Crow's Nest : 2017 : 02 : 06

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest/526

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Buddhist monks create temporary beauty

By Devin Rodriguez
donrodrigeuz2@mail.usf.edu

Four Buddhist monks sat cross-legged around an intricate sand mandala. They crafted one grain at a time, pouring grains into the room through a large window facing Central Avenue, bathing a cobalt blue colored mat in the sunshine. Against the wall, the creation is a picture of the 14th Dalai Lama, depicted in the middle of delicate art installation, a dove flies atop the globe—a symbol of world peace.

DEVIN RODRIGUEZ | THE CROW’S NEST

ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS TO BEGIN FEB. 15

By Ryan Callihan
rcallihan@mail.usf.edu

When more than 50 experts gather in St. Petersburg next week to discuss international affairs, one name is likely to pervade the three-day conference—Donald Trump.

The new president has set the political agenda around the world. “Cyber meddling: what to do about it?”, “How are we going to deal with China?” and “What do we do about North Korea?” are among the topics: “Cyber meddling: what to do about it?” “How are we going to deal with China?” and “What do we do about North Korea?” are among the topics.

The conference is free and open to the public (see box). “This is the first conference we’ve held in the wake of a new administration coming to power,” said Dr. Thomas W. Smith, an associate professor of international studies program at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., who will speak on three panels. “Expectations are high, and no one would have expected to discuss international affairs, political science at USFSP, and director of its honors program. Many of the panelists will be trying to read the tea leaves to try to discern what direction U.S. foreign policy will take.”

Among the topics: “Cyber meddling: what to do about it?”, “How are we going to deal with China?” and “What do we do about North Korea?” are among the topics.

Devin Rodriguez | The Crow’s Nest

ST. PETERSBURG CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS TO BEGIN FEB. 15

By Luke Cross
lukecross@mail.usf.edu

Lofty goals such as the doubling of part-time job opportunities on campus, reducing the cost of textbooks by half and adding 25 new majors to the campus are proposed in the Master Academic Plan.

DRAFTED by the Office of Academic Affairs, the plan establishes a framework for college and department growth over the next five years.

Created with a focus on university reform and direction, much of the 144-page plan has little relevance to student life. However, a few notable elements have a direct impact on the student body, and university administration is looking for feedback.

“We want students to take a look at this...” said Dr. Martin Tadlock, the university’s regional vice chancellor for academic affairs. “...and let us know if this sounds like something that would make us distinctively different as a university.”

The full plan can be found at the Office of Academic Affairs page on the USF St. Petersburg site. Comments on the plan may be given in person at the general assemblies of the SGA senate, or electronically through the USFSP student government’s webpage, said Tadlock.

The largest changes proposed by the plan affect the curricular and community of USFSP. The action plan could also implement mandatory experiences online, alongside two degrees. Eight majors are slated to move to a more traditional learning into every department.

Changes

Major

Proposes

Student

Academic

Plan

Requires

Proposes

Major

Changes

By

Luke

Cross

lukecross@mail.usf.edu

Got News? We’ll Cover It.

Contact Us: email: usfcrowsnest@gmail.com office (727) 873-4113

@USFCrowsNest @Crow'sNestStPete @USFCrowsNest
Campus moves forward with Green Revolving Fund

By Delaney Brown
delaneybrown@mail.usf.edu

F
ture sustainability projects on campus will now find funding, in part, through the Green Revolving Fund. Signed on Monday, Feb. 6, the Green Revolving Fund will utilize the savings from previous sustainability initiatives to fund new green projects around the university.

The fund was signed into action by the Clean Energy and Resource Conservation Commission (CERCC), an on-campus student-run organization that works with the administration to promote sustainability. The funding consists of 50 percent of the $1 per credit hour fee paid by students per semester. These fees have been used to pay for initiatives like retrofitting the parking garage to include LED lighting (Fall 2012), water refill stations in RHQ (Fall 2013), and most recently retrofitting the bathrooms to include LED lighting and energy efficient cardio machines (Fall 2016).

With the implementation of the Green Revolving Fund, organizations like SGF and CERCC will be able to spread the costs of initiatives to lighten the burden, allowing them to tackle more ambitious projects in the future. The fund will begin with $10,000 to allocate for future projects. Alana Todd, Student Government’s director of sustainable initiatives, said that within the next 2-3 years she hopes the revolving fund will help organizations like CERCC reach the goals outlined in the school’s climate action plan — a 50 percent reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2035, and carbon neutrality by 2050.

For Todd, this means 600 kilowatts of solar power a day, enough to make the parking garage net-zero six times over by 2020 and the installation of energy management systems in all buildings to monitor and help eliminate excessive energy use.

Sustainability projects are typically seen as cost-prohibitive, as they typically require more capital up front. LED lightbulbs, for example, cost an average of $8 per bulb while traditional incandescent bulbs only cost about $1. A look at the cost of use, however, shows that though more expensive up front, sustainable options save money in the long run.

It takes $201 to run incandescent bulbs for 23,000 kWh, whereas LED bulbs only require $38. The energy management systems that CERCC wants to install are a classic example of a project whose cost of approximately $100,000 makes it initially off-putting.

However, according to Todd, this system could save the university thousands in just a few years. With the Green Revolving Fund, the hope is that sustainability projects like the energy management system can be pursued without having to ask for loans from the administration and student government who might find initial cost deterrents.

A member of CERCC, feels very strongly about sustainability at USFSP and the help that the Revolving Fund will provide.

“I believe that in our millennial generation, students at USFSP are in support of the sustainable transition of our campus,” Ferguson said. “The GRF will help us see the monetary value in implementing efficiency products everywhere.”

The USFSP Green Revolving Fund is unique in that it was started completely from scratch with money saved from previous sustainability projects. Though the presence of Green Revolving Funds is becoming more and more common on college campuses across the nation, most receive their initial funding from large endowments.

The USFSP Green Revolving Fund was student driven, with two seniors, Todd and Ferguson, taking the lead and working closely with administrators like Joe Trubacz, the regional vice chancellor of administrative and financial services, to make this fund a possibility.

The students began by drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) using a template they found online to outline their plans for the fund and to create a set of bylaws delineating the intricacies of the fund.

“Administration was super excited to have students that are excited to work on a project,” said Todd.

She said that her experiences working with administration during the process was “warm and welcoming,” and expressed that for administration “the interest of the students is all they care about.”

The implementation of the Green Revolving Fund shows just how much of an impact students can have on sustainability on campus, said Todd. Students can come to CERRCC meetings and discuss current and upcoming projects like greenhouses, rooftop aeroponic growing systems, and community outreach programs, or suggest ideas be brought to administration. Students can even suggest ideas for projects to be funded through the Green Revolving Fund, something both Todd and Ferguson hope will happen in the future.

Master Plan Continued from P1

ment. By requiring 40 hours of community engagement activities for all students, the school hopes to infuse a hands-on element to degrees. To foster democratic princi- ples in the community, more public dialogue and open for- ums would be held to address issues facing the university. Additionally, a daily commuter mon- thon could be established where no classes are scheduled in order to section out a uni- form time for exams and give more opportunity for student organizations to meet.

The curriculum is slated to become more commuter friendly with priority registration in online courses for non-residential students.

Lowering cost to current and prospective students is a major focus of the plan. Ambi- tious goals are set, including the reduction of textbooks and related learning materials by 50 percent.

Commuting students would benefit from the growth of online credit hours to half of the total to reduce travel expenses, while residential students would see cheaper and more plentiful housing options near campus. The plan mentions concepts for three buildings and one of- fice to be added to the USFSP campus in the distant future. To centralize and support themes of critical thinking, the Florida Center for Creative and Critical Thinking will be established. The Center would instruct faculty how to effectively teach critical thinking skills and foster the growth of these skills in students.

In order to apply these skills, the plan calls for the Office of Research and Sponsored Pro- grams, where staff could better support the research efforts of undergraduate and graduate students alike. A Center for Community Partnerships is also targeted, where volunteering outreach opportunities would be orga- nized in one area. Internships, service-learning, consultation and university engagement programs will be offered in partnership with community figures and local educational institutions.

Lastly, the university plans to house the already established student support area, now as the Student Success Center, into one accessible building.

Through community part- nerships and university ex- pansions, the academic master plan hopes to offer double the number of on-campus, part-time employment oppor- tunities and paid internships. Semester abroad would see an appreciable drop in price with a projected goal of less than $1,000 above regular USFSP semester costs.

New Majors & Degree Programs

Bachelor Degrees
- BS Cognitive Neuroscience (STEM)
- BS Child/Clinical Psychology
- BS Urban Education
- BA Leadership Studies
- Bachelor of Social Work
- BA Urban Studies (Society and Culture; Sustainable Cities)
- BA Urban Law
- BA Secondary STEM
- BA Art History (Interdisc Museum Studies)
- BA Analytical Sciences (Interdisc Math Stats, Polling, Data Analytics) w/KCTOR STEM
- BS Chemistry (STEM)
- BS Theater/Performing Arts
- BS Science and Sustainable Communication
- BA Human Resources (w/KCTOR)
- BS Sustainability (Green Business)
- BS Computer Science
- BS Secondary Education
- BS Educational Studies (in process)
- BS Criminal Forensics (in process)

Master Degrees
- MEd Urban Leadership
- MS NYS second degree: TIE
- MA Criminology
- MA Environmental Humanities
- MA Test and Image
- MA Non-Profit Management (w/KCTOR)

Added by Deans’ Council for Consideration
- BS Kinesiology/Exercise Science
- BS Mechatronics
- BS Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- BS Technical Communications
- BS Recreation and Sports Management
- BS Applied Engineering
- BSN Nursing
- BS Communications

New Frontiers: These are new majors and degrees that the Office of Academic Affairs proposed in the Master Academic Plan. They are seeking feedback from students to further develop the plan.
Secretary of Education nomination facing difficult partisan divide

By Whitney Elfstrom
welfstrom@mail.usf.edu

Betsy DeVos, Michigan billionaire, is set to become the next Secretary of Education. Despite strong opposition from the American people.

At the strange hour of 6:30 a.m. this past Friday the Senate met to vote on the DeVos nomination. The vote was split down the middle at 52-48 with the majority of members voting with their respective party.

Since President Donald Trump's nomination of DeVos in November, tension rose among several concerned teachers, parents and students. Many see DeVos' nomination as a direct attack on the public education system.

The nominee does not hold an education degree but rather a degree in business administration and political science. Neither DeVos nor her children have attended public school on the K-12 or postsecondary level.

Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, released a public statement upon the announcement of DeVos' nomination, “DeVos has no meaningful experience in the classroom or in our schools. The sum total of her involvement has been spending her family’s wealth in an effort to dismantle public education in Michigan. Every American should be concerned that she would impose her reckless and extreme ideology on the nation.”

On Jan. 17, DeVos appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions at her confirmation hearing for the Secretary of Education. Several issues regarding her lack of experience in the public school system, her fogy stance on allowing guns at schools and her donations to the Republican Party arose.

The Education Secretary is in charge of managing $150,000 in financial aid, distributing $30,000 in Pell-grants, and controlling a trillion dollar bank. When Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-MA, questioned Trump's education pick on her knowledge of running a national bank, the Michigan native admitted to having no prior experience with such matters.

The liberal Senators are not the only politicians weary of DeVos' nomination. Republican Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, both strongly oppose DeVos. Murkowski received thousands of calls from Alaskan activists pleading with her to not throw her weight behind the billionaire campaign donor.

DeVos is a strong believer in replacing "failing" public schools with charter academies. This particular stance worries many native Alaskans who see the billionaire's position on charter schools as a threat to rural areas in the state.

Sen. Collins’ greatest concern is the nominee’s inexperience with the federal laws set in place to protect children with special needs and disabilities. She believes that the secretary of education’s primary focus should surround bettering education by helping states and communities thrive at the public school level.

"I will not, I cannot, vote to confirm her as our nation’s next secretary of education," said Collins. The final vote is to take place Feb. 6. Vice President Mike Pence will cast his tie breaking vote and the final count is expected to be 50-50, in favor of DeVos.

---

St. Pete Pride Parade move from Grand Central District

By Michael Moore Jr.
michaelmoore@mail.usf.edu

The Grand Central District may soon be losing one of its greatest traditions. The St. Pete Pride Parade, which has called Central Avenue its home since its inception in 2003, is set to relocate to a new downtown waterfront route.

This announcement is being met with fierce opposition both on and off campus.

Karla June, a Master’s candidate in Journalism and Media studies at USF St. Petersburg, is among those who are displeased. “Not only does it take away from the businesses on Central, it almost feels like we are being pushed away from the center,” she said.

June’s primary focus of research is with the transgender population and misrepresentations by the news media. She also works closely with the local trans community.

“The local LGBTQ+ community has brought so much revenue and growth to the city of St. Pete over the past five years and this feels like a huge slap in the face,” June said. June has attended both the parade and the ensuing festival the last two years.

“Last year was incredibly moving because they started the parade with photos of all the Orlando victims. The quiet reverence for the crowds as the images and names passed by was beautiful and powerful,” she said.

For St. Pete Pride executive director Eric Skains, the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting was enough to prompt the need for a security overhaul. He told the Tampa Bay Times that this was the primary motive behind the move.

The new route takes the parade down Bayshore Drive in between Albert Whitted Park and Vinoy Park. The parade itself will take place June 24, with festivals taking place on both the day before and the day after.

Mayor Rick Kriseman stated that he will withhold city funding should the event move forward with the new venue. If that promise is upheld, the parade would miss out on $45,000. Skains was supported by the mayor’s decision.

According to him, Pride organizers met with Kriseman back in October when they agreed on the new route. Skains is insistent that they will not succumb to the pressure of the city’s financial withdrawal. While Kriseman’s decision has elevated his status in the eyes of some of the LGBTQ community, others don’t see it that way.

Hannah Fizell, a junior at USFSP studying environmental policy, is upset with Kriseman.

“If the mayor cares for everyone and wants them to be safe, he wouldn’t do that,” Fizell said.

For Fizell, creating an open dialogue about the issue is the key to solving it. According to her, that isn’t what the mayor is doing.

“He seems more like a dictator that is just going to force it to be his way. He’s lost my vote,” Fizell said.

Despite not supporting the mayor’s decision to withhold funding, Fizell understands the frustration of local business owners. As someone who was born and raised in St. Petersburg, she recognizes that the Grand Central District “contributes a lot.”

But at the end of the day, she thinks that they’ve got to “look out for everyone’s best interest no matter what the cost” because “safety is more important than money.”

“As someone who is a lesbian and a Christian, and as someone who is fearful, it is safety over everything,” Fizell said.

Sacrificing this safety would defy the very spirit of the city she loves, Fizell asserts.

“Going [to the Pride parade] makes you feel reinvigorated and re-energized. You go to be surrounded by people that are just like you and are supportive.” She said.

But business owners still harshly criticize the intentions of the move. Mandy Keyes, owner of Community Cafe on Central Ave, doesn’t necessarily see safety as the real issue.

“We all know that it’s not the reason,” Keyes said. “They tried to move it last year but they didn’t have enough excuses flashed out so they backpedaled.”

Skains was able to build up enough momentum this year to get the board to vote for the move unanimously, recording only one abstention.

“They are killing the vibe of it by commercializing it and making it into another Ribfest. That’s not what gay pride is about,” Keyes said.

On St. Pete Pride’s official website the organization cites the fact that the proposed move downtown comes ahead of their bid for the 2021 World Pride celebration.

Keyes is upset at the way Skains and the Pride board has gone about moving the parade.

“It has not been a very agreeable or transparent process. They kind of just snuck this in. It feels a little bit like someone is trying to take your children,” Keyes said.

In addition to concerns of impending commercialization and inauthenticity, there could also be tangible economic consequences.

“For bars and restaurants [along Central] it’s our busiest day by far,” Keyes said.

The Friday night festivities, which fall on the day before the parade, are still slated to take place on Central Ave.

“No matter what, Grand Central District is still going to be the gay pride district,” Keyes said.

Information from the Tampa Bay Times was used in this article.
World Affairs Continued from P1

“Our President’s foreign policy: from tweets to reality”; “After the rise, Georgia and Crimea, where is Putin’s next land grab?”; “Music and art: how their impact overpowers political decisions” — “Like it or lump it, fake news is here to stay.”

One of the panelists is Dr. Russell Neuman, a teacher and author who specializes in new media and digital education. He said that data is the new power tool, including the one on fake news and another on spying.

The Trump administration is working to reflect the president’s bravado, said Neuman.

“For the Trump administration, nothing is a distraction,” said Neuman. “His toughness and business style has been to intimidate his opponents, and if he’s successful in intimidating journalists, that will embolden him,” said Neuman. “But the culture of independent journalism is very strong.”

Cynthia L. Hogle, a former diplomat who is studying media narratives about veterans as a doctoral student at the University of Kansas, will also appear on the fake news panel. She said the Trump administration needs to be cautious in its diplomatic discussions.

“A business conversation is different than a diplomatic conversation”, said the one Trump had with the Australian prime minister, said Hogle. “He and his advisers need to catch on to the rippling effect of conversations like that.”

Smith co-founded the St. Petersburg conference with Douglas L. McElhaney, a longtime American diplomat and former ambassador to Bosnia and former acting ambassador to France.

The idea came from McElhaney, who retired to St. Petersburg in 2011. He said he wanted to capitalize on his Washington contacts and bring discussions on foreign affairs to the area.

“I worked for the American taxpayer for 35 years, now I want to bring some of that here,” said McElhaney. “I’ve got a Rolodex and a laptop, so what am I going to do?”

McElhaney contacted Smith through a mutual friend and the two began to pull together a group of panelists. Smith turned to academics while McElhaney brought in contacts from his time in the State Department.

The two founders feared that no one would come to the first conference in 2013 — a one-day affair with 10 panel discussions. But it drew around 200 people.

“The event has grown significantly since then. Last year it spanned three days and drew about 2,000 people. Smith expects that number again this year.”

Smith said that the conference fits well in St. Petersburg, a city better known for its entertainment value. “We have the Grand Prix and the Rays,” said Smith. “St. Pete has been known more for its athletic events than for its scholarly and public affairs events.”

World Peace: The nearly completed mandala contains symbols from various religions across the world. Each symbol is included to commemorate a wish for world peace. On Sunday, Feb. 5, the mandala was swept to symbolize the detachment from the material world.

The dissolution represents the non-attachment to the material world and the transient nature of life. The monks then took the sand from Florida CraftArt to the Tampa Bay where they dumped it into the open body of water, signifying the return of life back into the world.

World Affairs Continued from P1

President Trump’s foreign policy:

“After the rise, Georgia and Crimea, where is Putin’s next land grab?”; “Music and art: how their impact overpowers political decisions” — “Like it or lump it, fake news is here to stay.”

One of the panelists is Dr. Russell Neuman, a teacher and author who specializes in new media and digital education. He said that data is the new power tool, including the one on fake news and another on spying.

The Trump administration is working to reflect the president’s bravado, said Neuman.

“For the Trump administration, nothing is a distraction,” said Neuman. “His toughness and business style has been to intimidate his opponents, and if he’s successful in intimidating journalists, that will embolden him,” said Neuman. “But the culture of independent journalism is very strong.”

Cynthia L. Hogle, a former diplomat who is studying media narratives about veterans as a doctoral student at the University of Kansas, will also appear on the fake news panel. She said the Trump administration needs to be cautious in its diplomatic discussions.

“A business conversation is different than a diplomatic conversation” like the one Trump had with the Australian prime minister, said Hogle. “He and his advisers need to catch on to the rippling effect of conversations like that.”

Smith co-founded the St. Petersburg conference with Douglas L. McElhaney, a longtime American diplomat and former ambassador to Bosnia and former acting ambassador to France.

The idea came from McElhaney, who retired to St. Petersburg in 2011. He said he wanted to capitalize on his Washington contacts and bring discussions on foreign affairs to the area.

“I worked for the American taxpayer for 35 years, now I want to bring some of that here,” said McElhaney. “I’ve got a Rolodex and a laptop, so what am I going to do?”

McElhaney contacted Smith through a mutual friend and the two began to pull together a group of panelists. Smith turned to academics while McElhaney brought in contacts from his time in the State Department.

The two founders feared that no one would come to the first conference in 2013 — a one-day affair with 10 panel discussions. But it drew around 200 people.

“The event has grown significantly since then. Last year it spanned three days and drew about 2,000 people. Smith expects that number again this year.”

Smith said that the conference fits well in St. Petersburg, a city better known for its entertainment value. “We have the Grand Prix and the Rays,” said Smith. “St. Pete has been known more for its athletic events than for its scholarly and public affairs events.”

Buddhist Monks Continued from P1

Jan. 31 to Feb. 5, the monks led daily chants, taught artistic workshops and directed cultural events. Amanda Lewis, a junior in the graphic design program at USF St. Petersburg, witnessed the monk’s prayer. She said the experience was incredible.

“My friend and I were praying with them,” Lewis said. “I closed my eyes and cleared my mind. I felt so calm and happy at the same time. I decided to visit them because my friend loves Buddhism, so she invited me to come to my class started.”

She said that the mandala, a geometric shape that represents the universe, was beautiful. One of the eight monks that visited sold handmade jewelry, clothing and tapestries with Buddhist passages written on them. These items were created by Tibetan refugees in India. All purchases went to funding the monastery.

The head monk, Geshe Lob- sang Yowten, led the chants and ceremonies each day. The title geshe is equivalent to a Ph.D. in the western education system. Yowten earned this title at the Gomang Monastery, which doubles as a prominent Buddhist university.

“The most precious thing, like a priceless jewel, is the altruistic mind, having a good heart and having love and compassion for others,” Yowten told The Crow’s Nest through a translator, Virginia Blum. Yowten had advice for students stressed and worried over school, exams or the world in general.

“The most important thing is not to be overtaken by the anxiety and the fear,” Yowten said. “The only thing that any- one has control over is one’s own mind. Clear away the lack of clarity, the anxiety, worry or whatever difficulty one suffers. In the case of students — you are the future. It is in your own hands, so having confidence in your own role and power to create the future is of most importance.”

Yowten explained that their sect of Buddhist monks follows the Gelug, or “Yellow hat,” a form Buddhism from Tibet. The 14th Dalai Lama, their religious leader, was forced to flee Tibet after it became incorporated by the People’s Republic of China in 1959. The Dalai Lama fled to India where he leads a government in exile and where the monastery the monks come from is located. The Dalai Lama knows pain and strife and he cannot return home. Yet his ability to forgive and spread hope in the world is renowned. Yowten explained the mindset of forgiveness from the Buddhist perspective.

“We’re always thinking that our enemies are outside, but that is a distraction,” Yowten said. “Because the true enemy is within, the afflictive in one’s own mind-stream. “The best thing one can do is look within.”

The sand mandala, titled “The World Peace,” incorporates symbols from different religions to represent unity. Utilizing brightly colored sand, the monks work with a chak- pur, a cone-shaped tool that pours tiny paths of sand which are meditatively placed in repetitive patterns.

Katie Deits, the executive di- rector for the Florida CraftArt, helped bring the monks to St. Petersburg. She first met the group while working at the Lighthouse ArtCenter Museum in Palm Beach County. She said that spending time with the monks has taught her to be more patient in life.

“My life has always been fairly active, but with Bud- dhism, it teaches me to be calmer,” Deits said. “Even though I’m doing a million things at once, it really shows me what really matters and stills me inside. It gives me the faith that things will work out.”

Sunday, the monks perform- ed the dissolution ceremony where they wipe the sand away, destroying the mandala. The dissolution represents the non-attachment to the material world and the transient nature of life. The monks then took the sand from Florida CraftArt to the Tampa Bay where they dumped it into the open body of water, signifying the return of life back into the world.
Schoolwork stressing you out? Try adopting a dog

By Timothy Fanning
tfanning@mail.usf.edu

A fter extracurriculars, school work, a part-time job and balancing a social life, there’s absolutely no room for anything else. Getting a dog is the last thing on anyone’s mind.

Entering the sixth week of classes, it’s clear that students are already feeling the pressure of a heavy workload. Fighting that loneliness after hours of studying alone can be difficult, especially without the help of a cute friend who will drop a saliva-soaked rope toy on the laptop keyboard, or give a no-strings-attached cuddle session.

“When I’m having a bad day,” said Daryl Davis, 20, in information systems management, “I want to come home and pet my dogs. It helps me feel better.” His dogs Beamer and Gizmo live with his parents, especially the older dogs. “I think that a lot of people don’t adopt because “they have such a stigma in the community that they always show their true personality right away. But even older dogs are a significant responsibility. The Pinellas County Animal shelter warned that before considering a dog, you have to first ask yourself if you are right for the dog. Under-exercised and bored pit bulls will find ways to expend their excess mental and physical energy, including chewing, jumping on people, play biting, or digging.

There are many ways to keep your dog from being bored while you’re not at home. Rubber treat-dispensing dog toys by companies like Kong are great for filling with treats and serve as durable chew toys for dogs that like to chew, but keeping a dog stimulated can also help the owner.

Emily Roberts, 19, political science senior, uses her bichon Chloe and goldendoodle Charlie as a reason to get outside.

Puppers and Doggos: GG, 1, has been with the shelter for a few days. She is a pit bull mix that loves to bounce off everything from walls to people.

Barney the Bern: Bernie, 9, has been with Friends of Strays for two weeks. He is a pit bull mix, and his guilty pleasure is shredding comforters.

Pit bulls are notorious for being powerful, strong-willed animals that have a lot of energy. They require an owner who has enough time to spend socializing and teaching them. Although pit bulls may not seem ideal to students with busy schedules, an older one might be the best option.

“With older animals, you do not have to spend as much time socializing and training, as you would with a younger dog,” said Eckhart.

With older dogs, an adopter can see the animal’s behavioral cues and get some idea of the dog’s basic temperament, even though dogs in shelters and rescue foster homes may not always show their true personality right away.

Friends of Strays has as many as 100 companion animals, and they welcome anyone to come interact with them. Their adoption fees include wellness exams, vaccines, spay/neuter procedure and microchip.

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS:
• Must be at least 18 years old
• Must provide a government-issued photo ID
• Proof of responsible housing

Adoption fees are as follows:
• Dogs under a year $200
• 1 year to 7 years $150
• 7 years and older $100

There are plenty of places and things to do with your dog outside of class. Friends of Strays Manager Mari Salls said that students should “use [their] dogs as a way to be social and to de-stress.”

With over 200 restaurants and bars in St. Petersburg that welcome dogs at their outdoor tables, there are plenty of options for dog owners. For example, Dog Bar on 23rd Street and Central Avenue features a spacious 2,000 square feet outdoor space with plenty of room for a student to let his or her pup run around while she drinks a beer, or works on homework.

Friends of Strays Development and Communication Assistant Jami Pressman, a USF alumni who graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental science and psychology said, “You can still make [your dog] a big part of your life, while still being social with people, which is just what you want to do in college.”

“We are always looking for ways to make students aware of our services,” said Pressman.

There are plenty of places and things to do with your dog outside of class. Friends of Strays Manager Mari Salls said that students should “use [their] dogs as a way to be social and to de-stress.”

With over 200 restaurants and bars in St. Petersburg that welcome dogs at their outdoor tables, there are plenty of options for dog owners. For example, Dog Bar on 23rd Street and Central Avenue features a spacious 2,000 square feet outdoor space with plenty of room for a student to let his or her pup run around while she drinks a beer, or works on homework.

Friends of Strays Development and Communication Assistant Jami Pressman, a USF alumni who graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental science and psychology said, “You can still make [your dog] a big part of your life, while still being social with people, which is just what you want to do in college.”

Friends of Strays has as many as 100 companion animals, and they welcome anyone to come interact with them. Their adoption fees include wellness exams, vaccines, spay/neuter procedure and microchip.

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS:
• Must be at least 18 years old
• Must provide a government-issued photo ID
• Proof of responsible housing

Adoption fees are as follows:
• Dogs under a year $200
• 1 year to 7 years $150
• 7 years and older $100

There are plenty of places and things to do with your dog outside of class. Friends of Strays Manager Mari Salls said that students should “use [their] dogs as a way to be social and to de-stress.”

With over 200 restaurants and bars in St. Petersburg that welcome dogs at their outdoor tables, there are plenty of options for dog owners. For example, Dog Bar on 23rd Street and Central Avenue features a spacious 2,000 square feet outdoor space with plenty of room for a student to let his or her pup run around while she drinks a beer, or works on homework.

Friends of Strays Development and Communication Assistant Jami Pressman, a USF alumni who graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental science and psychology said, “You can still make [your dog] a big part of your life, while still being social with people, which is just what you want to do in college.”

Friends of Strays has as many as 100 companion animals, and they welcome anyone to come interact with them. Their adoption fees include wellness exams, vaccines, spay/neuter procedure and microchip.

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS:
• Must be at least 18 years old
• Must provide a government-issued photo ID
• Proof of responsible housing

Adoption fees are as follows:
• Dogs under a year $200
• 1 year to 7 years $150
• 7 years and older $100

There are plenty of places and things to do with your dog outside of class. Friends of Strays Manager Mari Salls said that students should “use [their] dogs as a way to be social and to de-stress.”

With over 200 restaurants and bars in St. Petersburg that welcome dogs at their outdoor tables, there are plenty of options for dog owners. For example, Dog Bar on 23rd Street and Central Avenue features a spacious 2,000 square feet outdoor space with plenty of room for a student to let his or her pup run around while she drinks a beer, or works on homework.

Friends of Strays Development and Communication Assistant Jami Pressman, a USF alumni who graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental science and psychology said, “You can still make [your dog] a big part of your life, while still being social with people, which is just what you want to do in college.”

Friends of Strays has as many as 100 companion animals, and they welcome anyone to come interact with them. Their adoption fees include wellness exams, vaccines, spay/neuter procedure and microchip.

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS:
• Must be at least 18 years old
• Must provide a government-issued photo ID
• Proof of responsible housing

Adoption fees are as follows:
• Dogs under a year $200
• 1 year to 7 years $150
• 7 years and older $100
By Noora Khalil

Noora Khalil is a 24-year-old information system management major. As a senior at USF St. Petersburg, Khalil founded Chariti-A-Bull, a charity outreach club. She is also a Muslim woman.

Could you summarize the Muslim Ban as you understand it?

Essentially, it stops people from select countries from coming into America.

Where did you hear about it? It was always a hot topic throughout Trump’s campaign, so I constantly heard about it.

How do you feel this impacts your life?

It’s more an indirect impact than a direct one for now. I know it will affect a lot of my family friends. I’m afraid they won’t feel safe enough to travel fearing that they won’t be able to come back. Another part of me is worried that I will be mistaken for being a foreigner (which happens) and people might think it’s acceptable to say inappropriate things.

Do you know anyone this ban will impact? How will it do so?

I know a lot of people who have green cards and visas, so I worry about them and their families. It all goes back to being afraid to leave the U.S. and never being able to come back. It will affect us as a whole in the sense that if the US, being fluent in English, will be subject to a lot of hate outside the home. There is nothing that scares me more than thinking about how someone can inflict any kind of harm, whether it be verbal or physical, onto someone as kind as my mother.

What do you think this will mean for Muslims people living in the United States?

I’m afraid people will start profiling someone who might look or “sound” Muslim, which will open up very bad doors. I fear that someone like my mom, who is visibly Muslim and speaks fluent English, will be subject to a lot of hate outside the home. There is nothing that scares me more than thinking about how someone can inflict any kind of harm, whether it be verbal or physical, onto someone as kind as my mother.

What do you think would be a way to communicate with refugees and “keep the U.S. safe,” if possible?

While there is no black and white answer, it starts with knowing that they are running from the same people we are trying to protect ourselves from. All of these victims had a life’s worth of adventures and stories behind them that were ripe with fear and they deserve to be able to not only tell us their story but continue writing it and finding opportunity. Anyone who steps foot onto U.S. soil has the potential to do great things and they potentially be great contributors to our economy. We look at this situation as a “that’s their problem, not ours,” we should remove the mentality that it’s us vs. them.

What would you ask of your fellow students?

To keep doing what they are doing. While not everyone agrees with how to go about the refugee crisis, what we can agree on is that hate and bigotry in the nation is completely unacceptable. So if you see a person harassing a minority, for whatever reason, it is not what we allow. It is not acceptable to chase a Muslim away, it is not acceptable to picture their face on a hate poster. We look back in history at events like the Holocaust and the Rwandan Genocide and we ask, “How did they let that happen? We will never let this happen again!”

One large criticism of this ban is that it will do more to alienate people of Muslim faith than it will keep people safe. What are your feelings on the effectiveness of the executive order?

When we think of past acts of terrorism committed in this country and where the country of origin is, there is little significance to the countries that have been flagged which concerns me in regards to how effective those policies will prove to be. I absolutely agree that it alienates Muslims, I find Muslims using the words “We are just like everyone” etc. and non-Muslims using “they” to describe Muslims. It is already separating us and we don’t even realize it.

The Crow’s Nest

The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We reserve the right to edit material written by the Society of Professional Journalists. Opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

Reach Us

USFSP Student Life Center
Office 2400
140 Seventh Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701
(727) 873-4113

Devin Rodriguez
Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Callihan
Managing Editor

Michael Moore Jr.
News Editor

Evy Guerra
A&E Editor

Ben Schlesinger
Contributing Editor

Luke Cross
Staff Reporter

Tim Fanning
Staff Reporter

Savannah Gibbs
Creative Director

Jonah Hinebaugh
Photography Editor

Nicole Carroll
Photographer

Lis Casanova
Online Manager

Apply Today!
Business Manager

Ronald Brent Griffin
Distribution Manager

Rob Hooker
Adviser

Letters to The Editor

The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions must be no more than 500 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu with the subject line “Letter to The Editor.”

Because of high production costs, members of the USFSP are permitted one copy per issue. Where available, additional copies may be purchased for 10 cents each by contacting the newspaper’s editor-in-chief or managing editor. Newsgner theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution and/or university discipline.

OPINION

Splintering the waste and learning to recycle

By Indhira Suero Acosta

E ven since I was a little girl, I remember hearing my parents saying that the rubbish goes to the trash can. “Don’t throw the garbage in the streets. It’s wrong and impolite,” my mother used to say repeatedly. And so I did. I forced myself to apply their rules, and every time someone would throw a bag of chips from their car to the highway, the only thought I had was that it was something meaningless and would just be another item that was going to add to the already onerous amount of waste. What we often don’t realize is that we have to consider every piece of plastic that gets thrown on the streets or even adorn a cement wall as a threat to our environment. I started to look for information on how to recycle, on what’s the climate change and how leaving a healthier life can help the planet in a longer term.

Nowadays, I still need to improve. In fact, everybody needs to do it. We need to separate your plastics from your papers and take them to a recycling facility. If you don’t have one, you can buy a recycling plastic bag, which will allow you to save a lot of weight.

In the supermarket, the packing guy gives you more plastic bags than you can use on any occasion. We have to turn around and throw the extras away. That was the reason I started recycling. I wanted to make a change and not contribute to the waste culture that threatens to affect us all. I wanted to have a better place to live, and that’s why I started to look for information on how to recycle, on what’s the climate change and how leaving a healthier life can help the planet in a longer term.

Despite the hundreds of millions spent every year on recycling, this method will work if everyone follows it. It’s not a difficult task. If we learned as children to make the separation from home and we had it as a daily routine, we would become a part of who we are, and we wouldn’t be so hard to do it as adults.

African-American History Month: Reading Recommendations

By Timothy Fanning
tfanning@mail.usf.edu

This African-American history month, let’s discover new literature, music and film together. Every week for the month of February I am going to actively search for new material by African-American writers, performers and musicians to share. I am doing this to help reinforce the idea that white people, myself included, need to listen to voices that don’t sound like our own. Let’s start strong. Here’s some heavy hitting literature.

Dawn - Octavia E. Butler
(Science fiction)

"Your people contain incredible potential, but they die without using much of it.”

If you’re ready for a novel with a fusion of horror and science fiction that will leave you hungry for the next book, this is one for you.

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide - Ntozake Shange
(Poetry)

Read the first three words of the title, “For colored girls...” and your first impression might be that the word “colored” pertains to skin color. However, as you wade deeper into the poetry, you will find that none of the characters are known by name, and each girl is labeled by a color. Each color serves as a symbolic metaphor for each girl. For example, the poem that contains the lady in red is suffering from domestic violence. After reading this one, Shange will be your new favorite poet. She’ll make you laugh and she’ll make you cry.

March - Andrew Aydin & John Lewis
(Graphic novel /autobiography)

"Find a way to get in the way.”

In a time of world and nationwide protest, why not feed your brain with this autobiographical graphic novel on Civil Rights icon John Lewis? In his vivid first-hand account, Lewis brings perspective to new protesters by telling of his lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, while also meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation.

Another Country - James Baldwin
(Literature)

"All for the first time, in the days when acts had no consequences and nothing was irrevocable, and love was simple and even pain had the dignity of enduring forever. It was unimaginable that time could do anything to diminish it. But it was only love which could accomplish the miracle of making a life bearable - only love, and love itself mostly faded.”

This is an emotionally intense novel of love, hatred and race in America in the 1960s. Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem and France, it tells the story of the suicide of jazz-musician Rufus Scott and his friends, who search for a better understanding of his short life and sudden death, all the while discovering truths about themselves along the way.

Another Country will penetrate you more deeply than any other of Baldwin’s vast collection of novels.
Local vendors and organization congregate downtown for Localtopia

By Evy Guerra
evelyn1@mail.usf.edu

A sea of people flooded Williams Park to seek out all things local. They bought soaps, records and art. They ate empanadas, fried chicken and pizza from food trucks. They drank local beers, coffee and kombucha.

In its fourth year, Localtopia expanded to well over 100 booths. On the crisp, bright Saturday, Feb. 4., Victoria Hernandez, a sophomore environmental science and policy major perused the stands. She had heard about the event on Instagram.

“I figured I have enough time before work, I’ll come see it,” Hernandez said.

Chandler Hackbarth, an economics major, attended with Hernandez.

“I like all the local shops, we were just talking about how we want to stay in St. Pete after we graduate,” Hackbarth said.

The Urban Conga, a brightly painted trailer with a giant xylophone and ping pong table, was parked on Third Street N. Ryan Swanson, a USF alumnus from the architecture program, started the Conga three years ago.

“I was tired of seeing [my architectural designs] on a computer. I wanted to utilize it,” Swanson said.

He came up with The Urban Conga, where he designs and creates playful environments or interactive art installations, to promote social interaction.

Based in Tampa, Swanson has installations all over the Tampa Bay area and hopes to bring his work to St. Petersburg.

The Urban Conga is focused on playing because they say social and cultural differences don’t matter when kids are playing.

They believe play is essential to human growth and important for kids to build relationships.

The Nomad Art Bus sat beside The Urban Conga, covered in paint from the hubcaps to the windows. It is a nonprofit that wants to create democratic access to art programs.

Carrie Boucher started the nonprofit in 2014. She taught art at an elementary school and realized the only time the kids weren’t listening was when she told them to clean up.

“It was a recurring theme, they didn’t have enough time for art,” Boucher said.

So she began the art bus and it travels to places like school programs and shelters for at-risk youth and victims of domestic abuse.

Most of the operations take place on the bus, but sometimes Boucher teaches classes outside if there are enough students.

On Saturday, everyone was outside the bus, the only rule was to keep the brush and paint together. That was greatly accepted by the kids crowded around trying to leave their mark on the bus.

Facing First Avenue N., a halfpipe built by Them Skateboards was one of the most popular attractions throughout the celebration.

Them Skateboards is a local company started by Eric Carrico four years ago. He designed boards for another company but decided to cut out the middleman and just make them out of his house. Now, he has a skate crew that uses his boards and promotes his message.

“I want to keep skateboarding homegrown and more affordable,” he said. “I want all the groms (kids) to board. Drain swimming pools, go crazy.”

Carrico thought Them Skateboard’s first year at Localtopia was a success.

“It’s definitely the biggest market we’ve ever been to,” Carrico said. “It’s an awesome event for the community and we want to give kids the opportunity to board,” said Carrico.