St. Pete Women’s March draws crowd of 20,000

By Whitney Elfstrom
welfstrom@mail.usf.edu

Over 20,000 women and men came together to flood the streets of St. Petersburg on Saturday in solidarity for women’s rights. Among the sea of women and men is Lauren Conzelman, 20-year-old USF St. Petersburg student, who stood out in her vibrant lavender “Rosie the Riveter” shirt. “I’m marching not only for women’s rights, but for everyone’s rights, for anyone who feels oppressed and wants their voice to be heard,” she said. Protesters led a peaceful march to send a message to President Trump illustrating their concerns surrounding women’s rights. The demonstration marks the largest in the city’s history.

At the heart of the operation is Suzanne Benton, 81, who organized the St. Petersburg chapter of the march. Benton is no stranger to activism, she has been an outspoken feminist for decades. In fact, she was among the 50,000 women who marched in New York City during the Women’s Strike for Equality on Aug. 26, 1970. Forty-seven years later, Benton is still marching as an advocate. “There are no such things as great obstacles,” she said. “There are just issues that must be dealt with and one by one as they came up we dealt with them.” When the organizing group first met on Dec. 13, they originally thought only 200-300 people would march through downtown, but little did they know tens of thousands would walk St. Petersburg streets to protest for Women’s rights. The demonstration set the record for the largest protest in city history.

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Lynn Pippenger Hall officially opens with ribbon-cutting ceremony

Snip Snip: Prominent members of the community, donors and university officials cut the ribbon for the opening Lynn Pippenger Hall, the new college of business building. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Monday, Jan. 17.

St. Peter’s Women’s March draws crowd of 20,000

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Trump’s inauguration marked by boycotts, protests and low attendance

By Luke Cross
lukecross@mail.usf.edu

Jan. 20 marked the day when Donald Trump traded in the title of President-elect for the leader of the free world. The campaign singling out Trump’s inauguration was atypical in every respect.

The 45th presidential inauguration was record-breaking in its funding: Trump’s inaugural committee raised north of $90 million in private donations, more than both of former President Barack Obama’s committees combined.

With at least $110 million in tax contributions, the overall price tag of the inauguration was not unusual for first-term inaugurations.

The event posted unusually low attendance numbers. The presence of celebrities is traditionally taken on the steps of the Capitol Building and followed with a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, but the evening ceremonies were lacking compared to past inaugurations.

Donald and Melania Trump plans didn’t include the usual official balls, whereas Obama attended ten at the commencement of his first term.

The parade also experienced major changes. Steve Ray, a D.C. based freelance announcer and typographer for CNN, reported that he replaced Charlie Brotman, who announced every inaugural parade since Eisenhower’s second term. Celebrity names and performances were also missing. A list of celebrities who declined attendance included A-listers such as Elton John, Celine Dion, KISS, Motley Crue and Ice T. Stars were not the only boycotters of Trump’s inauguration: at least 60 House Democrats did not attend the ceremonies, a trend sparked by the recent Twitter feud between the President-elect and Congresswoman John Lewis.

Lewis, the respected civil rights icon told NBC that he doesn’t see Trump as a “legitimate” leader in light of the Russian interference in the election, and will not be attending the inauguration ceremonies.

“You cannot be at home with something that you feel that is wrong,” Lewis said.

By the following day Trump had fired back on Congressman Lewis, tweeting that he was “all talk, talk, talk - no action or results.” Sad.”

Many other Democrats followed Lewis in the wake of Trump’s backlash, including Florida Representatives Aleece Hastings and Darren Soto. “I am deeply disappointed with Trump’s attacks against civil rights hero John Lewis and will not be attending the inauguration as a result,” Soto told WFTV 9.

The resulting Democratic absence is not unprecedented, however. Lewis, among others, did not attend President George W. Bush’s inauguration.

Trump has publicly responded to the missing legislators by stating that the empty seats will instead be given to the public. As for the drought of prospective celebrities, he spoke on his plans to keep the ceremonies simple and close to home.

“I don’t want the celebrities, I want the people, and we have the biggest celebrities in the world there,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News, weeks before the event.

General attendance followed suit with an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 guests, compared to Obama’s first inaugural attendance total of 1.8 million.

A large portion of the guests that poured into the capital on inauguration day were protesters attending one of the many displays of defiance throughout the city.

The National Park Services gave 27 groups a permit for protesting, alongside dozens of informal public displays.

The largest planned protest was the Women’s March, which 500,000 people came together in the streets of D.C. on Jan. 21 to show the new administration that women’s rights are human rights.

Women’s March also held affiliate demonstrations in other major U.S. cities such as New York, Boston and St. Petersburg.

Another major protest was #Trump240 held by DCMJ, marijuana legalization group. Four minutes and twenty seconds into Trump’s inauguration address, the demonstration attendees simultaneously lit the 4,200 provided joints in support of cannabis legalization.

A number of large protests were held outside of D.C. as well, including a 3,065 foot stretch of development made up of two parts: the pier and an approach that links the pier to the downtown area.

The new pier will retain the multi-level observation deck overlooking the water, as well as bars, seating terraces, a lawn, a tram stop and restaurants. Kriseman says that there will not be as many restaurants as there were previously.

The pier approach will consist of various activity areas such as a gateway plaza that will mark the beginning of the new space. The plaza will be followed closely by a market space for small outdoor shops.

Other pier approach features include picnic and park areas on the eastern side of the pedestrian stretch near Spa Beach. Existing plans also include restaurants and boat docks on the western side.

Information from the Tampa Bay Times and NewsStPetePier.com was used in this article.

Pier to Pier: The $66 million dollar addition to the St. Petersburg waterfront is expected to look like this pencil to paper rendering. Mayor Rick Kriseman has inquired about an additional $14 million to enhance the current design.
Review: “Fences” explores family and race in midcentury America

By Timothy Fanning
ftanning@mailusf.edu

As Troy sees it, nothing about his life makes a difference. And he talks about it any chance he gets. Whether it’s in his backyard hogging a bottle of gin, or on the job hauling garbage, he never stops talking.

Troy is first seen as a hard-working, strong-willed father who wants to provide for his family. He’s funny, a great storyteller, and the embodiment of masculinity. He was once a Negro League baseball star who aged out a generation before Jackie Robinson became the first African-American Major League player. Feeling wronged, Troy isn’t inclined to let anyone else enjoy the success denied to him.

That includes his teenage son, Cory, played by Jovon Adepo, who has an interview scheduled with a college basketball recruiter.

In this Civil Rights era family drama, Washington takes a modest approach to directing. He uses wide shot cinema-

tography with limited space cutting that leaves the effect of live theater. The long dialogue-filled scenes provide opportunities for each character to shed light on the real nature of Troy.

There is a moment in the film where Troy’s selfishness is revealed after Rose learns of what Rose had to give up in her life to stay with her husband. Combining elements of stage and film, “Fences” bridges the gap between the two art forms and brings theater to the next generation. Students unfamiliar with the art of live drama will love the continuity of the sets and the feeling that they are a part of the action.

In the beginning, for instance, Troy and his friend Jim Bono are joined by his wife Rose in a scene that takes place in the middle of a day in Philadelphia. The unchanging setting paired with witty humor makes the viewer believe they are seeing live actors on stage.

“Fences” is the kind of film that shapes us as human beings. It is a story that crosses cultural, racial, and generational boundaries. It gives us a glimpse into the past and sheds away the dry lessons of our history books by striking a balance between reality and class struggle, all while going deep into familial relationships.

Communication and friction between father and son are big themes throughout this film, and this make it hard to wait without getting bored and turning it off.

The best track on this album is “Castle” which Coyne made after a friend had committed suicide. With a drum line that keeps the song moving forward, it immediately grabs and keeps the attention of listeners. The song displays the weakness of this album. Listeners are met with out of tune guitar, and drum machines that makes it feel like you’re wading through thick mud that doesn’t add much to the album as a whole. Despite the shining moments of this neo-psychadelic tape, songs like this make it hard to wait without getting bored and turning it off.

The use of synths and other electronic instruments matches their experimental and psychedelic dis-

cography. Coyne and company do a great job of creating atmospheric settings. The playful lyricism con-
trasts well with the moody beats, creating a solid album overall, though it would’ve been nice to see more polished versions of “Listen-
ing to the Frogs with Demon Eyes” and “Galaxy I Sink.”

The Crow’s Nest rates movies between one and five stars, with five stars being the highest possi-

ble score.

Review: The Flaming Lips look to keep spark alive with new album

By Jonah Hinebaugh
jonahh@mail.usf.edu

F
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Cyrus, The Flaming Lips released “Oczy Mlody,” meaning “eyes of the young” in Polish. It features a heavy electronic influence that bridges the brusque

tunes of “Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz” released in 2015.

“Oczy Mlody” begins with an instrumental title track with com-

plex layered synths and electronic drums that give the song a light, fluffy mood and develops the same for the following track “How??.”

“How??” creates a nostalgic

and dreamy world where frontman Wayne Coyne laments “I tried to tell you, but I don’t know how.”

Coyne attributes this lyric as the most powerful line of the song

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as the song’s bass drum and sonar like synth.

Soon after, as harsher synths are added, the song leads itself to its electronic counterpart. Overall, it shows listeners what they’re getting themselves into with this wistful and carefree album.

In an interview, Coyne said the

track “Listening to the Frogs with Demon Eyes” was influenced by a night when Coyne and his dog listened to music with a guitar,

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track “Listening to the Frogs with Demon Eyes” was influenced by a night when Coyne and his dog listened to music with a guitar,
know that thousands would
join, hand in hand, come Jan.
21. Benton felt it was im-
portant to bring the women’s
march to St. Petersburg for
those who were not able to
make it to Washington D.C.
“St. Petersburg is a hip
town,” Benton joked, “but now
we see it’s a progressive town.”
Protesters gathered at
Demens Landing Park before
marching. The ambiance
that filled the air was one of
love, hope and determination.
Signs lined the streets with
quotes that read “don’t nor-
malize misogyny” and “the
glass ceiling isn’t going to
shatter itself,” among others.
The event opened with an
hourlong block of speeches
encouraging marchers to get
out and fight for what they
believe in, even after the
march is over.
In the true spirit of the
Women’s March, the protest
was inclusive; all religions,
ssexual orientations, rac-
es, genders and ages were
welcome to join in making
history. Shortly before the
march kicked off, Erik Polin,
a 15-year-old white male, was
waving his sign proudly for
all to see. It read “my genera-
tion does not support misogy-
nism and racism.”
“I come from a school full
of Trump supporters where so
many people don’t care,” said
Polin, paused for a mo-
ment, “and I care.” Polin also
touched on the importance
of women’s healthcare. He
believes that women should
have the choice regarding
matters of their own body.
When the marchers lined
up at 1 p.m., “nasty females”
and “bad hombres” began to
march along Beach Drive.
Protesters were originally
asked to stay out of the roads
due to the city’s insurance
policies, but that request was
bypassed as the thousands of
activists peacefully took over
the street. Protesters were
warned there was a chance of
anti-protestors that would be
lined up and ready to engage
in an argument. The warning
was unfounded as only one
Trump supporter showed.
Instead of hate, march-
ers were met with words of
encouragement from those
standing on the sidelines.
Some held signs imploring
the marchers to move for-
ward, others waved from
rooftop bars, but the bystand-
ers that stood out the most
were a group of young men
sitting in a tree along Beach
Drive, engaging the marchers
in a chant of “women’s rights
are human rights.” This was
one of the many chants that
the protesters hollered in
solidarity.
“Love, not hate, makes
America great” and “Wash-
ington, hear our call, wom-
en’s rights protect us all” were two other chants heard
throughout the procession.
When the march finished,
many marchers headed back
to Demens Landing where
empowering music blasted
and tents with information
about how to engage in local
activism were set up. Some
opted to hang out in the grass
and soak in the energy of the
day.
Among them was Dick
Scanlon, 68, and his wife
Mary Scanlon who chose to
celebrate Dick’s birthday by
traveling to St. Petersburg
and attending the march.
“My biggest thing is that
I’m really upset Trump is
president,” Scanlon said.
“Women’s issues is a big part
of that and I’m in solidarity
with [women on that].” Scan-
lon also noted that he resents
Trump’s constant attacks on
the media and anybody who
opposes him in anyway.
Scanlon was not the only
one to celebrate a birthday on
Saturday. Benton also chose
to ring in her 81st birthday
with a message of love and
determination. Benton ex-
plained that not only was it
her birthday, but Mayor Rick
Kriseman would also declared
it as Women’s Rights Day in St. Petersburg.
“I’ve had many best days,”
Benton said, “this is one of
them.”

Women’s March: 20,000 people walked St. Petersburg streets to protest for Women’s rights. The demonstration set the record for the largest protest in city history. The protests began in Demens Landing Park and marched down Beach Drive. Mayor Rick Kriseman announced that Jan. 21 will be known as Women’s Rights Day in St. Petersburg.
Pete Pan told Wendy that she could get to Neverland if she followed “the second star to the right, and straight on till morning.” It’s a place where the lost boys choose to never grow up. It’s also the name of Kerry Courtney’s indie-rock group, Goodnight Neverland.

Courtney came up with the name during a time of self-discovery after his mother passed in 2010 when he was 19 years old. “For me, Neverland represents the place where you go and never age and everything stays the same,” Courtney said. “In your life, the people who have died or have left you in a bad way, on bad terms—It’s a point that you can return where everything is okay and it’s a cycle living in that. Everyone is still existing. It’s also an illusion, it’s not necessarily a good thing. It’s that idea, it’s something you’ll never get back.”

It was inevitable for the lost boys, Courtney (center above) and his two bandmates, brothers Jeremy (right) who played drums and Jordan (left) on bass Tellone to grow up. Now, Courtney is working on his first solo project away from Neverland.

Courtney has shoulder length brunette hair, piercing green eyes and a thick mustache attached to a bristling beard. The 26-year-old artist sports a v-neck and short jeans with the legs cut. While playing, Courtney’s intoxicat-ed by the energy on stage. Off-stage, he’s quick to hug fans and call them jokers.

Over the past few years, Goodnight Neverland opened for Vance Joy, Switchfoot and Tides of Man. They book shows across the Tampa Bay area and have toured throughout the U.S. and Europe. Courtney met his bandmates when they were around 10 years old while attending Countryside Christian Center, a large, non-denominational church based in Clearwater. Courtney’s father served as a pastor and the three children would practice in the choir room after Sunday service.

Kim and John Courtney, Kerry’s parents were devout Christians, and they home-schooled him and his four siblings Kelsey, Hanna, River and Isabella. Courtney was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and his family moved to Florida when he was two years old. His father worked nights, often sleeping most of the day so he could wake in the evening and head to work. He drove a bus, cut lawns for schools and was a part-time pastor. In the late 90’s, he decided to be a pastor full time. Courtney’s mother stayed home to raise and teach their children. She also volunteered as a mime.

Courtney, Jeremy and Jordan quickly became best friends, and call each other brothers. “We had this pull to each other because we wanted to do something more,” Jeremy said. “The church wasn’t it. It wasn’t the thing that fed us, kept us full. At a young age, we played music together and that was that feeling of being full.”

Courtney and Jeremy started playing music with Kelsey, his older sister. But Kelsey grew bored and dropped out. The two boys didn’t want to stop making music, so Courtney suggested he could take up singing.

“Maybe I can sing, that’s what he said to me,” said Jeremy. “Every time he sang he would blush, he was so embarrassed by it.” But Courtney kept practicing and over time, he developed his voice.

“The evolution of my voice is pretty wild. For the longest time it sounded so lathy,” Courtney said. “It took years in the choir room messing around for a few hours a week to find it, but I’m proud of it now.”

Courtney’s mother loved to hear him sing. He said she was his biggest fan. After their first show at a bar, his mother bought the boys Shirley Temples. Following the death of Court-ney’s mother, the sound of their music changed drastically. Kim Courtney was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, which left her weak. Kerry Courtney remembered her teaching him and his siblings school lessons at her bedside.

“One specific day after a lot of tests, you could tell that something was wrong, but they gathered us all in one room,” Courtney said. “The doctors said she had a year. It was a surprise to all of us. We didn’t think it would be that soon.”

He had been planning an expensive six-month humanitarian trip to Australia. He struggled with the decision.

“I was thinking I’m going over there to help people, but would it be better to stay home and help her,” Courtney said. “I asked my mom for advice but she wouldn’t tell me. She said, ‘You have to decide that on your own.’”

In the end, he decided to go. While living in Australia, Courtney exchanged emails with his mother. In them, she detailed what she was going through, updated him on the family and reassured him not to worry. When he returned stateside, he saw the differ-ence for himself.

Weeks later, at 3 a.m., his father woke him up. His mother’s heart had stopped, she was staying at the hospital. The family met in the waiting room where doctors told them they restarted her heart.

The rest of the week was painful. Kim Courtney passed on August 20, 2010. The next day Courtney started to write.

“After my mother passed I couldn’t play any of the old songs because I didn’t feel that way anymore,” he said. Instead, he began to craft something new. He wrote the song “Falling Not Flying” with his best friends, and they performed it at the funeral.

“For that song I was able to flow all of my emotions out and write that from where I was, it was all about how I was seeing and capture all that took place,” Courtney said.

The band had evolved. They weren’t as heavy, instead they played softer, more emo-tionate music, so Courtney suggested something brand new. He wrote the songs “Falling Not Flying” and “Falling Not Flying” and “Falling Not Flying” and “Falling Not Flying” and “Falling Not Flying.”

“The church wasn’t it. It wasn’t the thing that fed us, kept us full. At a young age, we played music together and that was that feeling of being full.”

In 2010, Courtney had a car accident. His brother Jordan became an EMT, that responsibility leaves him little time to prac-tice and perform. But Court-ney is still hungry for music.

“Courtney is his music. He’s so attached to it and so pas-sionate about it. I know he’s going to do that for the rest of his life,” Jeremy said. Courtney is working on something for himself.

He has been struggling with writer’s block for the past year. But music is his life-blood and after some difficult self-reflection, he’s pushing himself further.

“A lot of the songs I’m writing is me confronting myself,” Courtney said. “You can break the patterns you make for yourself and that gives me hope.”

To see Kerry Courtney play one of his new songs, “Fall Fell Silent,” visit our Youtube page: www.youtube.com/user/USFCrowsNest or check out our website.
President Trump was inaugurated last week. I, along with many people of the U.S., am disappointed. I am frustrated with the election results, but I am especially concerned that a man who taunted and derided so many different demographics now presumes to represent us all. It is difficult to stomach such rhetoric after eight years of being led by a man who rose to prominence mainly on his inspirational oratory skills. Trump made many well-known offenses to a number of different groups. Though they were well-documented and up-setting they did not impede his ultimate election. I was stunned. But I want to remind you of something. President Trump may be the face of the nation now, but he is not the nation. We are. This is our country, our home, a place we and our families and our ancestors have shaped. The political pendulum has swung to a new extreme, but it is a false one. Sometimes the tide turns in your favor, sometimes it ebbs away. In the midst of it all, you have to hold your own. Stake out your corner of the country. Whatever you are passionate about, pursue it now with even more determination. Write letters to Congress and call your representative. Start a petition to put something on the ballot. Attend a religious service of a faith you know nothing about. Learn a new language. Make something creative. Donate to the arts and to public, unbiased media. Teach a class in something you really do well, so others can do it, too. Join the research on climate change. Recycle and plant a garden. Keep bees and share the honey with your community. Give to those less fortunate. Write without ceasing.

It’s been over two weeks since the Tampa police department arrested seven Food Not Bombs activists for distributing food without a permit at Lykes Gaslight Park. We’ve had time to feel bad, now it’s time to feel wary, and to think.

Food Not Bombs (FNB) has grown into a worldwide activist organization since it first organized in the early eighties to protest against nuclear industries, America’s involvement in the ongoing Iran-Iraq war and the Reagan administration. The organization has suffered arrests throughout its history, many stemming from trespassing and the disregard of food service regulations. On Jan. 7 the Tampa group was arrested for not having a permit to distribute food in the open. At the same time, tens of thousands of football fans rushed to Tampa to watch the college football championship. In 1986, Boston’s FNB group organized “Welcome to Kenmore Square” to give meals to the homeless during the World Series between the Red Sox and the Mets. This time, the Tampa FNB group was arrested for not having a permit they thought they were entitled to. Food Not Bombs strengthens discourse, divides city and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. The Crow’s Nest is the official student newspaper of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest is edited by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We are striving to be the best student newspaper and we encourage our readers to treat our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

Divided Issue: Food Not Bombs protesters gathered to feed the hungry despite police warnings on Jan. 14 in Gas Lykes Park in Tampa.

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The greatest and loudest protest in the next four years will be to live your life well. Show your neighbors how great America already is by showing them some love.

With a lack of inspiration stemming from Washington, I challenge you to be inspired anyway, from whatever source that may be; whether it’s musicals, founding fathers, scripture, or your own reflection. Be passionately patriotic by doing everything you can within your circle of influence to make this nation great again. Find your vine and fig tree, and go after it – and no one will make you afraid – for that is the American promise.

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We’d Love to Hear from You

The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 250 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 drodri-guez7@mail.usf.edu with subject title “letter to the editor.”

Meme as High Art | Pasqaul Artise

“We the crudeness of line speaks to its reproducibility.”

“I agree, this is a top-tier shitpost.”
The first time you visit Spain, it may seem as if you’ve arrived in a century long past. Located in Southwestern Europe, Spain has plenty to offer travelers in search of art, history and excellent food.

You can see the birth-home of Francisco Goya, “The Nude Maja” painter; touch the walls of Belchite, “a ghost town” destroyed during the 1937 Civil War; hear the beautiful tune of a “Jota aragonesa” and enjoy crunchy, marinated “gambas” (Spanish-style garlic shrimp). Here are a few impressions from my trips to Catalonia and Aragón, two of Spain’s autonomous communities that contrast in language and identity.

A journey in time
Towns in Spain look as if they exist trapped within an art history book, and around any corner a king might appear to show you his medieval castle. (One example, I stayed in the town of Torrecilla de Alcañiz at a doctor’s house built in 1899!)

The structure of Spanish buildings will take your breath away. The combination of Roman and Arab influences are evident in the Gothic, Renaissance, Mudéjar (a design from Muslim and Christian cultures), and Modern styles.

What if you’re an architecture junkie? La Sagrada Familia (The Holy Family Church) and Park Güell (which has the appearance of the gingerbread house in the Hansel and Gretel bedtime story) both built in Barcelona by Antoni Gaudí; La Seo, in Zaragoza and the Mudéjar monuments in Teruel are worth visiting.

Excellent cuisine
Just thinking about the food makes me want to take the first plane back to Spain with eating as my only objective. Though it changes depending on the region, a delicious constant in the cuisine is fresh olive oil.

What dish did I love most in Aragón? Salted stuffed olives from Bajo Aragón. The delicious ham from Teruel, the chubby peaches from Calanda, and the colorful “Frutas de Aragón,” which are regional fruits covered in a thick dark chocolate.

And Catalonia? Without a doubt, “botifarra,” a kind of sausage and one of the most popular dishes of the Catalan cuisine, accompanied by a moist and creamy spinach pie.

If you have time!
Go to Morella, one of Spain’s prettiest villages, hidden in the province of Castellón, where you’ll hear the residents speaking “Catalan.” Enjoy a trip in Valderrobles, a small town surrounded by medieval walls, and visit Alcañiz, Bajo Aragón, home of the “Motorland” a massive motorsport race track.

Experience of a lifetime, my travels through Spain

By Indhira Suero
indhirasuero@mail.usf.edu

If Walls Could Speak: Spanish architecture beautifully demonstrates the influence of nearly 800 years of Muslim and Christian religious and cultural syncretism.

Join USFSP Education Abroad this summer! Application deadline is February 15th*—don’t miss out. Scholarships Available. Apply online: www.usfsp.edu/abroad

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