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University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Student Government elections ended on Thursday, March 2. Find out the results of the senate and presidential elections, as well as the referendum involving SGFF's renewal.

The Firestone Grand Prix is making a return to the streets of downtown St. Petersburg. Let's of noise and wide-eyed tourists are par for the course. You've been warned.

The Miracle Dance Marathon raised more than $6000 for Johns Hopkins Hospital as students danced into the wee hours of the night. The money goes toward pediatric patients.

The CAMPUS NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

Volume 48, Issue 8 - March 6, 2017 | Online at www.crowsneststpete.com
Two weeks ago, Dr. Patricia Helton, the regional vice chancellor of Student Affairs, reorganized the Student Affairs Department.

These changes, implemented Feb. 20, were meant to better facilitate the administration’s discussions over issues affecting students.

The restructuring appointed various members of the administration to positions that now report directly to Helton. One result of the restructuring was the departure of Matt Morrin, the director of Student Life & Engagement. Dwayne Isaacs has taken over as interim director.

The main reason for the restructuring, Helton said, was to get better feedback from organizations like housing and residence life, the department of Student Life & Engagement and Campus Recreation that she oversees.

“As a component of the change is putting together people on my team and the people I think should be at the table,” said Helton.

Top administrators of the organizations within the Student Affairs Department meet weekly at Student Affairs Leadership Team meetings. The reorganization includes new administrators in those meetings. Student leaders do not participate in the Student Affairs Leadership Team meetings.

“We discuss anything that might impact students, especially outside of the classroom,” said Helton. The group recently discussed updates on the new housing project and how to make the campus a more inclusive environment.

One of the newcomers to the weekly Student Affairs meetings is Lesa Shouse, who had her title changed to associate director of the Career Center as part of the Student Affairs restructure. Lesa Shouse’s title changed to associate director of the Career Center as part of the restructure. With the title change, she now attends the weekly Student Affairs meetings.

Previously, Shouse reported to Dr. Diane McKinstry, the director of Student Achievement. The recent changes dissolved the Student Achievement Department and appointed McKinstry to a new position as director of assessment and special projects.

According to an internal memo sent Feb. 16, McKinstry’s job will be to “provide leadership, oversight, and direction of assessment efforts within Student Affairs."

Shouse said that the only difference in her new title is that she’ll now be able to contribute to the weekly meetings with other administrators. Her inclusion in the meetings will allow her to create better relationships across campus.

“As a member of the Student Affairs Leadership Team, I’m able to build relationships further and create new collaborations and have a good understanding of everything that’s happening within the division,” said Shouse.

Helton says that adding more voices to the weekly meetings will give her a better idea of what students at USF St. Petersburg need, especially as the group works on its strategic plan for Student Affairs.

“I think that we have a few more members to help in form,” said Helton. “We’re in the process of putting together a strategic plan for Student Affairs and now we have more voices at the table to help inform us about what’s important to students.”

Helton, who began her position at USFSP in July, said that the reorganization of Student Affairs was also about getting together the team of departments she oversees.

“Student leaders do not participate in the weekly meetings as a part of the reorganization of Student Affairs,” said Helton. “We’re in the process of putting together the team of departments she’s used to overseeing from previous administration positions.

“I’ve been in higher education for 30 years, so I’m used to certain areas being a part of my team. I came from the University of Denver and every campus is a little different,” said Helton. “For example, when I was there I had Academic Advising under me. Here, I don’t. There, I didn’t have financial aid under me. Here, I do.”

Over the past eight months, Helton said that she’s been getting to know the various departments in order to determine who the main movers and shakers are.

“One of the things I first did when I came here was meet individually with each leader in the Student Affairs Department to get a feel for the culture and climate here. By getting to know the campus, I came up with the team,” said Helton.

After the restructure, the Student Affairs Department that reports to Helton comprises of housing and residence life, the Career Center, Campus Recreation, the Wellness Center, the department of Student Life & Engagement, Financial Aid and Veterans Services.
The election results are in, Student Government fills 11 senate seats

By Devin Rodriguez drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu

This year, 650 students voted in the election, nearly twice as many as the fall semester. The total student population, including graduate and non-degree seeking students is 4,475.

The election results were announced on March 2 in the Reef by Shannon Scanlon, Student Government’s supervisor of elections.

Each of the students running for a senate seat in Student Government were elected this year. They needed 25 votes for office, and the lowest number of votes for one candidate was for J.W. Hendry, who earned 144 votes. Emilie Morris, an incumbent nominee, received the most with 310.

On March 1, a day before the elections, senator Jozef Gherman officially resigned his position.

David Thompson, the presidential candidate, won office with his running mate Samuel Goetz. The two took more votes than their opponents combined, with 335. Thompson will take office in May after shadowing Laraine Ruiz, the active student president.

The referendum that provided funding for the Student Green Energy Fund also passed. SGEF charges students a dollar per credit hour in order to fund green energy projects across campus. The SGEF passed with 87.78 percent approval in the vote.

The SGEF must be reapproven every three years. In the past, the money has funded new recycling bins and water refill stations across campus.

Solutions continued from P1

Goetz II Done: Newly-elected student body Vice President Samuel Goetz celebrates with students as he receives the news that he and Thompson’s ticket won the presidential election.

Goetz, who met over the summer at an Anchor Day event for incoming students. Thompson, who works as a peer coach, told Goetz that when he came to school in August he should join Student Government.

Thompson joined Student Government in 2015 as the deputy of public relations. A year later, he was appointed to director of communications. Goetz’s first Student Government experience came when he won a senate seat in the fall, earning him a working relationship with Thompson.

“We started working together and developed a friendship through that,” Thompson said.

Goetz is a freshman majoring in global business. Unlike his running mate, Goetz attended the election results announcement in the Reef. He watched as Shannon Scanlon, Student Government’s supervisor of elections, announced that Thompson and Goetz won with 355 votes, more votes than the other two presidential tickets combined.

“It felt fantastic. We’ve heard the students and they want a change with how their money is handled,” Goetz said. “I couldn’t be happier or more honored.”

After the announcement, Goetz and a few others who contributed to the campaign efforts waited outside of Thompson’s Florida politics and government class to celebrate.

“It was definitely a touching moment between us. The campaign had been so intensive that we just had the longest embrace out of relief and pure joy,” Thompson said. “It was definitely one of the greatest moments of my life.”

By the time he decided to run, Thompson had worked under three different Student Government presidents.

“I saw that there were things that could be done,” Thompson said. “When the opportunity presented itself, I was like ‘You know what? This is something I really want to do.’”

Thompson and Goetz said that managing their campaign for two weeks was a draining process. After receiving student feedback, the two realized just how difficult it is to create a platform that appeals to everyone.

“You sit there with your team and you’re like ‘that’s something we really worked hard on, but people didn’t like it.’” Thompson said. At one point, Thompson was even blocked from the USFSF know it All Guide to Knowing it all Facebook page.

 “[That was] a weird thing to happen but I just had to remind myself you’re doing it for the students. You’re not doing it for personal gain,” Thompson said. “You’re also not taking it personally. You’re here to do a job.”

Thompson was born in Silver Springs, Florida, but his family moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, but he grew up in Florida. He moved to Ocala when he was eight years old, but switched schools a few times growing up. The constant transfer of schools prevented him from crafting long-lasting friendships. He graduated from West Port High School in 2015, where he also participated in Student Government. The Student Government club there helped him establish friends that he still has today. Because of his prior experience, he sees Student Government in a different light.

“I don’t treat Student Government as something I can put on a resume,” Thompson said. “I treat Student Government to be a place where people can grow to be leaders, as a family. Just an organization that should be more personal than political.”

Thompson said he wants to make sure students know that he’s going to work hard to accomplish everything on his platform. At the presidential debate on Feb. 23, Thompson asked others to hold him accountable for fulfilling every aspect of his 90-day plan.

His promised plans for the first 90 days in office are ambitious. Thompson wants to bring an on-campus convenience store to USFSF, expand reading days to an entire week, add three sports teams to the campus, increase library hours and establish a 24-hour study area.

Thompson will become president in May.

In the meantime, he’ll be spending a lot of time shadowing Lauraine Ruiz, the acting student body president.

“Sie’s excited to get started. I’m glad to see that we had a contested election,” Ruiz said. “Now I know who I’ll be passing the torch off to and that’s a weight off my shoulders.”

Ruiz stepped into her role as acting student body president in August, after Ziya Kardas, former student body president, and his vice president took a mysterious temporary leave of absence.

They both resigned in January. Since Ruiz didn’t have a prior warning before taking the position, she didn’t have a chance to shadow Kardas or learn about the job. That was difficult she said, but it helped teach her.

“I had to learn on the fly, but I think it taught me more about the mindset of a president,” Ruiz said. Ruiz says the job is more rigorous than she thought. It involves building relationships with top administrators and caring about the whole student body, not just your friends, but Ruiz stressed the importance of teamwork.

“There’s a change in dynamics within the organization,” Ruiz said. “It’s important that whatever happens, you remain a team.”

THE CROW’S NEST

MARCH 6, 2017 | NEWS

News

President & Vice Presidential Election Totals

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Presidential Election Totals

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SGEF Referendum Vote

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Senator Candidate Election Totals

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Carter Goetz

Lyndsey Trantham

Shenna Catalibian

Antoinette Lavolieta

Daniel Hollander

Sharon Bramwell

J.W. Hendry

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Sherice Bramwell

Daniel Hollander

J.W. Hendry

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Goetz It Done: Newly-elected student body Vice President Samuel Goetz celebrates with students as he receives the news that he and Thompson’s ticket won the presidential election.
areas that are being most affected by rising sea levels and the realities of forced migration due to climate change.

The Caravan hopes to enthral St. Pete citizens with a 75-minute magical, visual and auditory performance.

The show will feature original music, soaring vocals, aerial performers, and puppets manipulated by the performers.

The opera themes are critical of a variety of social, political and environmental issues. The New York Times called the show “an opera that might be New York Times called the show “an opera that might be..."

“This is easily one of my favorite life choices,” she said. While on board, Kilcommons and her other crewmates will learn new trades and skills like basic navigation and knot tying. When Amara Zee leaves port in April to begin its tour, Kilcommons looks forward to speaking with the vessel engineer.

“I want to basically learn how the boat engines work and get involved as much as possible so that if I come again next time, or work on another boat like this, I will have some experience. It’s so exciting to be exposed to this much knowledge all at once.”

The crew members help where they can, and they learn new tasks during idle time. The members staying on the tour will not only learn their lines and stage cues, but will also learn how to check the boat’s engine, use instruments, tie knots and read charts.

While the Amara Zee is at full sail, the Caravan switches from thespian troupe to sailing crew assigned to a watch schedule. This system allows the boat’s crew to operate for the duration of voyages.

J.D. Frost, 25, a veteran of the Caravan and actor in the upcoming performance, said that sailing in between cities is his favorite part.

“It always feels like a cleaning to move on,” he said. “It rejuvenates the crew after such an intense set-up, performance and breakdown routine.”

To see the performance and help keep the Amara Zee afloat, the crew suggests a donation of $25. But students shouldn’t shy away because of the price. Any donation is appreciated, but any amount is accepted, and people won’t be turned away.

BE OUR GUEST BALL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
7:00 PM
USC BALLROOMS

BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL WITH YOUR FORMAL ATTIRE
I see a lively group of students in hand or hear the sound of music streaming from the Palm Room, the Musicians Club is in session. Started early last semester by Eric Yoder, 19, and Brendon Porter, 18, the two USFSP students and guitarists gather the club every Thursday afternoon to play and talk music. Porter is a freshman biology major, and Yoder is a sophomore music major. The two met in their American National Government class and bonded over music. The National Government class participants also perform every Thursday afternoon. Students and guitarists gather the club in a regular group. “I think [Eric] and I played at the Palm Room for a couple of weeks and occasionally with some performers here and there,” said Porter. “By November, we had a core group of us playing wherever necessary.”

Guitarists make up the majority of the members. But Porter said they also have an array of bassists, drummers, violinists, pianists, singers, wind instrumentalists (including a French horn player) and “a series of assorted oddball musical talents…” They play a wide variety of music genres, from jazz to rock to ska. Besides playing together, they also perform for clubs around campus. They also plan on starting a guitar workshop with five or six members of the club as the instructors to teach students how to play.

The upcoming “flagship” event for the club will be Art After Dark this month, they said. They will perform on the second day of the event, March 21, at 5 p.m., according to the Art After Dark Facebook page. The club also hopes to have three local ska, reggae and indie rock bands coming to end the night with a big jam session.

“We’re hoping that we can get permission to bring Grass House Point, the Badda Skat Band and UNRB to close out the night,” said Porter. The club meets Thursdays at 5 p.m. in the Palm Room in the USF. Follow them on Facebook, USFSP Musicians Club, and on Instagram, @usfpmusiciansclub.
Don’t stop marching & keep your activism alive

By Emily Bowers
Sophomore Journalism & Media Studies major
emilybowers@mail.usf.edu

Protests erupted in over 600 cities, with an estimated 4.2 million people marching throughout the country to advocate for women’s rights. The Women’s March held Jan. 21, began as a response to the election of Donald J. Trump as president, but resulted in one of the largest demonstrations in history.

If you attended the Women’s March or have participated in any demonstrations since then, you owe it to yourself and people everywhere to continue your activism. There are a ton of different ways to keep your activism alive. You can call your senators, attend town hall meetings, vote in all elections, sign petitions and spread the word about any local events you and your peers can participate in.

It might seem daunting to think about doing all of these things, but practicing political activism in your everyday life is easier than it might seem.

To call your senators, you just have to know their names. The official Senate website has an updated list of all the senators along with their phone number, address and website. You can even search by state to make the process easier.

Once you have this information, create a contact for them on your phone so you have it ready and easily accessible. If you find the concept of talking on the phone terrifying, Scalls. org is a website dedicated to providing scripts for people to use when calling senators.

Attending a town hall meeting is a great way to engage in political activism because it gives you a chance to speak directly with representatives and ask questions. To find a town hall meeting near you, go to your legislator’s website to find a date, location and time.

From there you have to register for the event, which is required for any event held in advance. Write down a few questions you have for your representative, focus on one topic and make sure the questions are open-ended.

Practice asking your questions beforehand. On the day of the meeting, arrive early and sign in. Find out what stamps you have to take to ask a question, and then sit close to the front when you get inside. Always remember to introduce yourself with your first and last name, and keep your questions short and formal.

Signing petitions is a very simple way to stay politically active without really having to do a lot of work. The White House is required to respond to any petition on its site that receives more than 100,000 signatures, so sign anything that you feel passionately about.

The key to keeping political activism alive is to tell others what is going on and how they can get involved. Whether it’s organizing a local event or nationwide protest, make sure to speak up about it and let others know what is going on, but also remember to participate! The follow-through is just as important as spreading the information.

Taking my own advice, I will use this information to write about the next big thing the leaders of the Women’s March have put together. On March 8 — International Women’s Day — there will be a “Day Without Women” strike.

The strike calls for women to stop working in whatever way they can. Organizers urge participants to “take the day off from paid and unpaid labor.” Ballies and marches are being planned around the world. I encourage you to look into any local activities planned for this day and participate if you can. If you can’t join, wear red in solidarity with the movement and avoid shopping unless it’s a small woman or minority-owned business.

Don’t stop marching. Everyone is interested to stay active by participating in local demonstrations, calling their senators and signing petitions.
Spring break is a time to let it all go: the stresses, responsibilities, engagements, significant others—you name it. According to data-journalist David McIcandless’ study of Facebook relationship status updates, the timeframe tops the chart for breakups. Whether the relationship has been long term or not, being dumped never feels good. At best, it’s an ego bust; at worst, it breaks your heart. In either case, if your heart is broken over Spring Break, here are some activities to get you out of the house and back in spirit.

1. Volunteer
It’s common to feel a little out of touch with yourself and those around you after a relationship ends. Being with someone molds who you are and once they’re gone, you’re forced to redefine and rediscover your path. I recommend getting started by volunteering with a local garden club. Gardening is a physical activity, and by working with the earth, you perform an act that enables healing and reinforces positivity. You’re outside, you’re taking in the sun and you’re creating something good. At the end of the day, the work you’ve performed is tangible, meaningful and makes you feel accomplished.

Volunteering is always good for the soul, so whether it be at a garden, a kitchen or a shelter, make sure the work you’re doing will help somebody else. The deed will come back to you immediately.

2. Workout
It’s understandable if the last thing you want to do when you’re feeling down is exert more energy, but recovery is all about doing the things you don’t want to. So put one foot in front of the other and get your butt out of the house. Working out is not limited to the gym. You can take a walk by yourself or maybe do some cardio around the house. The key is to tire your body and sharpen your mind—that feeling comes best to me when I run. Although, if you’re not a fan of any of the above, try taking a mat to your favorite park and performing some yoga. Not only will it give you strength and serenity, the breathing techniques will help you forgive and accept.

3. Reconnect with friends
Friends are an invaluable source of support and they often take second place when we’re in a relationship. This is why reconnecting with them is essential. Friends know how to make you laugh, they take you out of the house and help to challenge your comfort zones. Feeling miserable post-breakup is easy, the difficult part is fighting against it. You have to be willing to allow yourself to feel better. Friends come in when you can’t sum up the courage yourself.

4. Make a playlist
One of the most annoying aspects of regaining a regular life after a breakup is realizing that some of your favorite songs and artists now carry memories best not thought of. This might be a good time to find new jams and create a playlist from your new favorite songs. This may require asking friends for album suggestions on Spotify, going out to local concerts or picking up random cool-looking vinyl from the music store. The new discoveries will keep you looking ahead and they’ll show you great things are still out there to be found. Always remember that the breakup blues don’t last forever. Sometimes they fade away slowly and disappear without notice, other times they linger until someone new and more deserving takes its place. However, if it happens to you, make sure you’ve learned the art of self-induced happiness and feel at peace with being by yourself.
Students dance all night for children who can’t

By Tori Jansen

tjansen@mail.usf.edu

Henna tattoos, games and even a mechanical bull, all provided great ways to forget about looming midterms. However, the most important aspect of the event stayed obvious throughout the night: the children.

In an effort to raise money for children with pediatric illnesses, students danced to music under pulsating multicolored lights at the Miracle Dance Marathon Thursday, March 2.

Late into the night, the Disney-themed event featured games and activities that kept people pumped and ready to dance. There were raffles with candy and art supplies, a jail that imprisoned students after a donation from a fellow friend and free food from Chipotle and Taco Bus.

“I’m amazed every year by the student leaders here at this campus and what they come up with,” said Samantha D’Agostino, a Children’s Miracle Network hospital coordinator. “Every year, it just gets bigger and better.”

Several guest speakers, including a former patient at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital who was treated for a brain tumor, shared touching stories about how their illnesses affected their lives.

“We have 259 beds at the hospital and more than half of them are dedicated to intensive-care level services,” says D’Agostino. “The money raised will be supporting a child-life specialist at our neonatal intensive care unit. Our hospital has been around for nine years, and we weren’t able to have one in our NICU until now.”

The $6,024 raised through the event went to Johns Hopkins. In the past, Dance Marathon has contributed to the hospital’s “Greatest Need Fund,” which is used for education, new equipment and research. But this year, every dollar earned from the over 250 participating colleges and universities will be used to finance a particularly important position at the hospital.

Unique to pediatric hospitals, a child-life specialist combines medicine and play, acting as a support system and advocate for patients and their families. Laura Johnson is the new specialist at Johns Hopkins.

“The more I’m in the NICU, the more I see the need for Child Life”, said Johnson. “When parents find out they’re pregnant, they instantly have these dreams for what’s going to happen, and siblings are usually excited about being a big brother or sister. But when a baby arrives in the NICU, that dream stops; it’s not what they were expecting.”

Johnson says that the experience is traumatic for expecting parents. Her job is to help each family cope, stay connected and normalize the experience for them.

The president of the organization, sophomore Deztony Savett, emphasized the importance of students’ continued support.

“People should participate in Dance Marathon because not only does it raise awareness for pediatric illnesses and support our local children’s hospital, but it is also a way to bring our community together,” Savett said.

Applications to become a part of Dance Marathon’s E-Board, which is in charge of marketing and organizing the event, open this week.

Just Dance

Christine Pierre was one of many students who helped raise $6,024.

For the Kids: Miracle Dance Marathon helped raise money for youth with illness. Former patients stopped by to give thanks to the students.

The Crow’s Nest

JONAH HINEBAUGH | THE CROW’S NEST

Painted Prez: Dance Marathon President Deztony Savett gets her face painted during the event.

Contributors Wanted

Tuesdays @ 4 PM

SLC 2400