consecutive games with a first-half goal to nine when forward Mike Ambersley capitalized on some sloppy defense and beat the Islanders’ keeper Ray Burse for his team-leading 10th goal of the season, giving Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead in the 30th minute.

The lead was short-lived, however, as Puerto Rico promptly tied the game three minutes later when the Islanders’ forward Nick Adlery finished a point blank opportunity created by midfielder Noah Delgado’s cross into the box.

Puerto Rico took the lead for good in the 75th minute thanks to a brilliant run and finish by midfielder David Foley. After navigating through the middle of the pitch, Foley took on the Rowdies’ back line 1-on-3, accelerating to his left before slipping a low line drive past Tampa Bay keeper (and USF alum) Jeff Attinella.

Rowdies’ coach Ricky Hill attributed the goal to a breakdown in the Rowdies’ defense, noting that the goal was a result of poor communication and could have been defended smarter.

From there, the Islanders staved off numerous Tampa Bay threats. Burse denied Aaron King from 10 feet away in the 95th minute. The Islander defense also stepped up late in the game, calmly handling a threatening cross from King intended for 2nd-half-sub Tsuyoshi Yoshitake, whose bicycle kick was deflected out of play.

Tampa Bay’s final—and perhaps best—chance to tie the game came in the 90th minute, when Yoshitake’s errant shot from the top of the box was nearly deflectcd in by late-sub Kerry Baptiste, who barely missed on his sliding attempt to tuck the ball inside the left post.

“In big games like this you have to finish your chances. We didn’t do that tonight,” said Ambersley, of the missed opportunities.

The loss snapped the Rowdies’ four-match unbeaten streak and four-match home winning streak. FCTB will now embark on a season-long four-game road trip, which begins Saturday, Aug. 27, at Fort Lauderdale. FCTB’s next home game is Sept. 17, when the team takes on NSC Minnesota. Ticket prices start at $10.

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life@crownestpete.com
Buying used books from other students saves money

Stephen Greenblatt’s “The Norton Shakespeare” textbook features a “dazzling introduction” and is said to “bring readers closer to Shakespeare’s plays as they were first acted than ever before possible.”

But students in ENL 3331 will mostly be using it to read classic works like “Much Ado About Nothing,” “Titus Andronicus” and “Hamlet.” All of these classics are available online for free, but the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on campus sells Greenblatt’s book for a hefty $84.

It’s a common and recurring theme in higher education—students spending what little money they have for overpriced and largely unnecessary textbooks. U.S. college students spend between $700 and $1,000 on textbooks annually, according to a study from the U.S. Department of Education. In 2006, an estimated 17.66 million graduate and undergraduate students spent more than $4.6 billion in total on textbooks.

And prices keep rising. Textbook costs have increased by 6 percent per year on average, or double the rate of inflation of other consumer goods, according to a Government Accountability Office study. Since no formal organizations or government agencies oversee textbook prices, and there is essentially no way to avoid paying for textbooks other than not going to college, students must pay those increases every year.

But there are some options available for those looking to save a few bucks. The first step is to avoid brick and mortar stores like the Barnes & Noble on campus when purchasing books. They typically have to mark up prices to cover operational costs. They often sell out of used books and only have new books available, which can cost twice as much.

Instead, use websites like Amazon and Half.com, which offer used books at extremely low prices. Many of the sellers on these sites are other students who are just looking to recoup a few dollars from their original purchase. Students should be wary of buying books that have highlighting and writing in them, however, and buy new books in the best condition possible.

Amazon offers a used copy of Greenblatt’s Shakespeare textbook for $55, which beats the Barnes & Noble used price by $8.

When timeliness is an issue, and if the textbook will only be used for one class, rental programs are a great way to save money. Barnes & Noble rents the Shakespeare book for $41.15, and Book Holders—which operates a tent outside of The Grind at the beginning of each semester—rents it for a cut-rate $29.04.

Students can also check with professors to see if an old version of a textbook is acceptable. Previous versions often sell for much cheaper prices, since most professors move on to newer versions after they have been released.

Anything beats buying new books at store prices. Students don’t need to read their textbooks to know that.
By ROB SMITH
Contributing Writer

The Tampa Bay Rays have a reputation for skillfully developing minor-league talent and replacing their big-name stars that become too expensive to retain. They’ve excelled at the immediate gratification of splashy free-agent signings, choosing instead to invest in draft picks whose limited team contributions could span a number of years, if ever.

This strategy has paid off, and the team’s savvy drafting has allowed Tampa Bay to remain competitive year to year, despite the unmatchted bare-bones payroll, compared with the deep-pocketed Red Sox and Yankees. Since being called up in July, Desmond Jennings has been outstanding, posting an OPS of 1.013 while providing many of the same attributes that Crawford did at a fraction (roughly 1/43) of the price.

With that in mind, here’s a look at some of the top prospects currently in the Rays’ minor-league system and how they might eventually fit in with the big-league club.

Matt Moore

Entering the 2011 season, ESPN’s Keith Law ranked Moore as the Rays’ second-best prospect behind fellow starter Jeremy Hellickson, who has since established himself as one of the better young pitchers in baseball. Moore appears to be on a similar path. After finishing the 2010 season in high-A ball, Moore has vastly improved his command en route to dominating both AA and AAA hitters this year.

A KBB ratio of 5.1 indicates that Moore’s time in the minors is nearing its end. Moore will likely dominate both AA and AAA hitters this year. He must limit his walks, though, as Vettleson is a high steals threat. His ability to exceed his age, as Vettleson is a mid-90s fastball and projected three to four years. However, his mid-90s fastball and projected pitch should develop yet another power arm to an organization with elite pitching.

Drew Vettleson

A couple of the Rays’ project top position players. Originally from the Philippines, he thrives. His high steals total is due more to sharp running instincts than flat-out speed. His plate approach far exceeds his age, as Vettleson is a disciplined hitter who can spray the ball to all fields and draw a walk, too.

Like Guerrieri, Vettleson won’t contribute to the big-league club for a while, and other outfields remain. They alone are a problem for him. He projects as an above-average bat, and his veteran makeup and approach should help him climb through the minors faster than his fresh-out-of-high-school contemporaries.

Hak-Ju Lee, SS

Lee, who was recently promoted to AA Montgomery, has been so impressive that he’s probably surpassed 2008 No. 1 overall pick Tim Beckham on the organizational ladder. One need only compare their numbers at high-A Charlotte (Lee’s 2011 BA/OPB/SLG splits: .317/.389/.442) to dwarf the 256.346.359 posted by Beckham in 2010) to see that Lee has outperformed Beckham who, to be fair, has re-established himself as a legitimate prospect in the past year.

Lee came over from Chicago in the Matt Garza trade deal that looks better and better for the Rays as Lee continues to develop. While Beckham, who is a year older than Lee, might be the first of the two to appear on the Rays roster, Lee has a higher ceiling and the more likely long-term solution at short for Tampa Bay.

Alex Torres, SP

Torres, who was acquired from Anaheim in the Scott Kazmir trade in 2009, is a starter who projects as a potential closer at the major-league level. His ability to miss bats will fit well in a bullpen that will likely lose closer Kyle Farnsworth to free agency as early in their pro careers, but Vettleson is thriving. His high steals total is due more to sharp running instincts than flat-out speed. His plate approach far exceeds his age, as Vettleson is a disciplined hitter who can spray the ball to all fields and draw a walk, too.

Like Guerrieri, Vettleson won’t contribute to the big-league club for a while, and other outfields remain. They alone are a problem for him. He projects as an above-average bat, and his veteran makeup and approach should help him climb through the minors faster than his fresh-out-of-high-school contemporaries.

Tampa Bay Rays prospects to watch

By BY TOM CHANG
Contributing Writer

The USF Bulls 2011 football season will kick off at Notre Dame on Sept. 3 in a nationally televised game. Afterwards, they will have a three-game home stand against the likes of Ball State, Florida A&M and University of Texas at El Paso.

They open up the Big East conference play at Pittsburgh on the way to a five-game stretch including a trip to Connecticut, the homecoming game against Cincinnati, then back on the road again against Rutgers and Syracuse. The Bulls wrap up the season with a three-game home stand against Miami and conference opponents Louisville and West Virginia.

Last year, the Bulls finished the season with an 8-5 record in Skip Holtz’s debut as head coach, and defeated Clemson, 31-26, in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. The Bulls won five of their last seven games to wrap up the season.

The Bulls had a shot at the conference title until a loss to Connecticut relegated them to the Care Care Bowl, again. This year will provide another challenge for Holtz and company, as they will have nine starters returning this year.

Quarterback B.J. Daniels returns in his junior year and while he had his share of problems adjusting under offensive coordinator Todd Fitch’s pro-style offense, another year under the system may improve his playmaking abilities and diminish his flashes of brilliance from his freshman year. Sophomore Bobby Eveld could see some more play if Daniels does not improve.

While the defense remains the strength of the team, ranking 16th overall, giving up an average of 318 yards a game, the offense remains a work in progress. They averaged 310 yards a game (165 yards passing and 145 yards rushing) last year, better than 15 teams in the country.

The offense should improve with the addition of Darrell Scott from Colorado and returning back Demetris Murray, Scott, who was named the No. 1 running back in the 2008 high school class by Rivals.com, drew some comparisons to LaDanian Tomlinson. Murray was the second leading rusher with 542 yards in 120 carries and four touchdowns.

With no clear candidate to lead the way, receivers could be the team’s x-factor this year. Evan Land is the leading returning receiver—he had 390 yards on 28 receptions and two touchdowns. Receivers Lindsey Lamar and Terrence Mitchell look to anchor the return game. Kicker Maikon Bonani made 17 out of 21 attempts and returns to the team as a redshirt junior.

Bulls face Notre Dame in season opener

By HANNAH ULM
Contributing Writer

I did a version of this column last season, but I think it’s a concept worth repeating. As fantasy owners, we love the competition and talking smack to our friends. Personally, I love the stats, the knowledge gained and the opportunity to flex your fantasy skills. Fantasy football is usually an admirable trait—until it turns violent—but not in fantasy sports.

In order to get past feeling like a traitor because you drafted the Steelers defense but you’re wearing a Ravens jersey, you must reframe yourself that you’re working toward the success of your team. Leave the Ravens’ success to the professionals. Forget your biases. Here’s some advice for those who are fans of the teams with the biggest NFL rivalries.

If you hate: Consider drafting:
The New England Patriots
Tom Brady. Like it even has to be said.
Kicker Stephen Gostkowski is solid too.
ESPN rankings: fourth and fifth
The New York Jets
The Jets Defense. I hate to say Darrelle Revis, but you can’t deny the man has skills.
ESPN ranking: third
The Baltimore Ravens
Ray Rice. Always solid. Also, Anquan Boldin is prime for a comeback.
ESPN rankings: sixth and 24th
The Baltimore Steelers
Mike Wallace. Big Ben’s go-to long TD man. Just watch defenders try and catch him.
ESPN ranking: seventh
The Dallas Cowboys
Miles Austin and Dez Bryant. ESPN thinks both have potential for greatness with Romo healthy again.
ESPN rankings: 50th and 12th
The Philadelphia Eagles
Who not to draft? Michael Vick. DeSean Jackson. LeSean McCoy, the D/ST…I imagine being a Cowboys fan is hard enough, don’t punish your fantasy team because of it.
ESPN rankings: second, 11th, seventh and fifth

Tampa Bay Rays prospects to watch

BULLS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03 Notre Dame 3:30 p.m.
09/10 Ball State 7 p.m.
09/17 Florida A&M 7 p.m.
09/24 UTEP TBA
09/29 Pittsburgh 8 p.m.
10/15 Connecticut TBA
10/22 Cincinnati 12 p.m.
11/05 Rutgers TBA
11/11 Syracuse 8 p.m.
11/19 Miami (FL) TBA
11/25 Louisville TBA
12/01 West Virginia 8 p.m.

(Home games in bold)