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Opinion

Dean Bill Heller To Step Down

By Devin Rodriguez
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Bill Heller, a prominent figure of the university for 24 years is stepping down as dean of the College of Education at the end of the fall semester.

But Heller, 81, isn’t leaving the university just yet. Instead, he will focus his efforts on the Bishop Center for Ethics Leadership and Civic Engagement.

“He will still be around. Students will see him, continue to learn from him. He will still be a part of this community; he is just assuming new responsibilities.”

Talk of Heller stepping down was in progress before Tadlock came to campus, four weeks before the fall semester. The end of the year will mark the end of Heller’s five-year term as dean.

Olivia Hodges, the associate dean at the College of Education, will become the interim dean until a new candidate is selected. Tadlock doesn’t expect the process to be completed until after February.

Heller came to USF in 1992 as dean and executive officer of the St. Petersburg campus, which grew and flourished under his leadership.

He pushed to make the campus, then limited to upperclassmen, a four-year institution and residence halls – have come to fruition.

In 2006, Heller won a seat in the state House of Representatives. He served two terms as a Democrat but was defeated for re-election in 2010 at the height of the tea party movement.

In an interview with student journalists last spring, Heller noted that many of his goals for the campus – including separate accreditation, a four-year program and residence halls – have come to fruition.

He said he respected Genshaft’s decision and considers her a good president and friend.

In 2006, Heller won a seat in the state House of Representatives. He served two terms as a Democrat but was defeated for re-election in 2010 at the height of the tea party movement.

He became director of the Bishop Center that same year and dean of the College of Education in 2012.

Heller and his wife, Jeanne, a retired elementary school librarian, have made donations to many campus programs. The university administration hopes Heller’s community connections will help him expand the reach of the Bishop Center, Tadlock said.

“Students really should thank Bill for all that he’s done for this campus and the community,” said Tadlock.

Student Honors World War II Veteran

By Erin Murphy
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It was Christmas Eve, 1944, but no one was celebrating.

Instead, a group of soldiers was being hurriedly transported to Cherbourg, France via the S.S. Liegeville. The unit was slated to arrive at what would have been the Battle of the Bulge.

Then, five miles from Cherbourg, the ship was torpedoed.

Approximately 800 people died, among them, Pvt. Leo K. Chalcraft, only 19 years old.

“It’s a very tragic story,” said Deborah Pettingill, a graduate student in the Florida Studies program at USF St. Petersburg. “I had a hard time with it from day one, because I have a 19 year old son. Every time I read the stuff, every time I look at it, I see his face. To imagine that being my son, at that age...it horrifies me.”

Pettingill, who teaches advanced placement U.S. History at Largo High School, spent roughly six months researching the life of Chalcraft with former student Konner Ross as part of a National History Day project.

There are different projects available under the umbrella of the National History Day program, which pairs students and teachers to research specific historical subjects. This summer, Pettingill and Ross competed as a team in a special offshoot of the program, the Normandy. Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. II Small Student & Teacher Institute’s Silent Hero project.

Pettingill happened to discover the Institute one day while browsing the National History Day website.

“At the beginning of November last year, I stumbled across it and thought, ‘Wow, this looks amazing.’ You had to apply for it with a student, so I approached Konner, who had been in my honors American History class, and she immediately responded.

The application for the Institute project was, Pettingill said, “pretty extensive.” Not only that, but the Institute was highly selective, choosing a total of only 15 teams across the nation to participate in the program.

“Not knowing if they had a chance, the pair applied.

“You can’t get it if you don’t try,” said Pettingill.

On the very last day of school for the semester, she got the call.

She and Ross had been selected.

“I’m afraid I was overly excited,” said Pettingill.

To imagine that being my son...it horrifies me.

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Students Hold Event Honoring Heroes of 9/11

By Wesley Elston
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Kathleen Molloy was in sixth grade when images crashed into the Twin Towers towers. It was her first class of the day.

“Somewhere, they just started wheeling TVs in all the rooms for maybe six to eight hours,” said Molloy, a life-long

1

minor in Interdisciplinary Studies. She now lives in New York and we were only four hours from the city, so school went on.

“Nobody talked to anything or anything, I don’t remember much after that.”

The younger generations won’t know the fate of those families that enveloped the nation. People will tell them of the lessons of the firefighters, police officers and armed forces.

“Molloy remained.

“My dad was a police officer and that’s what I grew up with. My whole family was in law enforcement. So it’s something that I knew when I said that people were in law enforcement. But it was people who were in law enforcement. But that was a very tough thing. People were always so willing to help you.”

In 2009, a British Petroleum (BP) oil rig exploded off the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, spilling over 1 million barrels of oil into the ocean. The U.S. government had to intervene to stop the damage. However, there was a lack of scientific knowledge about how the oil affected marine life. In 2010, a team of researchers, including Dr. Joanna Judkins, a research associate professor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and a current graduate student of Fordham University, worked tirelessly to educate others and encourage research in the field of marine biology.

Dr. Judkins said. She went on to explain how she started thinking about the "Doughnut Experience," a national program that aims to prevent suicides among college students.

"I have never in my life felt any intensely amazing experience the death of a human being and bringing to the forefront of society that there are people out there..." she said. "It’s not impossible, but very important."
works towards uniting the community, broadening creativity and 21 new large scale works of art. The 10 daylong event For the festival's second year, it brought 16 new artists

Sixteen artists from around the state, country and world, including the Wall Mural Project. Small groups of...
People Prove More Important Than Politicians

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There is a divide between politicians and people. From the podium, the television screen, something seems unapproachable and impossible. It could be the platitudes and the white noise that always seems to follow politicians. Hillary Clinton held a rally at the USF Student Life Center on Sept. 21 in Tampa Tuesday, Sept. 6. Over 1,500 people waited outside in the hot sun to see the presidential nominee inside a cleared-out basketball court.

Clinton made sure to hit all the main points: green energy, national security and education. Donald Trump was mentioned, scorn, and the former candidate was not mentioned at all.

Political rallies hold significances. They are a chance to see a candidate in person, connect with like-minded people and measure the energy of the party. But there seems to be a glass ceiling for women and minorities.

This glass ceiling is not just for women. Minority students, such as the killing of Eric Garner or Oscar Grant, would continue to be swept under the rug. Garner or Oscar Grant, would continue to be swept under the rug. Their deaths have not been as well publicized as the death of Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman or Tamir Rice, and goes back to how the system works. In Trayvon Martin’s case, it’s the institutionalized racism where he was killed, and that black people are killed more than white people. This system is the reason why Trayvon Martin was killed.

Kaepernick’s protest is far less effective than Beyster’s, but serves the same purpose. Hopeful people will begin to speak out about racial injustice and the overall violence in this nation. When will people like Trump and Lahren realize that Kaepernick just wants a country that respects everyone? As cliché as it sounds, that’s the nation that is fighting for. It’s hard to believe that in 2016 we still have to face national dialogue about race and feminism.

It’s a disgusting cycle that needs to be broken. It’s been said that our generation needs to understand how complex this life really is. No single figure can change the world; instead, it requires a little bit of help from everyone.

It’s been said that our generation is disillusioned with the political system. We should use this as a badge of honor through which it’s our personal experience and how we relate to the world that determines progress. It’s important for us to keep our perspective tight, close to home. When we try to place too much emphasis on a prominent figure, we are really not projecting our hopes, dreams and fears.

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Central Melt Twists College Classic Meal

By Ryan Callihan
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One of the newest restaurants in town is also one of the cheesiest.

Central Melt is nearly two months old and offers creative grilled cheese sandwiches in the Central Arts district of downtown St. Petersburg.

Ed Allen, the owner and chef at Central Melt, works the restaurant by himself.

Central Melt’s atmosphere is cozy and welcoming. Allen stands directly behind the counter, up-close and personal. His grill behind him, visitors can watch as he makes their order.

The walls of Central Melt are almost completely covered in different styles of graffiti. Allen says this was intentional.

“The look I was going for was for layered walls and the vibe of 20 different artists in 20 years painting different work,” said Allen.

Allen notes that the grungy art style might lead his customers to believe that it’s a community canvas.

Allen notes that it may appear to be a community canvas, but he doesn’t want anyone adding to the walls. The grungy paintings gives credit to a street-art aesthetic, and in the bathrooms chalk has been set out to encourage guest to express themselves.

“I wanted to be able to interact with the guests. With the graffiti, I figured people would get the urge to tag it up, so I added that wall in the bathroom for them to write on instead.”

The bar seating, graffiti artwork and the hip-hop playlists give Central Melt a unique, big-city feel.

Allen says that he doesn’t plan to offer student discounts because he already worked them into the menu. “I ended up going as low as I could with the prices so that everyone could take advantage,” he said.

Prices range from $5 for a classic grilled cheese sandwich to $8 for one infused with roast beef and a mixture of two cheeses. They also have vegetarian options.

The restaurant also features a 3-6 p.m. happy hour special Tuesday through Friday. During that time, customers can pick their own ingredients for $6.

For less than $10, you get a delicious, well-crafted sandwich. For example, “The Notorious P.I.G.” is a $7 offering topped with barbecue pork, bacon jam, white cheddar cheese, and homemade red onion.

Other menu item include the “Sloppy Yo!” and “Roast Beef on Fleek,” which are just as playfully named.

In addition to grilled cheese sandwiches, Central Melt also offers several side items such as fries, fries topped with cheese and sloppy joe, tomato soup and deep fried grilled cheese roll-ups.

Previously, Allen worked as a manager at Bodega, another restaurant on Central Avenue, and says that the community reaction to Central Melt has been great.

“It’s been amazing,” said Allen. “It’s something that’s been in the works for a very long time and St. Pete has been very supportive.”

Allen has his eyes set on expansion for Central Melt. He says that he would like to increase seating space throughout the restaurant and add more grilled cheese variations to the menu in the coming months.

Grilled cheese is a staple in the college student diet, but Central Melt gives it a dignified twist.

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Owner: Ed Allen
Restaurant: Central Melt
Specialty: Grilled Cheese

If you want to keep it simple, Central Melt offers a basic cheddar cheese on white bread with tomato soup dip.