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Basketball hall of famer visits campus

Amanda Smith
Staff Writer

On Sunday Mar. 1, hundreds of community residents attended a program for a man considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a living legend of his sport; crowned the “Greatest Player in College Basketball” by ESPN in 2008 and the NBA’s all-time leading scorer with 38,387 points. But Abdul-Jabbar came to USF not to speak about basketball; he chose instead to highlight his intellectual achievements and passion for history with a lecture titled, The Legacy of African-American Achievements.

Abdul-Jabbar visited USF St. Petersburg as part of the 6th annual Debbie and Brent Sembler Florida Holocaust Lecture Series. In cooperation with USF St. Petersburg’s College of Education, the lecture was free and open to the public.

St. Petersburg resident Terrick Moyer took special advantage of the event. “When I read about this in the newspaper, I couldn’t believe it. I never would have imagined I’d be sitting a couple of feet from one of the best basketball players in the history of the sport. What he has done off the court makes today even more important.”

Moyer sat quietly, frequently turning around in his chair as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar took the stage. “I brought a van full of kids to this event, kids who really need to see Kareem.”

With a master’s degree in counseling, Moyer runs two local therapeutic transitional living programs in Pinellas County. The programs serve children aging out of foster care and helps prepare them for independent living. Moyer said his goal is to “provide the kids with the life skills they need to be successful.”

“I’m always scanning the newspaper trying to find free activities for the kids. When I found out Kareem was coming here, I knew we had to go. These are kids aging out of foster care, kids who never had a real home, let alone a support system. You always hope that one of the kids will see something or someone that motivates them and they’ll turn the corner towards a successful life.”

Abdul-Jabbar addressed the audience for nearly an hour, showcasing his knowledge of the Harlem Renaissance and detailing his post-basketball decision to become an historical author. He said the catalyst for his love of history was his relationship with his father, praising his father’s intelligence and military service.

While learning about the achievements of African-Americans throughout history, I realized that some of the greatest African-American heroes have been completely written out of history. I’ve made it my job to tell their story,” Abdul-Jabbar said.

After his lecture, he hosted a Q&A session, answering questions about everything from his religious beliefs to his biggest regret.

“I don’t have many regrets,” he said, but admitted that his relationship with his oldest daughter suffered as a result of his basketball career. “She felt like I wasn’t there for her, and I really wasn’t. I retired from basketball just as she finished high school. There are definitely still some issues of resentment there.”

A few questions later, a Florida public school teacher brought up the issue of the achievement gap between African American students and their counterparts and posed the questions, “Why are black students so far behind in terms of scholastic achievement? Kareem, in your opinion, what needs to be done?”

“I think the black community doesn’t see as much success as we are capable of because of a lack of parental involvement,” Abdul-Jabbar said. “My parents made sure my nose was to the grindstone, and they made sure school work was always my first priority. But for African-Americans struggling everyday to make ends meet, often as a result of their own lack of education, it is difficult to come home from work and be dedicated and attentive to the lives of their children. Yet it is what has to be done.”

After answering a few more questions, Abdul-Jabbar descended the stage to greet fans and autograph several books he’d written, sold by Barnes and Noble representatives at the event.

Moyer rounded up the kids, several of whom he found at the Barnes and Noble tables, gathering free samples of Stride gum. Andrew Boyd, 17, laughed and smiled as he joked with his friends about Kareem’s 7’4” stature. Boyd said he didn’t know Abdul-Jabbar before the event and said he did not know if Abdul-Jabbar’s speech would inspire him. Boyd, however, did think Moyer was inspiring.

“He changed my life. He got me off the streets, and he taught me a lot about responsibility.”
Vice President of research sacrifices career

Emmalee Schmidt
Assistant Editor

Dr. Abdul Rao, a relatively new employee, hired in 2006 by USF Tampa, was a senior associate vice president for research for the College of Medicine. A $100 bike was stolen on Feb. 10 and on Feb. 11 surveillance video exposed Rao as the thief.

Local television and radio stations spread this story like wildfire around Tampa Bay. Christina Dillingham, the 22-year-old USF student, was borrowing the bike from friend Tim Boyd, the day it was stolen. Dillingham told a local radio station she was surprised when it was revealed Rao was the culprit. Why would an administrator who was paid $384,280 a year, including stipends, steal a student’s bike?

Another man appeared in the video with the administrator; Rao referred to the accomplice as a “semi-homeless man” that he was trying to help. Victor Waiters from Miami had a criminal history, but according to Rao “always intended to return the bike.” Remarkably, the bike was returned. The video of Dr. Rao ended up on YouTube that night.

One week after the incident took place, Rao wrote a letter to USF students, faculty and staff announcing his resignation. He announced his leaving before any formal committee met to discuss where he stands.

Recently Rao wrote an e-mail to his former boss, USF College of Health Dean Stephen Klasko asking him to reconsider his resignation through a formal investigation of the incident. Rao wrote, “I am certain that it (the judgment) would not amount to a call for resignation with a severance of six weeks and a professional life totally destroyed.” Rao came to USF with impressive credentials attending the University of Oxford in England, Boston University and Dow Medical University in Pakistan along with a long list - 62 pages - of noted journal publications. USF students should uphold a certain standard of the university; administrators should be no exception. It would be difficult to judge for future administrators if they would do what it takes to get something they want. Dr. Rao suffered the consequences of his actions even if they were partially determined by Rao himself. Current USF administrators are likely to pay more attention to their actions after this silly incident. A word of advice for USF top-dogs: head to Walmart before you go stealing a student’s bicycle; it may just save your career.

THE CROW’S NEST
POP CULTURE GRID
by Ashley Jones

We asked . . .

What are you doing for Spring Break?

Favorite board game?

One thing I’m good at is...

Favorite type of car?

Toughest part about being a student?

Toni Gemayel
18, Undecided
Going to Ft. Lauderdale
Monopoly
Long boarding
VW Bus
Doing away from home

Carissa Peros
22, Marketing
Working
Monopoly
Singling
VW Bus
Being outgoing

Tina Snyder
19, Marketing
Going to the beach
Scavenger
Being outgoing
Mercedes SL
Staying focused

Ashley Ragan
19, Psychology
Camping
Monopoly
Math
Corrado
Time management

Michael Ackendorf
22, Business
Nothing
Monopoly
Basketball
Corrado
Juggling work and school
Online courses for summer

Nicole Groll
Assistant Editor

As summer approaches, students' minds are not only focused on the idea of getting a break from college and their classes, but some students are considering option B, taking classes online or in the classroom.

Online courses give one freedom; freedom to travel, to work and make money and freedom to not live a life revolving around the classroom. It is a great money saver, especially for students that live far away but can not afford to live in the residence hall over the summer. Last year, summer sessions A and B, six week terms, cost $1,100 and session C, a ten week term, costs $1,800. These prices average to around 25 dollars a day.

Online classes also saves one scheduling conflicts with classes and are great for at-home mothers. The classes allow moms to spend more time with their children and when the children go to sleep, mom can go to school...no babysitter needed.

When considering online classes think about your learning style and the tools being used. If taking classes at home will be a distraction, take the classroom setting route. Sometimes the school setting motivates students. Participating in a classroom setting usually means group discussions and less work that is done on your own.

Another potential disadvantage of taking online classes is the interpretation of the textbook and asking questions. In a classroom setting, it is easier to ask questions about the subject if something is not clear. The professor's interpretation of the textbook is also clearer. With online classes, this may not be the case, and the student has to email any and all questions to the professor with hopes that he or she replies in a timely manner, preferably before the assignment is due.

One of the most important things about taking online classes is making sure that one knows how to use a computer and the programs. Understanding the tools being used for the class is a must. In a classroom setting, all one needs in a notebook and pen or pencil. At home, a computer and printer are necessary and knowing how to operate it is a must.

If students need to work during the summer or want to travel, online classes are the way to go. Students needs to know if they can survive in a computer-only setting; if not it can be a setup for failure.

Got Problems?

The advice Guru is here to help you solve them.

E-mail the Advice Guru at usfadviceguru@gmail.com

All questions will be confidential.
Student Government election process begins

Larissa Mone' 
Staff Writer

Students and potential campaigners get informed: Student Government elections are right around the corner. Student Government elections will be held April 6-9. Elected Senate and executive members get to fulfill a one year term from May 1 to April 30.

Article IV under the Student Government statutes lists election rules and procedures for anyone interested in running. Any student who runs for an executive position are required to have a good academic standing of a 2.00 GPA during the election process and in-term. They must be a current USF St. Petersburg student enrolled in six credit hours as an undergraduate or four credit hours as a graduate, accomplish the duties required of them and attend weekly Student Government meetings.

If you consider yourself on a need-to-know basis concerning rules and guidelines for the elections, ask the Elections Rules Committee. This committee will publicize the elections for two weeks.

The ERC will give each candidate an information packet which will be available Mar. 8. Included in the packet is the SG Constitution, as well as position descriptions to inform students on necessary qualifications. The packet will also include basic instructions to get a campaign started. These instructions include the beginning and ending dates for campaigning, campaign publicity guidelines, specific locations for speeches, election dates, poll placements and the date for posters and other campaign material removal.

Beginning Mar. 29, students who are running for a position can publicize themselves by hanging posters, passing out fliers, making announcements to other means of advertising. After their packets have been approved. Elections Rules Chair Robert Forman said candidates cannot spend more than $500 for campaign advertising.

“Student senator Matthew O’Brien, said there is a lot of work to be done during a campaign.

During the election process, executive candidates must obtain 50 signatures from USF St. Petersburg students. Senate candidates only need 25 signatures. Voters will cast one vote for student body president and vice president pairs. Each person in the pair needs 50 student signatures.

Those thinking about running should know the completed candidate packets are to be returned to the ERC before 5 p.m., Wednesday prior to the election week, which is April 1. Student signatures will be validated by the committee.

No candidates have officially announced their intention to run in this upcoming election. For last-minute voters, students can read about the candidates and see their pictures in the Davis Lobby during scheduled voting dates and times.

James Scott, senate president, said he encourages students to vote or run for a position.

Interested in running for a position? Scott said to visit the SG office in the Campus Activities Center, go to a senate meeting located in CAC 133 every Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Visit online at usfsg.org or attend one of the Meet ‘N Greet barbecues on the Harborside lawn.

Student raises awareness for diabetes

Kaeli Conforti 
Staff Writer

As you walk through the front doors of Residence Hall One, you may notice a change in scenery. Set up near the front desk and between gold, green and purple balloons is a table where one student sits collecting donations, hoping to make a difference.

Her name is Alexandra Infanzon. Her goal: To make students aware of the 2009 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk to Cure Diabetes on Saturday, March 14, at Ft. DeSoto Park. The event starts at 8 a.m. Volunteers are asked to check in at Shelter 1-4 at Ft. DeSoto’s East Beach before beginning the 3.1 mile stretch at 9 a.m.

In the meantime, Infanzon collects donations that will benefit JDRF, an international organization dedicated to finding a cure for diabetes. So far, she has raised $150 for the foundation. She hopes to collect $500.

“I thought about a way to not only raise money for the cause but also to raise awareness,” said Infanzon, freshman psychology major. “I really want everyone that can go to be there and I want to help raise as much money as I can.”

Infanzon said she came up with the idea for the fundraiser after seeing a poster in one of the girls’ bathrooms inside Davis Hall. Soon afterward, she contacted the team captain, Teri Lynn Hawkins, a fiscal and business assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences, and picked up informational pamphlets from the JDRF office in St. Petersburg to display on her table.

“I got it together and started asking everyone walking in and out if they have heard of the event, if they wanted to participate with St. Petersburg’s team or if they could give a small donation,” Infanzon said.

Infanzon has a history of fundraising activities, but this effort is near to her heart: She has been a Type 1 diabetic for the last seven years.

“I am currently on the insulin pump,” Infanzon said. “Instead of taking multiple shots a day, I now change a subcutaneous needle every three days from my stomach to my back.”

According to a research report put out by JDRF, “a new case of diabetes is diagnosed every 30 seconds,” and over 1.6 million people are diagnosed with diabetes every year. This statistic, however, accounts for diagnosis of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

Type 1, often referred to as juvenile diabetes, causes one’s pancreas to stop producing insulin, a hormone needed to break down energy in food. Most people with this type of diabetes must supplement the lost insulin with injections or as in Infanzon’s case, an insulin pump, which provides insulin to the body more efficiently.

Type 2 diabetes still allows one’s body to produce insulin, but not enough to do its job effectively. Commonly seen during adulthood, Type 2 diabetes does not necessarily require one to give regular shots of insulin while those with Type 1 diabetes must supply themselves with insulin for the rest of their lives.

“My role as a diabetic has played an immense role because I like to spread knowledge and many young teenagers do not know how serious this illness is and how it can affect a life, whether that person is 4, 15, 30, or 50 years old,” Infanzon said. “I am very responsible with my diabetes and I hope that one day a cure will be found.”

Melissa Hughey, the special events manager from the Tampa Bay Chapter of JDRF, said at least 2,000 walkers are expected to participate in the Walk to Cure Diabetes at Ft. DeSoto this year, raising the goal from $300,000 last year to $338,000 for this year.

“We have three walks in the Tampa Bay area: Pinellas, Hillsborough and Polk Counties,” Hughey said. “Combined we’re expecting over 6,500 walkers and over $900,000.”

For those interested in joining the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes, visit walk.jdrf.org or stop by Infanzon’s table in the RHQ lobby between 1 and 2 p.m. this week for more information.
SG president gives state of campus address

In his address he spoke about the Bullhorn radio station and how the students at USF St. Petersburg will benefit from the new club.

"I'm just jealous that I was not here for this," Van Horn said. "I wouldn't be running the Student Government. I would be a part of the radio station criticizing it."

In regards to this year's successes, he mentioned by fall 2009 USF St. Petersburg may expand the gym and add new docks. Van Horn spoke about the successful meet and greet events this year that helped to promote awareness about the Student Government.

"I wanted to make the Student Government known on campus," he said. "In the past, they didn't reach out and advertise like we did."

He also spoke of Student Government's efforts to advertise with their new website, which can be found at usfspsg.org.

In his address, Van Horn briefly mentioned the current state of the campus's recycling program. In conjunction with a new recycling company and the cooperation of the custodial department, Van Horn said the recycling program should be underway. In an effort to make this happen, Student Government and the Law Society have decided to purchase 60 new recycling bins to be placed on campus.

At the end of his speech, Van Horn expressed concern for the budget cuts that the school may face in light of the current economic crisis in the country. He pleaded with the listeners to write their local and state government representatives in hopes to avoid any massive cuts at USF St. Petersburg.

In his address, Van Horn said that this academic year brought many changes in SG and on campus. He believes that many of these changes are positive and beneficial to current and future students.

"Student government has done what is right, not what is wrong for our students," he said.

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Sara Palmer
Staff Writer

Filled with hope and studied humor, USF St. Petersburg's Student Government President Joel Van Horn spoke to the university in a State of the Campus Address on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the Campus Activities Center.

In his address, Van Horn talked about the student government's successes, current projects and gave a final farewell and offered an immediate resignation as president due to an internship opportunity in Tallahassee.

Vice-President Matthew Perlegis took over Presidential duties Thursday, Feb. 26. Perlegis is a senior, Political Science and graduates in the spring.

"I trust the students in his hands," Van Horn said.

The student union will benefit not only future students but also the current ones, Van Horn said in his speech. Afterwards, he acknowledged that some students are wary of the student union beginning now.

"The thing is," Van Horn said, "you didn't have to pay for Davis Hall or the library, but you still use them."

Van Horn believes that the student union will bring more students and make USF St. Petersburg a more well known university.

"This will add to the prestige of its graduates," he said.

Van Horn said he is aware some think students are too strained by the recession to be able to afford a union like for the student union.

"During a recession people are laid off," he said. "Construction costs are actually less expensive. It is more affordable for us to build now."

Van Horn said building the student union now is an important reinvestment that students should be willing to take.

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From left to right: Interim Regional Chancellor Dr. Margaret Sullivan, USFSP Campus Board Chair and USF Board of Trustees member Debbie Selph; Joel Van Horn, and Regional Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Enrollment Services Dr. Kent Kelso.
**Vagina Monologues discuss taboo issues**

Larissa Moon

*Staff Writer*

Actresses dressed in black and shades of pink sat next to each other on stage and performed various monologues. The setting was a bare stage with no props, allowing the audience to focus on the performers' words and expressions. The monologues covered a wide range of topics, from sexual abuse and assault to the power of the female body.

The monologues were performed by women from different backgrounds, and each one told a unique story that shed light on the issue of violence against women.

The audience was deeply moved by the performances, which challenged traditional norms and encouraged open dialogue about sensitive topics. The event was held at the University of St. Petersburg and was sponsored by the Women's Studies Department and the Campus Activities Board.

**Some monologues addressed the issue of sexual assault,** and how it affects the lives of women. The performances were raw and emotionally powerful, leaving the audience in tears and inarticulate. Some monologues highlighted the importance of sexual education and the need for better resources to support survivors of sexual violence.

**Others focused on the empowerment of women,** and how they can use their voices to fight against oppression. The performances were inspiring and empowering, leaving the audience with a sense of hope and strength.

In conclusion, the Vagina Monologues event was a powerful and thought-provoking experience. The monologues were performed with passion and conviction, and the audience was left with a sense of empathy and understanding. The event was a testament to the power of art and the need for continued dialogue on important issues.
**VARIETY**

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Young bloke
4. Lavatory sign
7. Go sightseeing
8. Fills the cargo hold
10. Cognizant
11. One
13. Joseph, Kevin and Nicholas
16. Donkey
17. Prognosticators
18. Dead heat
19. One of the 4-H Club's H's
20. Citi Field for runner
21. Disdain
23. Bowlers' milieu
25. Son of Odin
26. Poutry
30. Greek cross
33. Dianne, Peggy, Kathy and Janet
36. Affluence
37. Speechify
38. 'The best-laid schemes o' mice an'

**DOWN**
1. Church
2. Bank
3. Bureau
4. Estate house
5. Tends texts
6. Beneflux
7. Pairs
8. Enticed
9. Boil slowly
10. "Mirrors" director
11. Boil "slowly dude!"
12. Desiccates
13. "The best-laid schemes o' mice an'
14. Noggin
15. Rib
16. Desiccates
17. Termagant
18. Arousing suspicion
19. Perp. to vert.
20. Mr. Bill's crafts' mates
21. Home, briefly
22. Part of 41-
23. Actresses
24. "Radical, dude!"
25. Aviv lead-in.
26. Pub. for runner
27. Mess up, service
28. Where to find
29. Pitcher for
30. Rib
31. Crafts' mates
32. Work with
33. CBS logo
34. Kvetches
35. Vets
36. Church service
37. Method
38. Augusta
39. Church
40. 'The best-laid schemes o' mice an'

**SUDOKU**

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

- **Moderate**
- **Challenging**
- **HOO BOY!**

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Solutions are available online under Variety.

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Submissions or Letters to the Editor are welcomed. Please include full name, position (e.g. student, faculty, etc.) e-mail and telephone number for verifications purposes only. E-mail letters to usfstpetecrowsnest@yahoo.com.

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Vol. 43...No. 21
Baseball has always been America's favorite pastime. But now, it seems like the status in which the nickname evokes has never been so appropriate considering it is on the verge of becoming obsolete.

Internal problems within Major League Baseball have resulted in fans' abandonment—along with the rise in popularity of American football, have rendered the game a dying entity among members of the sporting culture. The sport has attempted to battle the struggling economy by offering ticket packages and putting an end to steroid use by issuing penalties. MLB has failed in earning America's youth in inner cities to what is left of the game's appeal. The various methods used to urge resistance towards the negativity of the game are unsuccessful.

The best strategy rather, is to fight fire with fire, as this year's installment of the second World Baseball Classic (WBC) could prove as the panacea necessary in reestablishing baseball as America's iconic claim.

Even with Manny being Manny and the widespread use of performance-enhancing drugs by an unknown number of players, the tournament—although young—contains an old-fashioned feeling that rekindles what made baseball great years ago. Those were the days after World War II when players united as fellow countrymen rather than competitors, highlighting the importance of the team name stitched on the front of the jersey instead of the player's name on the back.

Years have passed, but the concept still holds relevance in this year's WBC. The game's rampant free-agency trend and the outrageous salaries that render it effective also fail to hold significance in this celebration of the sport that emphasizes pride over performance, squad over self and innocence over impurity.

"Manny Ramirez rejected an offer for $25 million over one year and I gave up on baseball completely," Tampa resident Jake Hartshorn said. "But I'm going to watch the World Baseball Classic anyway because it's what the game truly is and should be all about."

Perhaps what makes the WBC different also makes it great. Unlike the World Series, which primarily includes American-born players alongside those of Latin American and Japanese descent, the WBC provides a more accurate portrayal of who the best players in the world truly are.

It also exposes the entire globe to some of the game's greatest unknown players, as well as countries laden with hidden talent that are often excluded in the discussion of baseball's national hotbeds.

This year's tournament welcomes teams from the Netherlands, Italy, Chinese Taipei, Australia and South Africa to compete against more traditional nations like Cuba, the United States, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic—countries known for producing some of the game's most revered superstars.

In addition to providing a platform for the best baseball players in the world to compete, the WBC serves a dual purpose, as it also further promotes the goodwill of the game around the world.

"I think it's great," USF St. Petersburg student Ryan Hicks said. "It's a great way to get into the spirit of Spring Training and the regular season. It gives you a chance to see players and teams that you don't get to see in the American game and serves as a true test of the best talent in the sport."

The inaugural 16-team tournament in 2006 succeeded as the first international baseball tournament to feature players from the professional leagues in North America and Japan. The WBC distinguishes itself from other types of international competition such as the Summer Olympics and the Baseball World Cup. The Olympic Summer Games regularly comprise college athletes and minor-league ball players because the schedule of the event conflicts with that of the major league seasons in both regions; baseball's World Cup traditionally has had players at the major-league level participate either.

The tournament, which began this year will occur every four years could be the last chance for many to prove that they play baseball for the sake of the game and the passion that drove them to it.

Fundamental skills physical put bodies in some; so does heart.

"This tournament is exactly what baseball needs. It was long overdue. In my mind, the WBC is absolutely not something you approach with the mind-set that it's just an exhilarating way to prepare for the regular season," Seattle Mariners outfielder and member of Team Japan Ichiro Suzuki told The New York Times.

"This is a bona fide competition I decide who is the best among the world's professionals. I feel great responsibility to help nurture this tournament into an important piece of baseball's fabric for future generations."

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Peter Pupello
Staff Writer